

Subject: Comprehensive Plan - Public Spaces and Community

From: Julie Ritter

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Hello Everyone working on the Comprehensive Plan

As you probably know, there is an epidemic of loneliness in the US these days, especially among younger people. NPR had a first segment on this topic on July 1 - <https://the1a.org/segments/in-good-company-the-us-loneliness-epidemic/> (listen or transcript)

More to the point - their second episode on this topic, this week, is about how public spaces can affect feelings of loneliness, connection and community.

<https://the1a.org/segments/in-good-company-beating-loneliness-building-better-public-spaces/>

Around the 40 minute mark of the video and transcript they start specifically talking about public spaces and community. As much as you might like to make us believe that a paved 10,000 square foot plaza will be the perfect solution to Ann Arbor's common area problem, the conversation might give you a new perspective.

Sending you best wishes for a good weekend,

Julie Ritter

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"Consciously apply mystery to everything." - Tiokasin Ghosthorse, Lakota elder