

—Original Message—

From: Rita Mitchell [<mailto:rmitchel@umich.edu>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 2:44 PM

To: Planning; Planning; Beaudry, Jacqueline

Subject: Statement for Planning Commission, February 8, 2011, re: 2011-2015 Draft Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan

Hello Ms. Beaudry,

Please print and include both electronic and hard copy versions of my statement, which follows, to the Ann Arbor City Planning Commission, for the agenda for February 8, 2011.

Thank you,

Rita Mitchell

Re: 2011-2015 Draft Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to comment on the draft 2011-2015 PROS plan, which is on your agenda to review on Tuesday, February 8. I have previously provided city staff members with my comments, in detail. This message is to you, and addresses some items that I consider to be of high priority:

1 - On page 3 of the draft document, you will find that distribution of parks and open spaces is uneven across the city, with the least amount of open space available in the Central Planning area, of 3.7 acres per 1000 citizens, using 2000 census statistics. Compared with the overall city average of 18.32 acres per 1000 citizens, the most densely populated area of the city lacks comparable open space. Note that the overall average of parkland acreage per 1000 for the city is much reduced by the extremely limited open space in the Central Planning area.

Given that Planning Commission and Council have created plans to support more dense population in the Central planning area, it makes sense to provide for an increase in open space for the area. Given also that the current unsupportable city move to repurpose 10.3 acres of park land in Fuller Park for a parking structure, a project that I oppose strongly, the park land and open space in the Central Area will decrease significantly from the rate for the year 2000 census population. Even if park land is not repurposed, I recommend that the PROS plan be modified to direct staff to develop park land and open space in the Central Planning area, to provide those who live there with better access to an amenity that will encourage them to continue to live in the central core. The Allen Creek Greenway is a reasonable option for additional central area open space.

2 - The Allen Creek Greenway is a potential source of green, open space, alternative transportation, and contribution to environmental improvements of one of Ann Arbor's major watersheds. The draft PROS plan openly minimizes the positive benefits of the Allen Creek Greenway, requests limited funds for the project, and delays action on the Allen Creek Greenway, regardless of the fact that it is supported by the greatest number of positive comments in the open ended survey questions made available to citizens, with more favorable comments than the skatepark (See attached detailed comments in response to survey question #13). I request that you direct staff to modify reference to the Allen Creek Greenway to raise the priority of it throughout the document, consistent with support expressed by citizens.

3 - On page 85, maintenance of existing park land over acquisition of park land is linked specifically to the Allen Creek Greenway. Given that parkland will be acquired within the city limits, using Greenbelt millage revenue, maintenance concerns are applicable to ANY park or open space and should not be tied specifically to the Allen Creek Greenway. In fact, additional open park land in the downtown area will qualify as both urban greenspace and neighborhood parks for residents of the Central planning area.

You will see in the graphs accompanying the discussion on page 85, that the number of respondents who consider acquiring additional neighborhood parks and acquiring urban park space are nearly equal. I ask that the statement on page 85 be modified to indicate two distinct concepts:

- a. There is significant community support for the Allen Creek Greenway, as evidenced by individually written responses to the survey questions. (Analysis of Survey Question 13 open ended responses for specific text terms in support of: Allen Creek Greenway 150, Skatepark 140, Dogpark 60 as listed in attached worksheet). Read the remaining free-text responses and you will see additional support for the above three concepts, using other non-specific terms.
- b. There is community concern that new maintenance of all park space be planned, continued, and supported.

4 - Page 39 of the draft document directs staff to move forward with public/private partnerships. I am concerned about the emphasis on this approach to addressing budget shortfalls. If we turn our public lands over to private management, or use more advertising on-site in park spaces, we will erode the value to the citizens who actually own the park resources. I urge you to modify the PROS document, to eliminate the strong emphasis on public/private partnerships, and to provide strong guidance regarding any relationships that are considered correct. Please help to avoid using our public park land as commercial advertising opportunities.

5 - Budget information provided in the report is confusing as presented. Please ask staff to revise the information so that sources of funds, and use of funds for expenses are clear. Including labels on the pie charts may help. It is difficult to determine which activities are supported by general funds versus millage funds, and to follow that information over time. Please recommend that the detail be improved so that citizens will understand the revenue and expense components as sourced from General Funds and from Parks Millages.

I appreciate your review of this information, and request your support of the changes I have suggested, to the draft version of the 2011-2015 PROS Plan.

Thank you,

Rita Mitchell  
621 Fifth St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Attachment: Survey questions, with text-search summary of open-ended survey question #13

PROS PLAN - QUESTION #13					
		What, if any, initiatives do you feel Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation should prioritize for future implementation? Examples suggested have included a downtown greenway, a skatepark and a downtown dog park.	Results of word-search for "Greenway", "Skate", "Dog":		
		<b>Total Count for Greenway, Skatepark, Dogpark</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>60</b>
dot	category	question	Greenway	Skate	Dog
•	skate park	we wouldn't use a skate park, dog park or downtown greenway.	-1	-1	-1
•	maintenance	Maintain and keep the facilities that we have. I don't care about a skate park, dog park or downtown greenway.	-1	-1	-1
•	greenway	I do not support the Allen Creek Greenway. Take care of the open creekways we already have first! I support the skateboard park and wouldn't mind city managing it like they do Buhr pool and skate rink. I don't like dogs especially in nature areas. I would	-1	1	-1
•	skate park	a skateboard park is needed. a dog park and downtown greenway are not as needed. More soccer fields should be a priority. A skating rink on the south or east	-1	1	-1
•	skate park	skatepark, okay. downtown dog park = pure insanity; downtown greenway = pure	-1	1	-1
•	skate park	Think the skate park is important, downtown dog park maybe (tho doubt it makes sense in terms of price of land and the amount of land that would make sense). Have	-1	1	1
•	maintenance	I like the status quo. I definitely wouldn't endorse dog parks and downtown	-1		1
•	downtown-related	A downtown greenway would be nice. I don't see any reason to have skate parks, dog parks, etc.	1	-1	-1
•	downtown-related	I think a downtown greenway would appeal to and be used by more people than a skate park or a dog park, and should therefore be a higher priority. I don't own a dog, so I don't think a dog park is a priority, except to the extent that it gets dogs out of	1	1	-1
•	skate park	skate park! downtown greenway or connector between park. Don't need another dog park (or else make them raise money for it, like the skaters are doing!)	1	1	-1
•	downtown-related	downtown greenway; skateboard park; downtown dog park	1	1	1
•	skate park	skate park, dog park, greenway, downtown park	1	1	1
•	skate park	Skate park, dog park, greenway, downtown parks/plaza	1	1	1
•	skate park	skate park, then downtown dog park and downtown greenway last	1	1	1
•	other/general	ALL three of the above would be excellent additions.	1	1	1
•	other/general	i agree with all of those	1	1	1
•	other/general	All of the examples listed sound awesome!	1	1	1
•	greenway	A greenway to connect downtown to the south end of the city would be great. So	1	1	
•	greenway	The greenway, with bike path and attached attractions for kid (e.g skate park) should be priorities.	1	1	
•	downtown-related	Downtown greenway, skate park	1	1	
•	downtown-related	Downtown greenway and skate park	1	1	
•	greenway	Allen Creek Greenway and a skate park, more connections between existing parks	1	1	
•	downtown-related	Definitely downtown greenway and skate park. Also, need to continue adding & improving bicycle lanes and awareness across every road & intersection in the city & connecting to surrounding townships.	1	1	
•	skate park	skate park, downtown greenway	1	1	
•	skate park	skate park FOR SURE! greenways, connectivity-bike trails	1	1	
•	skate park	skate park, downtown greenway. musical events in summer.	1	1	
•	skate park	Skate park, downtown greenway and bike path	1	1	
•	skate park	Skate park and downtown greenway.	1	1	
•	skate park	skate park and downtown greenway	1	1	
•	skate park	Skate Park and Downtown Greenway	1	1	
•	skate park	1. skate park; 2. downtown greenway with easier access to the river (from downtown)	1	1	
•	skate park	skate park is #1, downtown greenway and allen creek restoration #2	1	1	
•	downtown-related	I love the idea of a downtown greenway, even going so far as to support restricting vehicle traffic downtown. I also support the skate park.	1	1	
•	downtown-related	Downtown (library lot) park; Allen Creek Greenway; skateboard park.	1	1	
•	skate park	I support the skate park and the Allen Creek Greenway.	1	1	

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		Total Count for Greenway, Skatepark, Dogpark	150	140	60
dot	category	question	Greenway	Skate	Dog
•	greenway	Town square on the library lot; Allen's Creek Greenway; Skatepark.			
			1	1	
•	skate park	would love to see a skate park and a downtown greenway connecting to the UM stadium			
			1	1	
•	downtown-related	Town Square on the downtown library lot; Allen Creek Greenway; centrally located skatepark			
			1	1	
•	skate park	Ann Arbor has need a skate park since I was a kid. I think any connective skate park,			
			1	1	
•	downtown-related	I would like a downtown green-plaza next to the library; a downtown skatepark and			
			1	1	
•	greenway	The greenway is the initiative in which I am most interested and invested. I'm a definite no to the idea of a downtown dog park.			
			1		-1
•	downtown-related	Downtown greenway. Wouldn't support downtown dog park			
			1		-1
•	downtown-related	downtown greenway! Please skip the idea of a downtown dog park - I've seen these			
			1		-1
•	downtown-related	downtown greenway best idea, please no dog parks downtown			
			1		1
•	downtown-related	downtown greenway, downtown dog park			
			1		1
•	downtown-related	downtown greenway and dog park should be top priorities.			
			1		1
•	greenway	Downtown greenway and downtown dog park			
			1		1
•	dog-related	combination dog park greenway			
			1		1
•	dog-related	Downtown dog park and greenway			
			1		1
•	downtown-related	no more dog parks- downtown greenway possibly			
			1		1
•	downtown-related	Downtown dog park and downtown greenway.			
			1		1
•	downtown-related	Downtown dog park and downtown greenway and green spaces would be EXCELLENT.			
			1		1
•	downtown-related	A downtown dog park and a downtown greenway would be great!			
			1		1
•	downtown-related	downtown or north side dog park, downtown greenway, Allen Cr greenway			
			1		1
•	dog-related	A dog park closer to the downtown area would be great! Downtown greenway would			
			1		1
•	dog-related	Dog park would be great. connecting the existing parks for continuous greenway			
			1		1
•	dog-related	Another dog park. Could be small but give owners on N. Side less excuse that Swift			
			1		1
•	dog-related	We don't all have dogs - any dog specific park should be funded from dog licenses,			
			1		1
•	downtown-related	Greenway would be nice, but increasing downtown development/density is also			
			1		
•	gree	Greenway			
			1		
•	greenway	greenway, through non motorized plan development			
			1		
•	greenway	greenway and improved signage			
			1		
•	greenway	Greenway and connectivity of non-vehicel pathways			
			1		
•	greenway	Greenway!			
			1		
•	greenway	greenways... places to take long walks without traffic			
			1		
•	greenway	Greenway!			
			1		
•	greenway	Greenway from downtown to the river and beyond...			
			1		
•	greenway	The greenway will enhance Ann Arbor as a place to live and a place to visit.			
			1		
•	greenway	The Greenway. In the long run, it could distinguish AA from other cities.			
			1		
•	greenway	The greenway is the most important initiative for the city.			
			1		
•	greenway	The greenway would help with the aesthetics of the city, and some support the notion that it could help to reduce the Allen's Creek flow.			
			1		
•	downtown-related	Downtown greenway and trail connectivity			
			1		
•	downtown-related	Downtown greenway. More parks and greenspace in the highly developed downtown			
			1		
•	downtown-related	Downtown greenway -- by far the most important parks proposal anyone has made in			
			1		
•	downtown-related	downtown greenway.			
			1		
•	downtown-related	Downtown greenway			
			1		
•	downtown-related	Downtown greenway			
			1		
•	downtown-related	downtown greenway			
			1		

PROS PLAN - QUESTION #13

What, if any, initiatives do you feel Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation should prioritize for future implementation? Examples suggested have included a downtown greenway, a skatepark and a downtown dog park.

Results of word-search for "Greenway", "Skate", "Dog":

Total Count for Greenway, Skatepark, Dogpark 150 140 60

dot	category	question	Greenway	Skate	Dog
		Downtown Greenway;	1		
		downtown greenway, off road walking & biking trails, connected parks/trails	1		
		downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown greenway; maintaining park uses (as opposed to parking garages) along	1		
		downtown greenway	1		
		downtown greenway would be great addition.	1		
		downtown greenway!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	1		
		downtown greenway and public plaza on library lot	1		
		downtown greenway	1		
		downtown greenway is a good idea	1		
		Downtown Greenway is a great idea. Additionally improving parks for multi-use	1		
		Downtown greenway and more extensive and interconnected bike-trail network.	1		
		downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown greenway or just open space where someone can sit under a shade tree	1		
		Downtown Greenway	1		
		downtown greenway, ice skating at Burns Park and Allmindinger	1		
		Downtown greenway	1		
		downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown Greenway!!!!!!!!!!!! It would be used by the most people and forever.	1		
		downtown greenway, additional bike ways	1		
		DOWNTOWN GREENWAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	1		
		Downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown Greenway would be a great addition to the city	1		
		Downtown greenway and downtown central park	1		
		downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown Greenway	1		
		Downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown greenway	1		
		downtown greenway would be lovely!	1		
		downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown greenway. Absolutely! And more bike trails/greenways between parks.	1		
		downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown greenway is very important, and continue setting aside green space that is	1		
		Downtown greenway!!!	1		
		Downtown Greenway	1		
		Downtown greenway, better tennis courts and soccer fields	1		
		downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown greenway, definitely	1		
		downtown greenway	1		
		downtown greenway	1		
		Downtown greenway	1		
		A downtown greenway and connecting that greenway to other greenways in	1		

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			<b>150</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>60</b>
		<b>Total Count for Greenway, Skatepark, Dogpark</b>			
dot	category	question	Greenway	Skate	Dog
•	downtown-related	a downtown greenway	1		
•	downtown-related	A downtown greenway. I suspect this is outside of AAPR's purview, but daylighting	1		
•	downtown-related	A downtown greenway	1		
•	downtown-related	A downtown greenway would be great!	1		
•	downtown-related	A downtown greenway is very important; please seize the opportunity now to develop	1		
•	downtown-related	A downtown greenway seems like the most important of these -- easy places for	1		
•	greenway	A downtown greenway. More shade trees at the pools, downtown. Less concrete and pavement. More rooftop gardens.	1		
•	greenway	a downtown greenway would be a fantastic addition to our City	1		
•	green	Allen Creek Greenway	1		
•	greenway	I support a greenway. Downtown is an urban desert. Compared to Amherstburg,	1		
•	greenway	Allen Creek Greenway	1		
•	greenway	Huron River Greenway and path system; then connecting creek greenways where applicable.	1		
•	greenway	Allen Creek Greenway!	1		
•	greenway	Allen Creek Greenway - most important undertaking at this time to ensure for future	1		
•	connectivity	#1 Huron River greenway, also connectivity (greenways?) between more parks (encouraging non-motorized access to more of the parks that we already have)	1		
•	greenway	See above: the Greenway - more walking and biking connectivity.	1		
•	greenway	The Allen Creek Greenway = vitally important to a rewarding future. Now is the time to ACT !!	1		
•	downtown-related	I think a downtown greenway is needed - also need a system of paved or hard gravel	1		
•	downtown-related	Definitely a downtown greenway	1		
•	downtown-related	Let's have a downtown greenway!	1		
•	greenway	Create an Allen Creek Greenway, starting with the city parcels at First and William,	1		
•	downtown-related	Implement the Downtown greenway - no alternative from the taskforce report has been adopted yet.	1		
•	greenway	I want the best Allen Cr greenway we can imagine! Also, I want ROW beautification!	1		
•	greenway	I support the Allen Creek Greenway and the creation of parks on the property the city currently owns along the proposed Greenway.	1		
•	greenway	I think a fully envisioned Greenway would bring enormous economic and	1		
•	pathways	Ann Arbor needs a downtown greenway with walking and bicycle paths and places to sit and relax.	1		
•	greenway	As above, we feel a serious greenway is very important.	1		
•	downtown-related	downtown parks for people, a greenway, access to the river (even some development along the river)	1		
•	downtown-related	Would like to see a downtown greenway.	1		
•	greenway	I like the idea of a downtown greenway.	1		
•	greenway	The creation of the Allen Creek Greenway must be a key priority for the City and the	1		
•	downtown-related	Of the above suggestions, a downtown greenway would be the most beneficial.	1		
•	downtown-related	an improved Farmer's Market and downtown greenway	1		
•	downtown-related	I am a big supporter of developing a downtown greenway particularly to provide a safer way for walkers, runners and bikers to move through the town without having to	1		
•	connectivity	Living in the Twin Cities, I know the benefits of greenway, but I think Ann Arbor could use parks money better. I think making a connected bike/running/walking trail all	1		
•	greenway	removal of Argo Dam and how it could increase the greenway around the Huron River and also protect the river	1		
•	downtown-related	In-town urban green space, specifically the Allen Creek Greenway. It will service as green infrastructure, non-motorized connectivity across town, and as a resource for respite and recreation for those who live, work and visit downtown Ann Arbor.	1		
•	downtown-related	In line with my comments on Q. 10, I vote for a downtown greenway.	1		

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		What, if any, initiatives do you feel Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation should prioritize for future implementation? Examples suggested have included a downtown greenway, a skatepark and a downtown dog park.	Results of word-search for "Greenway", "Skate", "Dog":		
		Total Count for Greenway, Skatepark, Dogpark	150	140	60
dot	category	question	Greenway	Skate	Dog
•	greenway	Yes, as indicated above, it is time to implement the Allen Creek Greenway. Let's get	1		
•	downtown-related	There is a lot of paved surface downtown. I would definitely support a downtown	1		
•	downtown-related	downtown green way	1		
•	maintenance	I think maintaining greenspace is very important. I also think keeping our pools and		-1	-1
•	ap	Skate park now is a bad idea - new expenditures bad		-1	
•	skate park	skatepark, the underground of skateboarding dwarves the necessity of a dog park?		1	-1
•	dog-related	downtown dog park! skate park		1	1
•	dog-related	The dog park and skate park sound great.		1	1
•	dog-related	Dog park but not downtown, skate park where youngsters can skate safely, staffed		1	1
•	dog-related	dog park, skate park (for inline and skateboard). more water fountains along trails.		1	1
•	dog-related	Downtown dog park and skate park would be great assets to the city.		1	1
•	neighborhood par	Neighborhood parks, skate park, downtown dog park - in that order		1	1
•	other/general	all 3 of those are more important to me than any of the items in question#10.		1	1
•	skate park	skate park, dog park		1	1
•	skate park	Definitely a skatepark. A more centrally located dog park might also be nice.		1	1
•	skate park	Skatepark and Dog Park Huge Priorities/Understand the County is providing		1	1
•	skate park	Skate park, downtown dog park		1	1
•	skate park	The skatepark should go on top of the underground parking structure! Downtown dog		1	1
•	skate park	Skate park is a great idea. I would love another dog park, but think a skate park would		1	1
•	skate park	The skate park and a more centrally located dog park are great ideas.		1	1
•	skate park	I like the skate park and downtown dog park. I also would like parks at the city limits		1	1
•	skate park	Both the skate park and the dog park.		1	1
•	skate park	Though I would not use it, I think the time has come for a skate park. Similarly, a dog		1	1
•	skate park	Skate Park and dog parks, absolutely. more greenspace in downtown would be very		1	1
•	skate park	The skate park is a nice idea, downtown dog park (I don't know where without		1	1
•	connectivity	I would like to see more connected multiuse trails; I think a skate park would be good		1	
•	maintenance	First we need to be able to adequately maintain what we already have. After that, a		1	
•	maintenance	Just what we need is a skate park in Veterans Memorial Park. Spend money on		1	
•	maintenance	I don't think we need any new parks, but now that you mention it, a skate park does		1	
•	neighborhood par	Outlying residential parks, lees focus downtown. Improve and expand teen and adult		1	
•	skate park	skate park!		1	
•	skate park	I think a Skate Park would be great! I lived in Midland, MI for several years, and the		1	
•	skate park	Skatepark is a big priority. Get this done!		1	
•	skate park	skate park		1	
•	skate park	Skatepark		1	
•	skate park	Skate park		1	
•	skate park	skatepark, whitewater park on the Huron		1	
•	skate park	skate park		1	
•	skate park	Skate park		1	
•	skate park	Skateboard Park		1	
•	skate park	SKATE PARK, definitely!			
•	skate park	skate park		1	
•	skate park	The skatepark (obviously)		1	
•	skate park	We need a skateboard park. There are multiple basketball courts, tennis courts		1	
•	skate park	Skate park		1	
•	skate park	The Skate park has broad community support. It should be a top priority for future		1	
•	skate park	skatepark		1	
•	skate park	Skatepark would really improve Vet's Park		1	
•	skate park	Free Skate park		1	
•	skate park	A skatepark, without question. A significant amount of Ann Arborites are skaters, and		1	
•	skate park	skate park		1	
•	skate park	Skate Park Please.....		1	
•	skate park	Skatepark		1	
•	skate park	Skatepark.		1	
•	skate park	skatepark skatepark skatepark		1	
•	skate park	Skatepark		1	
•	skate park	Skate Park		1	
•	skate park	a skatepark		1	
•	skate park	skate park, bring back West Park concerts for general public--not just civic band		1	
•	skate park	skate park. Other two only when financing is available without laying off personnel		1	
•	skate park	Skate Park		1	
•	skate park	skate park		1	
•	skate park	skate park		1	
•	skate park	Improvements to Swift Run, and the skate park.		1	
•	skate park	The skate park would be better than the downtown ideas -- we are a small town. It		1	
•	skate park	Build the Skatepark already		1	
•	skate park	Skate Park		1	
•	skate park	Skate park is important!		1	
•	skate park	skate park		1	
•	skate park	skate park might be nice - my friends who wanted it 10 years ago have grown up and		1	
•	skate park	Any opportunities for youth activity. Will LOVE the skatepark! And, very pleased with		1	

PROS PLAN - QUESTION #13

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Results of word-search for "Greenway", "Skate", "Dog":

Total Count for Greenway, Skatepark, Dogpark

150

140

60

dot	category	question	Greenway	Skate	Dog
•	skate park	Stop giving away our parks, keep what we have. A skate park would be nice.		1	
•	skate park	Aid the construction of the skate park in any way possible; more spaces for eating		1	
•	skate park	Skate park would be cool! A driving range or practice facility at one of your courses		1	
•	skate park	skatepark.		1	
•	skate park	My family is for the skate park and I would like to see more areas for roller hockey.		1	
•	skate park	skate park, art urban green space		1	
•	skate park	Get the skate park done. Greenbelt should happen also.		1	
•	skate park	The skate park is long overdue. We should look into more routes to help get kids		1	
•	skate park	skate park		1	
•	skate park	skate park		1	
•	skate park	skate park		1	
•	skate park	skate park		1	
•	skate park	Skatepark!!!!		1	
•	skate park	skate park		1	
•	skate park	Skate Park, yes!		1	
•	skate park	skate park--the teens need sanctioned space for their skating, etc.		1	
•	skate park	Skate park		1	
•	skate park	A skate park would be great!		1	
•	skate park	Skate Park		1	
•	skate park	Skate park, c'mon it's been years. Build it already.		1	
•	skate park	skate park for all ages		1	
•	skate park	Skate board park, maintain Argo pond for rowing and other slow water recreational		1	
•	skate park	I think a skate park would be very popular		1	
•	skate park	A free, permanent, concrete skatepark		1	
•	skate park	Please prioritize the Ann Arbor Skatepark		1	
•	skate park	We have needed a skate park for a long time.		1	
•	skate park	skate park!!		1	
•	skate park	A skatepark would be great.		1	
•	skate park	I think a big thing that our community is missing is a skatepark otherwise the facilities		1	
•	skate park	Skate park		1	
•	skate park	D. all of the above. I suspect that we are one of a few (forward thinking) cities that		1	
•	skate park	yes a skate park		1	
•	skate park	Skate Park!		1	
•	skate park	Please build a skatepark.		1	
•	skate park	SKATEPARK!!		1	
•	skate park	Skatepark! I have two children that skateboard, and about six in my neighborhood.		1	
•	skate park	The Skatepark is a must!		1	
•	skate park	Skate park		1	
•	skate park	Skate park first and foremost.		1	
•	skate park	Skate park.		1	
•	skate park	love the skate park idea, and would also love to have some kind of connected bike		1	
•	skate park	I work in Jackson and their skate park is a great positive way for youth to be active.		1	
•	skate park	I think that the skate park deserves priority at this time.		1	
•	dog-related	NO dog park!!!			-1
•	dog-related	I think a downtown dog park is a horrible idea unless someone goes in and cleans up			-1
•	dog-related	I am not in favor of a downtown dog park			-1
•	dog-related	I would suggest we take care of people before we expand to more dogs. I am an avid			-1
•	downtown-related	MORE DOWNTOWN PARKS (LOVE AREA NEXT TO "PRINGLE" AUD), NO DOG			-1
•	downtown-related	Downtown green space. Please, not a dog park!			-1
•	maintenance	Maintenance of local parks should take priority over new specialty requests like a dog			-1
•	maintenance	Main the parks, first. After that, develop a park downtown (West park is NOT			-1
•	other/general	I'd love to see the parking lot at Bandamere paved - it's used by many rowers and is			-1
•	dog-related	dog parks		1	
•	dog-related	more neighborhood dog parks. Allen creek support. More to get people to the river.		1	
•	dog-related	dog park, more bike lanes, bike trails		1	
•	dog-related	A Down Town Dog Park!!!! :)		1	
•	dog-related	another dog park		1	
•	dog-related	Dog friendly trails to walk dogs on with nice surroundings like many progressive cities		1	
•	dog-related	North side dog park... not downtown -- space would make it a dirty, overcrowded		1	
•	dog-related	A west-side dog park would be nice.		1	
•	dog-related	More dog off-leash areas nearby. More consideration for Bird habitat & sustainability.		1	
•	dog-related	A dog park if that would get some of the dogs out of the parks. There are too many		1	
•	dog-related	I know people want a dog park, that would get dogs out of "people" parks. But it would		1	
•	dog-related	Dog-friendly areas and activities. For so many of us, this is the only or main way we		1	
•	dog-related	I don't have a dog (yet), but a dog park would be awesome. A downtown green area		1	
•	dog-related	Dog park at currently vacant lot for Broadway Village / Lower Town development.		1	
•	dog-related	downtown dog park		1	
•	dog-related	Additional dog park but mostly maintenance of the parks we have.		1	
•	dog-related	I would love to have a dog park on the west side of the city		1	
•	dog-related	Downtown dog park would be great!		1	
•	dog-related	downtown dog park is needed		1	
•	dog-related	Downtown dog park		1	
•	dog-related	downtown, West Side or Burns Park/campus area dog park--this promotes		1	



PROS PLAN - QUESTION #13					
		What, if any, initiatives do you feel Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation should prioritize for future implementation? Examples suggested have included a downtown greenway, a skatepark and a downtown dog park.	Results of word-search for "Greenway", "Skate", "Dog":		
		<b>Total Count for Greenway, Skatepark, Dogpark</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>60</b>
dot	category	question	Greenway	Skate	Dog
•	dog-related	Downtown Dog Park			1
•	dog-related	dog park			1
•	dog-related	A local downtown dog park would be amazing			1
•	dog-related	Dog park (much bigger base).			1
•	dog-related	Dog park near downtown			1
•	dog-related	We need off-leash dog parks			1
•	dog-related	Dog parks (multiple, for different size dogs) including equipment for agility would be			1
•	dog-related	dog park			1
•	dog-related	converting existing park to a dog park could be a good idea, with theat park being			1
•	downtown-related	downtown dog park would be wonderful! Very entertaining for folks who do not have			1
•	downtown-related	Downtown dog park			1
•	downtown-related	A downtown dog park might make it easier to enforce dogs on leash/no dogs rules			1
•	downtown-related	downtown dog park would be great. downtown greenspace, or just small park with			1
•	downtown-related	Downtown dog park.			1
•	downtown-related	Downtown dog park is a nice idea, but it needs to be big enough. What about in the			1
•	downtown-related	downtown or westside dog park			1
•	maintenance	implement maintenance and minimize any growth. the priority should be working			1
•	pathways	More walking/running paths, downtown dog park			1
•	xc skiing	Hot chocolate, coffee, hot dog/bratwurst, light snack, concession at Huron Hills during			
•	aasc	Improve the Senior Center and addl. offerings for downtown. AARP listed Ann Arbor			
•	aasc	Up date Senior Center and do not close it think of your seniors first			
•	aasc	Updating the Senior Center to compete with the surrounding centers. The dedicated			
•	accessibility	green/park space accessible within the city. See Boulder CO's path through the city.			
•	arts	Shared arts facility			
•	ballfields	Continue to improve field quality for soccer/frisbee fields, as these are heavily used by			
•	ballfields	More soccer fields. Better website with maps of parks.			
•	ballfields	Refurbish the ball fields and improve the frequency of mowing for ball fields and			
•	ballfields	Soccer goals at school fields, mowing of current ones. If you live downtown- the			
•	ballfields	Soccer and baseball/softball fields			
•	ballfields	Besides field improvement, the plan to connect the parks that have river access			
•	ballfields	More high-quality soccer-type fields			
•	ballfields	new field hockey playing area and updated softball fields			
•	ballfields	A little league-type baseball/softball headquarters with impressive fields and			
•	ballfields	We need soccer fields on the Westside			
•	beautification	Beautify current parks with plantings and mowing, update equipment, provide lighting			
•	beautification	more trees and flowers downtown - but not where flowers are replaced several times			
•	bike	More bike trails			
•	bike	Bike paths between parks.			
•	bike	More mountain bike trails. They are as low impact as hiking trails and more fun.			
•	bike	More parking for bikes. More shelters and sitting areas in the shade. There are many			
•	bike	BMX track			
•	bike	Bike paths			
•	bike	Bicycle paths			
•	b-to-b trail	Border to border trail. Put high priority on bicycle orientation -- we'll need it more as			
•	b-to-b trail	expansion of the border to border trail and other non motorized pathways			
•	b-to-b trail	Finish the Border-to-Border trail west of Bandemer Park			
•	cleanliness	Improve bathroom facilities			
•	cleanliness	upkeep of existing facilities			
•	connectivity	increased connectivity of trails/paths			
•	connectivity	I would like to see more connected (road) bike paths.			
•	connectivity	Effective non-road path network, as previously mentioned.			
•	connectivity	Connecting pathways to other townships as well.			
•	connectivity	Connecting parks to extend and create continuous trails			
•	connectivity	Completing the connections along the river as thoroughly as possible would be great.			
•	connectivity	Highest priority should be completing a network of safe pedestrian and bike trails that			
•	connectivity	improve trail connectivity			
•	connectivity	More/Connected off street bike paths			
•	connectivity	Connectivity, and more collaboration with County, schools, UofM. Better yet, get the			
•	connectivity	additional linkages within parks. better signage for trail/path connections (like b2b)			
•	connectivity	connecting parks esp bike paths along Huron River; more mountain biking areas			
•	connectivity	Finish the Huron River path so it connects completely through the city *without*			
•	connectivity	more connected trails for pedestrians/shared use going through the city/connecting			
•	connectivity	Access to bike trail from Main St.			
•	connectivity	Acquiring more open space along Huron River, shared use pathways that connect			
•	connectivity	Connected paths to get neighborhoods connected to facilities and schools and areas			
•	connectivity	A second dedicated bike trail to connect southern ann arbor to Ypsilanti and			
•	connectivity	Completion of Border-to-Border Trail through the city.			
•	connectivity	Access to parks (like to Bandemer Park from N. Main @ Argo) & logical connections			
•	connectivity	Completing and expanding park access along Huron River. Continuous bike path?			
•	dog-related	Enforcement of leashing of pets			
•	downtown-related	a place for people in the downtown would increase the numbers of people coming to			
•	downtown-related	urban plazas			
•	downtown-related	Downtown park/ town square. And have it be in Downtown not right outside.			

PROS PLAN - QUESTION #13					
		What, if any, initiatives do you feel Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation should prioritize for future implementation? Examples suggested have included a downtown greenway, a skatepark and a downtown dog park.	Results of word-search for "Greenway", "Skate", "Dog":		
			Total Count for Greenway, Skatepark, Dogpark		
			150	140	60
dot	category	question	Greenway	Skate	Dog
•	downtown-related	Green parks downtown would be nice.			
•	downtown-related	A downtown playground.			
•	downtown-related	I favor all of the above. Downtown and near-downtown are especially important, as			
•	downtown-related	Park on top of the Library Lot parking structure			
•	downtown-related	Urban Greenspace, for walking through in downtown, like next to the library! and			
•	downtown-related	I'd like to see a downtown arts/performance venue.			
•	downtown-related	Some sort of central park would be nice.			
•	downtown-related	A central downtown space--a diag for townies			
•	downtown-related	Downtown green space would be fabulous			
•	downtown-related	Downtown and central neighborhood green space			
•	fee reduction	Again, redirect funds back to reducing program fees. If the high fees are extracted in			
•	golf	Driving range			
•	golf	Keep Huron Hills golf course open. It is a great course for people learning the game of			
•	golf	The City should improve the level of golf instruction and it should not change Huron			
•	golf	DO NOT LEASE ANY OF HURON HILLS GOLF COURSE! KEEP it as a golf course.			
•	greenbelt	Greenbelt			
•	Growing sites	(1) Growing sites (e.g., Project grow) and herbal foraging areas, (2) Nearby nature			
•	Growing sites	Develop plans for neighborhood use of parks to grow food, both permanent edibles			
•	ice rinks	outdoor ice rinks at neighborhood parks that have fields?			
•	ice rinks	Definitely outdoor ice skating			
•	ice rinks	Outdoor skating rink, no roof & in a neighborhood park. A groomed cross country trail			
•	ice rinks	Bring back the Burns Park Skating Rink			
•	invasives removal	remove invasives, even if it will compromise privacy of residents (e.g. west side of			
•	kayak/canoe	I'd like to be able to drive my kayak/canoe through a snack bar without getting out of			
•	maintenance	1. Maintain existing parks first. 2. Improve existing parks (ie skatepark @ Vet's). 3.			
•	maintenance	Keep Huron Hills as is			
•	maintenance	NOT IMPLEMENTATION...LEAVING GOLF COURSES AS THEY			
•	maintenance	Please concentrate on the parks you have and maintain those properly.			
•	maintenance	Keeping what we have available for public use and not selling or leasing it.			
•	maintenance	Maintain Huron Hills Golf Course with 18 holes; More disc golf venues			
•	maintenance	Back off, sit tight, save money, and see what happens in the next 1-2 years before			
•	maintenance	Maintain present facilities better instead of spending money that is needed for current			
•	maintenance	focus more on what is already underway and not yet completed. E.g. creating a			
•	maintenance	More should be invested in maintaining the existing parks.			
•	maintenance	rather than building new facilities and expanding the amount of land on which			
•	maintenance	Better maintenance should come before any other initiatives.			
•	maintenance	Let's keep our current parks up to standard.			
•	maintenance	take better care of the parks currently owned			
•	maintenance	Not needed...we already have plenty, thank you.			
•	maintenance	MAINTAIN the parks better. Our children need decent athletic fields, baseball,			
•	maintenance	Maintenance of the park we already have.			
•	maintenance	maintenance and improvement of existing parks			
•	maintenance	Maintain what you have. Only add where there are deficiencies, such as I would			
•	maintenance	before acquiring more land, get back to maintaining the land currently owned - many			
•	maintenance	Improve the parks we already have. No more parks.			
•	maintenance	What ever you plan to do, be certain you maintain the city as the owner and manager			
•	maintenance	Don't overspend. Make sure that current parks are maintained and so are current			
•	maintenance	Playground maintenance -- weeding, playground chips, rusty swings replaced etc (eg:			
•	maintenance	Better maintenance of currently owned properties, including small 'parks' like at Miller			
•	maintenance	Maintenance and upkeep of existing facilities and parks			
•	maintenance	Better upkeep of current parks. I don't feel new initiatives are necessary at this time			
•	maintenance	There needs to be an initiative to mow athletic and baseball fields at least once a			
•	maintenance	Again, I would prefer expansion be secondary to maintaining, improving, and			
•	maintenance	Maintenance of current facilities			
•	maintenance	these things are Good for people, lets try to keep people that only use the areas once			
•	maintenance	put dollars into wonderful facilities we already own. Upgrade locker rooms, etc.			
•	maintenance	Use your funds to maintain what we have			
•	maintenance	You can't seem to take care of what we already have so why should I add more?			
•	maintenance	keep up what we have better... protect our inner loop space is highest priority			
•	management/plan	I strongly feel that spending should be halted until the economy visibly improves and			
•	management/plan	Developing the Huron River area has great potential.			
•	management/plan	I think all are important. However, I feel we need to balance these "needs" with the			
•	Mill Race	Improve the Mill Race and portage for canoes and kayaks from Argo.			
•	natural areas	protection of natural areas.			
•	natural areas	More natural areas: birding, native plants. A2 isn't big enough to need a downtown			
•	natural areas	protect natural areas and habitat			
•	natural areas	Retaining nature areas and their ability to support wildlife			
•	natural areas	More natural areas rather than developed areas tied in with excellent non-motorized			
•	neighborhood par	Neighborhood parks for kids to play - combo of play structures and natural areas = fantastic			
•	other/general	Unsure which should take priority.			
•	other/general	Need areas designated for Naturists (Clothing optional areas)			

PROS PLAN - QUESTION #13			Results of word-search for "Greenway", "Skate", "Dog":		
		What, if any, initiatives do you feel Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation should prioritize for future implementation? Examples suggested have included a downtown greenway, a skatepark and a downtown dog park.			
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dot	category	question	Greenway	Skate	Dog
•	other/general	Business Park to encourage Business			
•	other/general	Design a playground contest			
•	other/general	I suggest no new initiatives that require continual maintenance, insurance, etc...you			
•	other/general	We should also set aside "mud fields" for days when games get canceled on the			
•	other/general	I like all these ideas and don't have others, except to retain the City's progressive			
•	other/general	reduce costs, reduce costs, reduce costs..God did not endow you with "automatic"			
•	other/general	?			
•	other/general	yes, yes, and not so much			
•	other/general	I enjoy Millenium Park in Chicago for its diversity in attractions (ages, things to do,			
•	other/general	KEEP IMPROVING HURON HILLS AS AN 18 HOLE GOLF COURSE			
•	other/general	In St George Utah, they have a series of urban pocket parks with trees and flowers			
•	other/general	Not sure of options and funding			
•	other/general	park availability keeps kids to busy to cause trouble, it's much cheaper than Jail			
•	other/general	N/A			
•	other/general	Repeal the Greenbelt millage			
•	other/general	Can't speak knowledgeable			
•	other/general	Ann Arbor			
•	other/general	Ignore greenbelt plans out of the City			
•	other/general	all of the above, and more public art			
•	other/general	spray park, beach			
•	other/general	Acquire and secure ownership of Greenview Park - major south side open area			
•	pathways	bike/walk path along huron river so that it is not necessary to bike/walk on the side of			
•	pathways	Finish trails in PROS plan.			
•	pathways	Additional non-road biking facilities for commuters would be wonderful.			
•	pathways	Pedestrian only streets.			
•	pathways	More places to walk, jog and bike, all connected, so you can go for an hour and more.			
•	permaculture	perennial edible plants and on site water harvesting through permaculture techniques.			
•	playground	natural playgrounds that use the landscape and terrain for playing - getting rid of			
•	pool	MAINTAIN THEIR SWIMMING POOLS.			
•	pool	Indoor pool with splash zone			
•	public involvement	All parks should have "Friends of the... park" committees/groups that will foster care,			
•	regional coordinat	Regional collaboration (such as merging with AAPS or Washtenaw County to get			
•	regional coordinat	I actually would like to see the communities within the County cooperate in this			
•	shade	Shade, shade, shade in the areas where kids and their parents hang out and play. It			
•	tai-chi	tai-chi classes/club			
•	toddler play areas	Toddler-friendly play equipment, clean sandboxes, free water activities			
•	tours	Walks and guided tours through the local parks (and advertise this widely in the			
•	ultimate frisbee	Designing Soccer fields, such that Ultimate frisbee fields can be full size too. There's			
•	ultimate frisbee	An area with Ultimate frisbee specific fields with painted lines would be amazing			
•	ultimate frisbee	Ultimate Frisbee Fields			
•	ultimate frisbee	We need a good field dedicated to Ultimate Frisbee (akin to Lillie fields in Pittsfield			
•	volleyball	better sand volleyball courts			
•	volunteerism	Cut costs by having residents do some of the work on the parks.			
•	water park	some sort of water park			
•	water quality	water quality on impoundments			
•	waterfront	Develop the waterfront north of downtown with destination restaurants and cultural activities			
			150	140	60
			Greenway	Skatepar	Dogpark