

Lindenlea, Ottawa, 1919

Planner: Thomas Adams

Backgrounder:

Ottawa had no Garden Cities, but Thomas Adams' 1919 design for Lindenlea is a fine example of a Garden Suburb. The 9 hectare (22 acre) site was a demonstration project for the federal government's first affordable housing programme, providing modest homes in an attractive setting, with a community hall, small parks system, a wading pool, tennis court and playground. Adams re-planned the area, replacing the grid proposed by the Ottawa Housing Corporation for the steep and rocky site between Beechwood Avenue and Rockcliffe Park. Unfortunately, the overall effect was initially marred by construction of identical houses in almost every lot, but these have been much-modified over the years.

Key Design Principles:

- abandoning the traditional grid; fit new plan to existing, natural, topography
- hierarchy of street types
- small scale open space
- use of more than one house type

Lindenlea Profile:

By preserving the natural topography of the site, Adams was able to offer residents of Lindenlea, a variety of lots with dimensions that fit the contours of the land. This variability was further enhanced through the provision of alternative housing styles. Each of the streets located within the interior of the Lindenlea neighbourhood are relatively narrow; placing less emphasis on vehicular traffic and greater attention to the pedestrian. In addition, residents benefit from the provision of small pocket parks, and recreational amenities, which are conveniently scattered throughout the community.

Summary of Block and Lot Dimensions

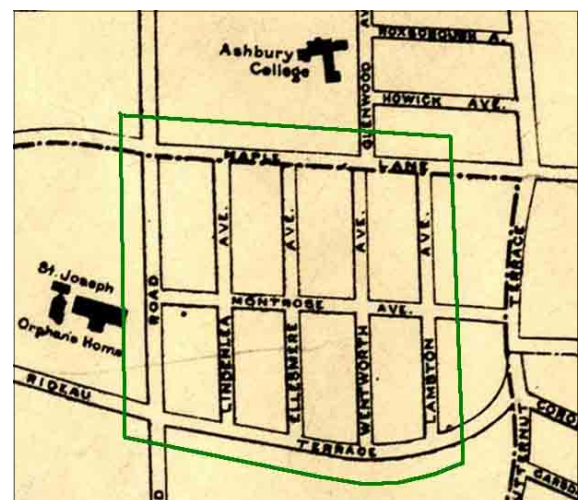
Area	9 hectares
Lots	168
Population (2001)	450
Gross Density	19 du/ ha.
Lot Frontage (typical)	12 m (40')
Lot Depth (typical)	26 m (85')

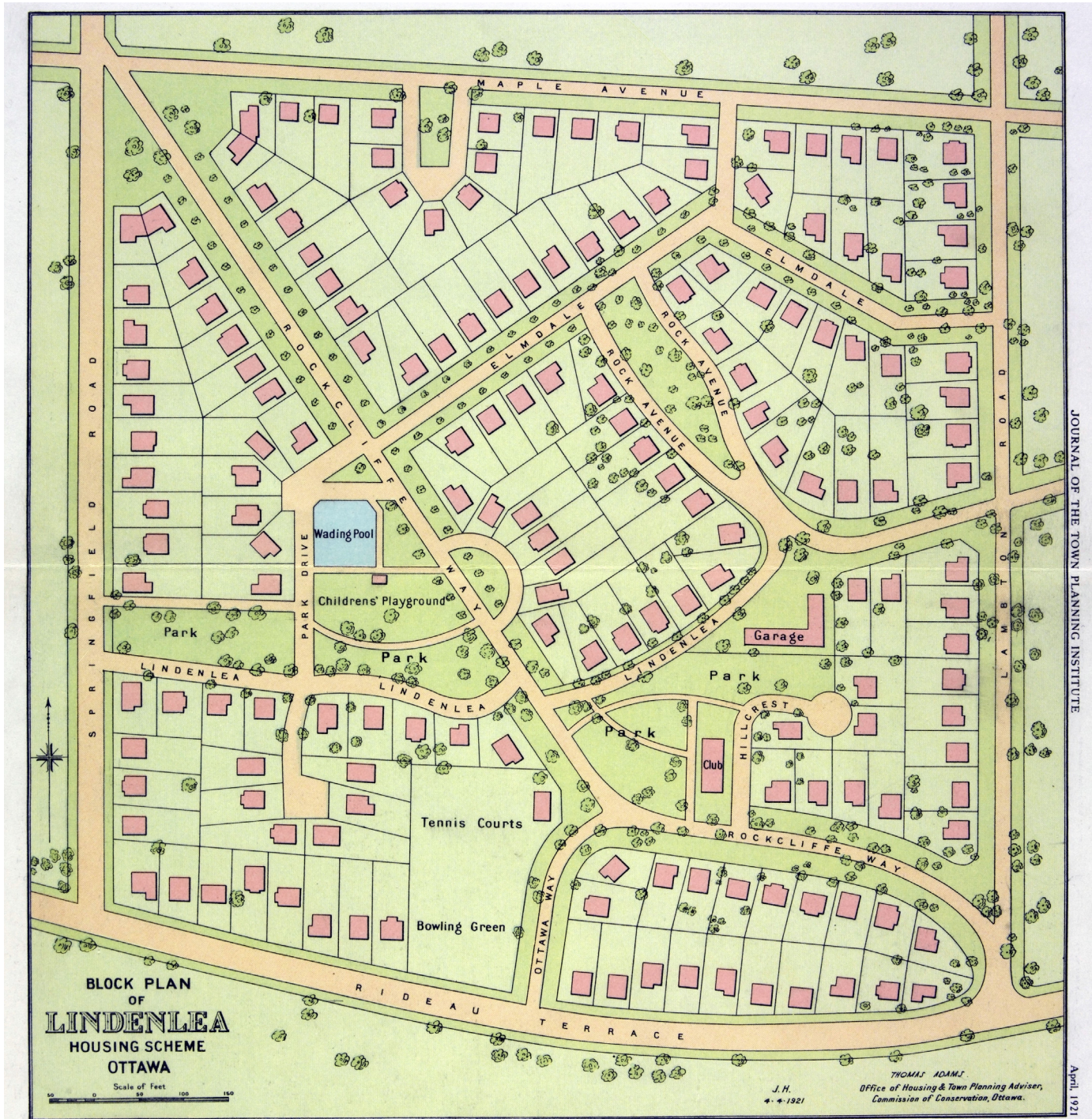
Summary of Open Spaces:

Tennis courts & bowling greens	3200 m ²
Park adjacent to proposed library & institute	1800 m ²
Children's park & play area	4060 m ²
Other	1960 m ²
Total	11,020 m ²

Cauchon's 1912 Plan:

Traditional gridiron street pattern ignored the diagonal ridge across the property





Additional Information:

Adams, Thomas. 1919. "Report of the planning and development of the Lindenlea Estate, Ottawa". Available online at: www.planningcanadiancommunities.ca

Delaney, Jill. 1991 "The Garden Suburb of Lindenlea, Ottawa: A Model Project for the First Federal Housing Policy, 1918-1924", *Urban History Review*, **19**, pp. 151-165.

Simpson, Micheal. 1982 "Thomas Adams in Canada, 1914-1930" *Urban History Review*, **11(2)**, pp-1-15.

Simpson, Michael. 1985, *Thomas Adams and the Modern Planning Movement: Britain, Canada and the United States, 1900-1940*. London: Mensell.