

# PARK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 Site Inventory & Analysis
- 4.2 Park Organization
- 4.3 Deliverables
- 4.4 Individual Park Assessments



4.1.a Scope

- In order of importance, the site inventory & analysis focused on four (4) primary and overarching items: ADA & Circulation Patterns; Recreational Facilities; Storm Water & Drainage; and Programming. These items are further described on the following page.
- The site inventory & analysis identified and documented ‘Short-Term’ improvements. These are tasks that are manageable by DPW / Park staff. The tasks are not large enough or specialized enough to require a formal competitive bidding process. The items are ranked High/Critical, High, Medium, or Low Priority.
- The highest priority improvements are related to safety and/or ADA accessibility.
- High/Critical tasks pose a potential threat to health and/or safety, and are viewed as a potential liability for the City. For example, the exposed rebar sticking from a seat wall at Allen Park and the protruding bolt on the slide at Weston Park can cause a laceration or puncture wound. High tasks are clear violations to regulations, like ADA and Consumer Product Safety. Medium and Lower priorities are associated more with aesthetics, non-safety/ADA infrastructure, enhanced recreation and site amenities. High/Critical priority tasks should be completed ASAP; High priority tasks to be completed within 2021/2022; Medium and Low priority tasks can be scheduled from 2022 - 2024.

4.1.b Official Park Visits

The most effective and required method of assessment was visiting all the parks. The following sites were visited on Wednesday 10-7-20: Connors Park (#7); and Billy Barrett (#2).

The following sites were visited on Wednesday 10-14-20: Robinson Park (#14); The Lookout (#12); Oakmont Park (#16); Richter Avenue Park (#30); Duffy Park (#8); 500 Lackawanna Avenue (#29); and Linden Street Park (#28).

The following sites were visited on Wednesday 10-21-20: Capouse Ave. Pool (#20); Weston Park (#15); McLain Park (#22); North Scranton Mini Park (#24); Grace Street Park (#10); Crowley Park (#6); Woodlawn Islands (#17); Sturgis (Pretzel Park) (#25); and Sunset Islands (#18).

The following sites were visited on Wednesday 10-28-20: Connell Park (#5); Clover Field (#4); Fellows Park (#9); Novembrino Park (#19); Jackson Terrace Park (#11); Allen Park (#1); Powderly Park (#23); and Tripp Park (#26).

The following sites were visited on Wednesday 11-04-20: Weston Field (#13); Central City Little League (#27); Chic Feldman Field (#3); and Nay Aug Park (#21).

Several of the parks were revisited throughout the planning process when conceptual, long-term designs were being developed. Other non-park areas like North Scranton Little League, Cayuga Field, Parkers Landing and others were also visited.



SWM-DRAINAGE

Lack of proper drainage infrastructure, loss of positive drainage, and uncontrolled runoff can be problematic in parks (standing water, erosion, ruts...). This plan will identify problems and corrective actions.

Having storm water management and drainage facilities within the parks is useful for the City. Based on previous planning (NFWF Plan), parks are useful locations to capture storm water and demonstrate green infrastructure within the city.



RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Based on size, location, and demographics, each park within the city has unique uses and functions. Some parks are small and used for passive recreation, while others are large areas with playing fields, playgrounds and walking trails.

The site inventory & analysis will identify existing facilities, their conditions, and the need for renovations and/or new facility upgrades.



ADA-CIRCULATION

ADA access is paramount within the parks system. Universal access and fluid circulation patterns create positive user experiences within the parks.

The site inventory & analysis identify shortcomings in ADA access, parking and accessible routes.



PROGRAMMING

Based on size, location, and demographics, many parks have unique programming that occurs throughout the year.

The site inventory & analysis tried to highlight and understand how the individual parks are used by the public and if the City or other groups are the catalysts for successful park programming and events.

## 4.2 PARK ORGANIZATION

To assist with comparisons and assessment, the city parks were organized and classified as follows: Regional, Community, Neighborhood, Mini/Pocket Park and Open Space.

- **Regional**
  - Size: 20 Acres or more
  - Service Area: Serves recreational needs of several neighborhoods and communities within and beyond Scranton, over 3 mile radius.
  - Purpose: Provides for regional recreational needs; has tourist and destination facilities, Special programmed events
  - Parks: Nay Aug Park, Weston Field
- **Community**
  - Size: 10-20 Acres
  - Service Area: Several neighborhoods, 1/2 to 3 mile radius.
  - Purpose: Provide for community wide recreational needs; Active Organized Sports
  - Parks: McLain/Rockwell Avenue Park, Weston Park, Crowley Park, Novembrino, Clover Field, Connell Park, Chic Feldman, Tripp Park / Dorothy Street Park, Central City Little League
- **Neighborhood**
  - Size: One to Ten Acres
  - Service Area: Less than 1/4 mile radius
  - Purpose: Serves a medium population or specific neighborhood
  - Parks: Capouse Pool, Robinson, Oakmont, Billy Barrett, Orchard Street / Connors Park, Grace Street, Fellows Park, Perry Park
- **Mini-Park**
  - Size: One Acre or less
  - Service Area: Less than 1/4 mile radius
  - Purpose: Serves a smaller population or specific area)
  - Parks: North Scranton Mini Park, Allen Park, Jackson Street Park, Duffy Park, Linden Street Park, 500 Lackawanna/Renaissance Park, The Lookout, Sturgis Park
- **Open Space**
  - Size: Varies
  - Service Area: Varies; Typically, not applicable unlike true recreation areas
  - Purpose: Serves a limited population, Protection of green space; aides storm water management
  - Parks: Richter Avenue/Darcey Park, Woodlawn Island, Sunset Island, Powderly Park
- **Non-City Owned Recreation**
  - The University of Scranton
  - Scranton School District
  - Marywood University

- **Partnering Organizations**
  - Sweeney Beach (LRCA)
  - Parker's Landing Riverfront Recreation Area (LHV)
  - Lackawanna River Heritage Trail (LHV)
  - Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area (LHV)
  - New UGI Park (proposed County facility)
  - Additional sports clubs/locations (Little leagues, soccer clubs, etc.)

## 4.3 DELIVERABLES

- Inventory/write-up summary of existing conditions and needs. This includes both annual maintenance needs and short-term improvements. The full narrative and these spreadsheets are found in Appendix A, Appendix C and Appendix D.
- Conceptual Master Site Plans (long-term improvements). These depict planning/design opportunities and constraints (prioritize improvements). These are initial ideas that need more development and refinement based on public input, funding available and City feedback.
- Opinion of probable costs for the master site plans (long term) are found in Appendix E.
- Overall Score: Inventory considered the following:
  - » Site access and ADA circulation;
  - » Current play elements including the current condition and age, if they meet current ASTM and CPSI standards;
  - » Storm water & drainage;
  - » Value to residents;
  - » Programmed events;
  - » Overall safety and condition of park; and
  - » Required level of maintenance, uniqueness of park.
  - »

This ranking is found in Section 5.2: Phasing & Construction.

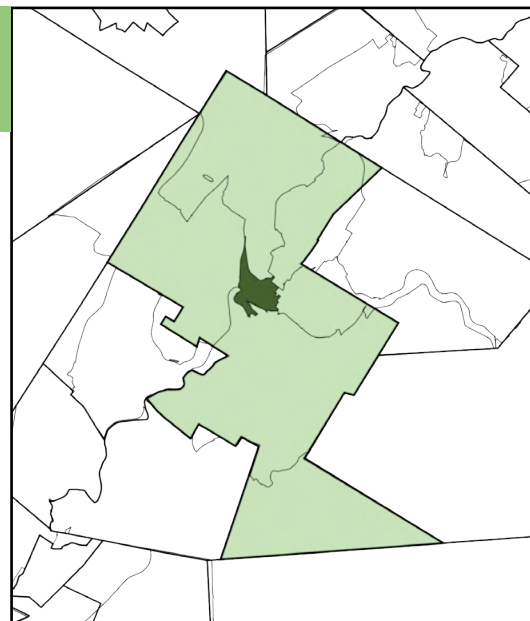
## 4.4 INDIVIDUAL PARK ASSESSMENTS

- Attached are assessments for each of the 31 City-owned parks.
- **NOTE: It is important to realize, that the concepts and ideas presented in this report are preliminary and are not finalized. Additional public input is required and encouraged before any plan moves from concept to construction. These are YOUR PARKS and your input is appreciated.**
- The provided plans are included to initiate discussion, which is a first step towards consensus. Renovations will be impacted by funding available and level of interest from the local neighborhoods.

# 8503

18503

- 1 Linden Street Park
- 2 Renaissance Park

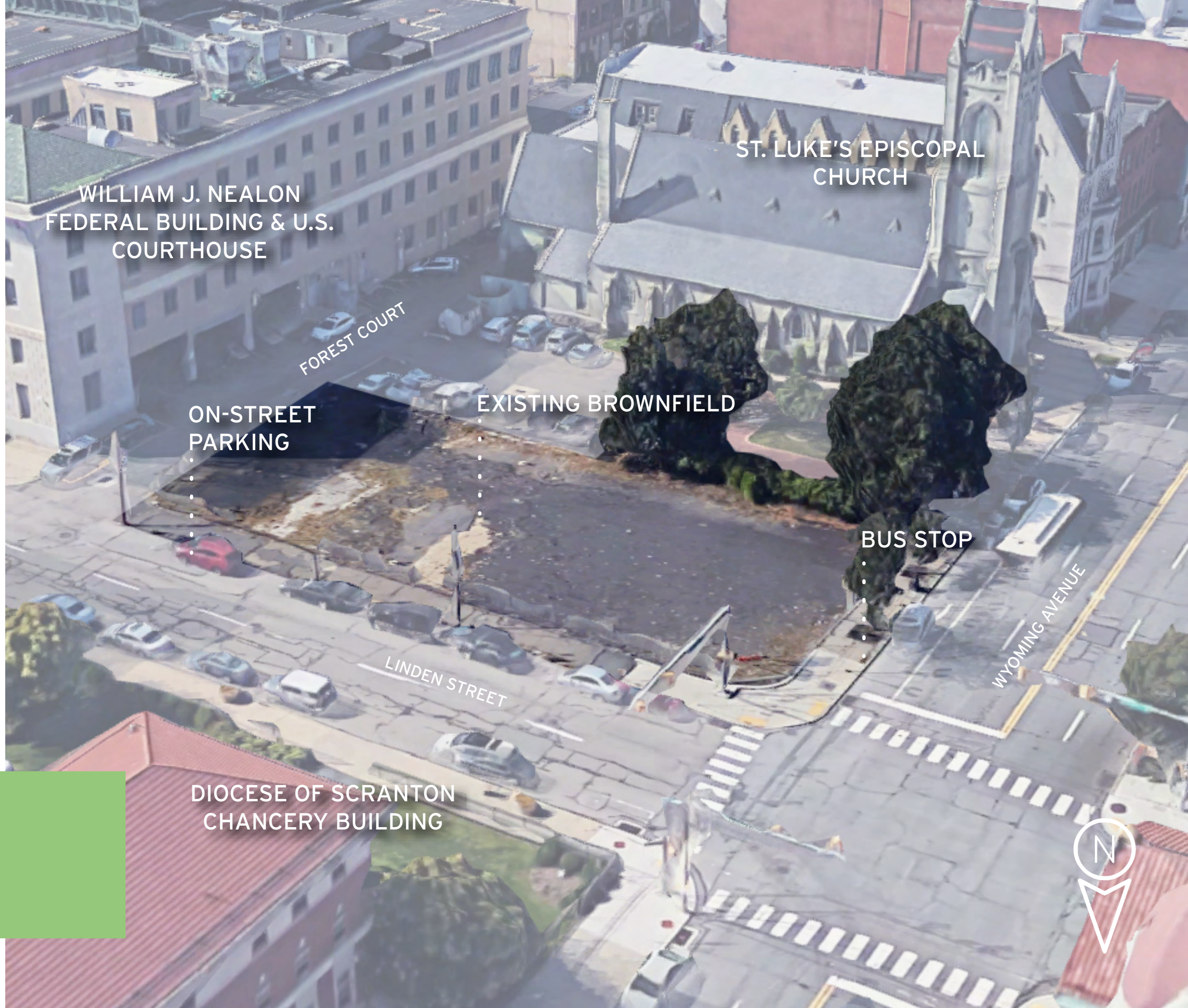


ZIP CODE LOCATION



# LINDEN STREET PARK

## EXISTING CONDITIONS



WILLIAM J. NEALON  
FEDERAL BUILDING & U.S.  
COURTHOUSE

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

FOREST COURT

ON-STREET  
PARKING

EXISTING BROWNFIELD

BUS STOP

LINDEN STREET

WYOMING AVENUE

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON  
CHANCERY BUILDING

Address: 248 WYOMING AVENUE

Neighborhood: DOWNTOWN

Size: 0.26 ACRES

Low-Mod Income Area: YES

Classification: POCKET PARK

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

Linden Street Park is currently a brownfield site in Downtown Scranton that was once an old dry cleaning facility. The building was torn down in 2009. The park is currently undergoing soil remediation to remove contaminants from the site before a park can be built. The park budget is \$400,000, which includes any site remediation costs and future park construction.

Scranton Tomorrow, specifically their pocket park committee, has been developing plans in coordination with the City of Scranton to create this unique Downtown park. According to various articles, the park may have tables, benches, a small event space, and a play area for children. The park will include trees and other landscaping to soften the urban feel of the area. However, final plans and scope will be determined the available construction funds after site remediation.



## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

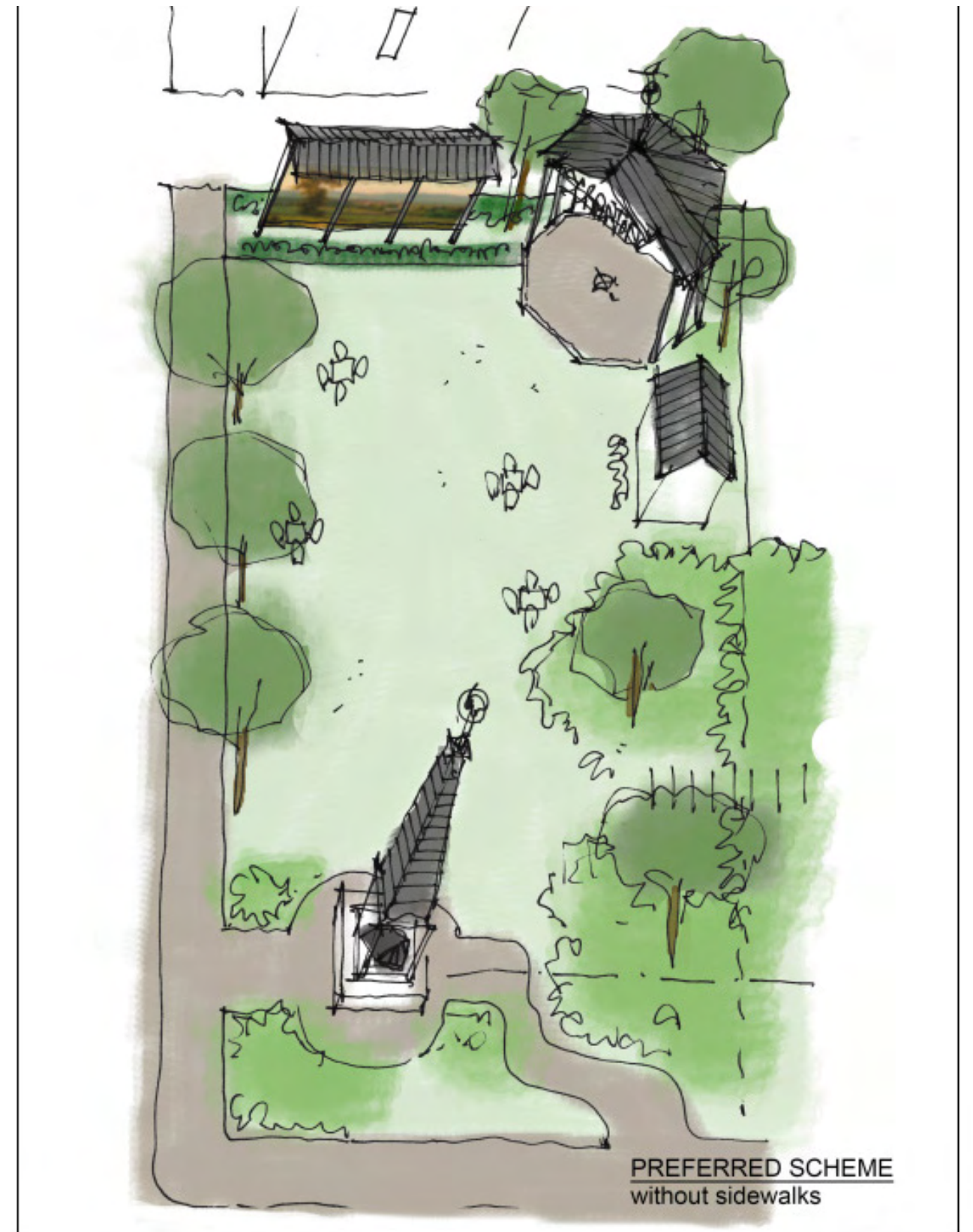
Tere are no identified needs at this time.

## SITE PHOTOS



## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- Proposed improvements for the park have been under discussion for several years between the City of Scranton and Scranton Tomorrow. The below rendering, prepared by Scranton Tomorrow's park committee, represents the most current option being considered for construction in 2022.



# RENAISSANCE PARK

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

Address: 523 BOGART PLACE

Neighborhood: DOWNTOWN

Size: 0.67 ACRES

Low-Mod Income Area: YES

Classification: POCKET PARK



## EXISTING CONDITIONS

Renaissance Park was constructed within the last ten years as part of the 500-Lackawanna Improvements Project. This elevated park provides great views of downtown Scranton and South Side, where it sits adjacent to remnant rail lines from the historic downtown landscape. The park offers opportunities for passive recreation, with open lawn, walking paths, and seating throughout. The position of the park gives users and interesting access point, via an elevator or stairs from a courtyard below.

Renaissance Park is part of the Steamtown National Historic Site, which is owned by the federal government, thus, the City of Scranton does not have full control over the park's use or hours of operation. The city is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the elevator. Additionally, the entry courtyard off Lackawanna Avenue is privately owned.

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Although this park is relatively new, the park struggles to attract users because of inconsistent hours of operation and the inability to have evening events. The park also lacks programming. Providing new opportunities for events, and adding new features, such as shade structures, art installations, would add interest for potential users.

Because of its location and design, the park has opportunity to become a major source of income for the City parks system. Parties, weddings, and other public events could take place with proper agreements with the City of Scranton.

To maximize use, functionality, and maintenance, there must be collaboration and legal agreements between the city, the federal government and the private owners of this space.

## SITE PHOTOS



## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- Better programming and use of space should be provided; Better define how the space can be used due to the complex ownership of park and access.
- Clear description of hours of operation; Need MOU's between City, Steamtown, private owners
- Due to lack of shade, a new shade structure is proposed for events and daily use
- Art installations and sculptures are encouraged to add visual interest for users

## WIND SAIL SHADE STRUCTURE



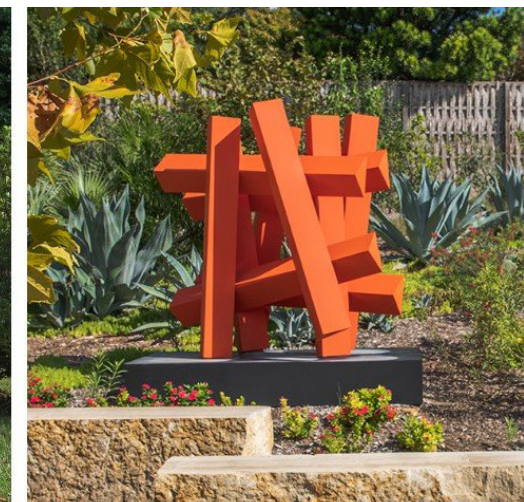
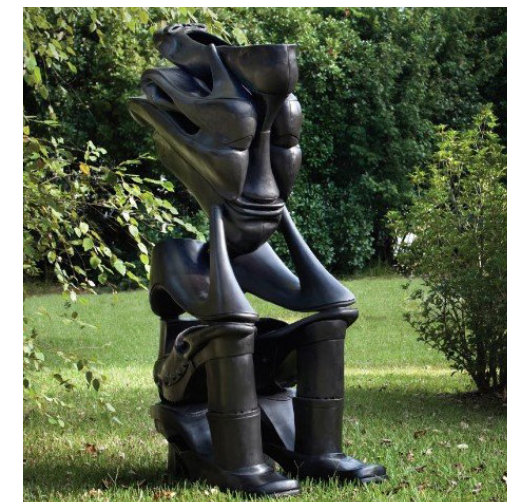
<https://www.shadednation.com>

## COMMUNITY EVENT SPACE



<https://www.discovernepa.com/thing-to-do/bogart-court/>

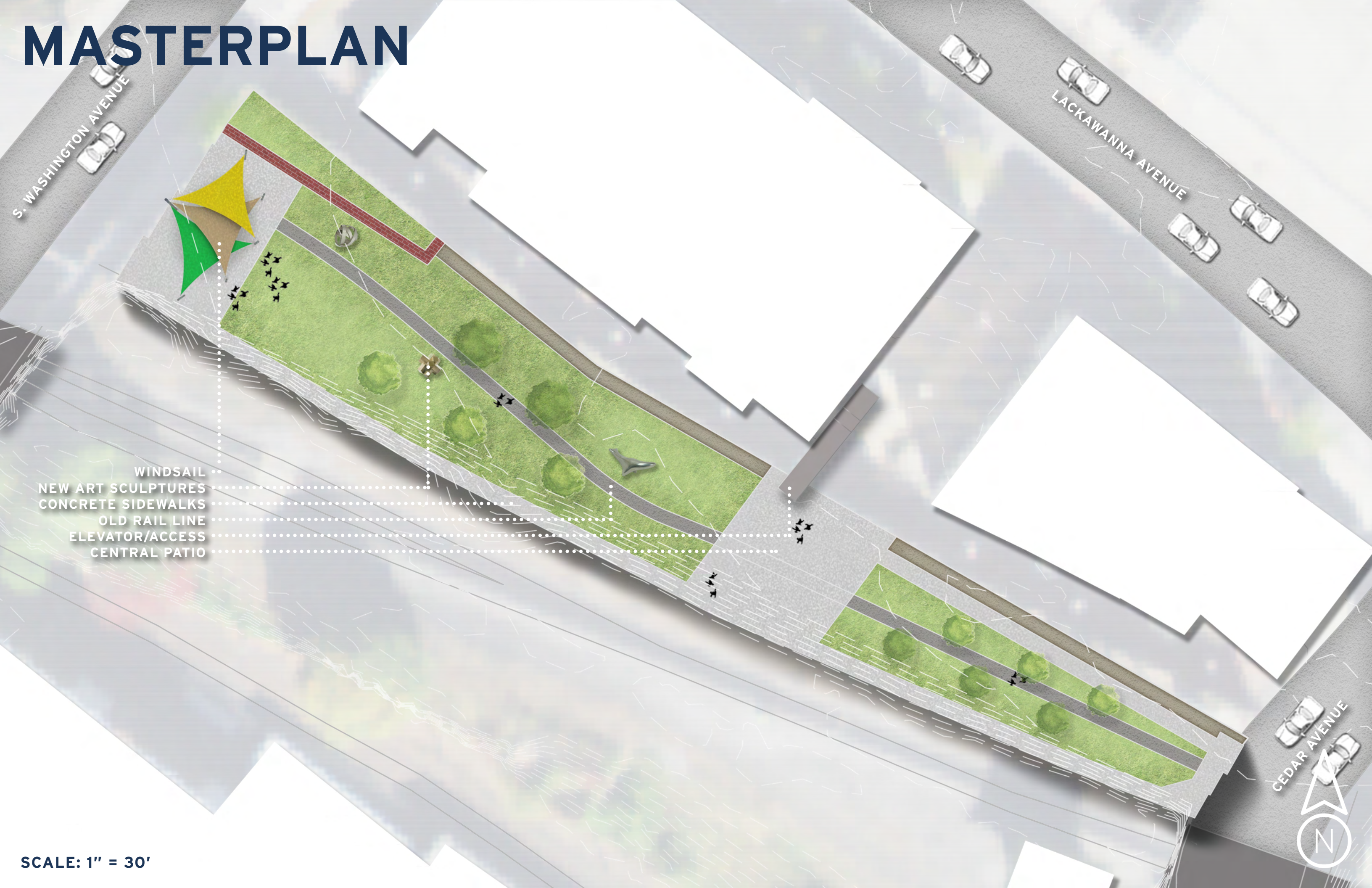
## SCULPTURES - ART INSTALLATIONS



<https://www.mcnayart.org/blog/our-sculpture-garden-is-growing/>



# MASTERPLAN



S. WASHINGTON AVENUE

LACKAWANNA AVENUE

CEDAR AVENUE

- WINDSAIL
- NEW ART SCULPTURES
- CONCRETE SIDEWALKS
- OLD RAIL LINE
- ELEVATOR/ACCESS
- CENTRAL PATIO

SCALE: 1" = 30'

