

**Subject:** Please update table in PROS Plan 2023-2027

---

**From:** Paul Schultz  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 4, 2025 10:16 AM  
**To:** Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>  
**Cc:** City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>  
**Subject:** Please update table in PROS Plan 2023-2027

Dear City Council and Planning Commission,

If recent drafts of the Comprehensive Plan are any indication, you are doing some pretty good work for Ann Arbor, even if some staff members are not ready to go far enough in expanding the "downtown area" enough south of Hill Street and east of Washtenaw to permit high-rise construction.

But what I'm mainly writing to you about today is the **STATISTICS FROM 2020 CENSUS** table on page {11} of the most recent Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan (page 20 of the 168 page pdf that is available - fyi: [both available](#) links on the [Park Planning](#) page download a 6 meg document; neither downloads a 15 meg nor a 40 meg document).

In discussions of downtown and residents and parks, there is at least one member of our community who opposes most new housing construction who has [repeatedly flogged](#) the [4.11 acres of parkland per 1,000 Central Planning Residents] data point from the bottom left corner of this table.

Please expand the Census reported in this table to include some good measure of University of Michigan property that is available for at least student downtown residents to make use of.

Let us create and edit public resources so that they are less apt to be used for misinformation. The 4.11 acre ratio reported for the Central Planning Area is so incomplete as to be unhelpful in summarizing or thinking about our city.

73% of the residents in the Central Planning Area are acknowledged to be students, but the table treats University Quads, etc. as non-existent. Yes, it is true that University space is literally not City parkland. But, at the same time, some University space does bear some analogy to parkland, at least to the 73% of the residents living in that Planning Area who are students. It would not be wise to budget for future parkland by treating Quads as non-existent.

e.g., the Park Inventory (starting on page {45}) characterizes the Arboretum Nature Area as 28.40 acres. But when I hop over to Google Maps and measure a common-sense outline of the Arb and prairie, I find 124 acres - all of which in some service to students recreating in the Central Planning Area. (While I wouldn't argue a 1:1 analogy with parkland, the adjacent 42 acres of Forest Hills Cemetery also offer some additional getting-out-to-nature opportunities for residents of, e.g., the Hill Dorms.)

Even where it acknowledges the Diag on page {73}, the PROS report misses the acreage by half. The central (Block M) square in front of Hatcher Graduate Library may be "approximately 9 acres," but the

Diag runs from State&NorthU to EastU&SouthU. And there is at least another 9 acres in green space and walking plazas on the Central Campus Mega Block, to say nothing of the 2 acres in the Law Quad, the 1.5 acres at Martha Cook, the 3 acres of Ingalls Mall, etc.

Excluding the 27 acres at Mitchell Field from a consideration of the recreational opportunities for Central Campus students ... is ... a decision.

As we think about the amount of housing to allow to perhaps be built near central campus we will be assisted if we correctly recognize the total amount of recreational space that will be available for most of the people that will live there.

thanks,  
~Paul