

Assembly Resolution 14-074

Tables on the Lawn Act

Resolution Information

Sponsor(s)	Vincent Pinti, Law Margaret Peterman, First Year Internship Program Director, Resolutions Chair, LSA Eric Veal Jr., Speaker, LSA
External Author(s)	
Endorser(s)	
Long title	A[Declarative (Speaker classifies Resolution)] Resolution to call on the University of Michigan to develop more outdoor study spaces for the enjoyment of students and the promotion of health.
Author Summary	This resolution, upon passage, will be delivered by the Speaker on behalf of this united body, representing the collective voice of the University of Michigan to the President of the University of Michigan, each member of the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan, the Provost of the University of Michigan, the Director of the University of Michigan Office of Logistics, Transportation and Parking, the Director of the Division of Public Safety and Security, the Dean of the Office of Student Life, the Executive Director of the University of Michigan Real Estate Office, the Interim Associate Vice President for Finance, the Assistance Vice President and Treasurer, the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities and each of the Deans of the schools of the University of Michigan.

Assembly Information (to be completed by the Speaker)

Requirements	Reading in two separate meetings; simple majority vote; Presidential approval.
Committees	Finance Resolutions

Committee Information (to be completed by the respective Committee Chairs)

Committee (if applicable)	Passed For First Reads (Y/N; Initials)	Passed For Second Reads (Y/N; Initials)
Rules		
Finance	Y; AP	
Communications		
Resolutions	Y, MP	



Central Student Government

Attest

Eric Veal Jr., LSA
Speaker of the Assembly

Yes:

No:

Abstain:

Date: ## January 2025

Presidential Approval

Mario M. Thaqi, LSA

Date

1. <https://www.nrpa.org/blog/parks-as-a-cornerstone-of-sustainability/#~:text=Social%20sustainability%20is%20another%20critical,the m%20essential%20for%20social%20cohesion>.
2. Coventry PA, Brown JE, Pervin J, Brabyn S, Pateman R, Breedvelt J, Gilbody S, Stancliffe R, McEachan R, White PL. Nature-based outdoor activities for mental and physical health: Systematic review and meta-analysis. SSM Popul Health. 2021 Oct 1;16:100934. doi: 10.1016/j.ssmph.2021.100934. PMID: 34646931; PMCID: PMC8498096.



Central Student Government

Section 1.

The Central Student Government Assembly finds and declares all of the following:

WHEREAS,

The University of Michigan enjoys a beautiful campus with considerable foliage, copious outdoor recreational activities, and a very walkable campus;

WHEREAS,

Accessibility of public space and openness to a variety of people is critical to foster a sense of community, mutual understanding, and freedom on our campus (1);

WHEREAS,

Outdoor activity, even simply sitting outdoors in the sun, provides numerous benefits such as improved physical and mental health, endurance, and utility (2);

WHEREAS,

There are very limited options for students to study or eat outside, these locations often become overcrowded, and are often in high demand;

WHEREAS,

As an example, many students enjoy throwing lawn blankets on the law quad and enjoying gathering time with friends. However, there are no tables for students, staff or faculty to sit at, enjoy a meal at, or study at. Without such tables, it is difficult for wheelchair users to feel included in outdoor activities;

WHEREAS,

Other great examples include the tables on the side of the Rackham Library and the Undergraduate Library; however, there are only a dozen combined in that whole space. There is considerable space in the diag area for picnic tables that could be placed;

WHEREAS,

The porch of the LSA Building and the Trotter Multicultural Center also has some outdoor seating, but there is rarely enough space for the number of people who seek outdoor seating. There is considerable space for tables near the Cube Statute and near the Michigan Union too.

WHEREAS,

Developing picnic tables, verandas, overhang platforms and outdoor auditoriums could be beneficial to the health, well-being and academic opportunity for students

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Central Student Government

Section 2.

THEREFORE it is, by the Students of the University of Michigan, through Central Student Government:

RESOLVED,

We call on the University of Michigan Office of Student Life to develop more outdoor study spaces, picnic tables, verandas, outdoor auditoriums, etc. to come closer to student demand for such facilities;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED,

We ask the Office of the Speaker and the First Year Internship Program Director of the University of Michigan Central Student Government to designate the Undergraduate Interns to have the following goals:

- Designating spaces for development of picnic tables or outdoor seating areas,
- Allocating sufficient space around tables in areas accessible to wheelchairs,
- Developing plans and making recommendations to the Office of Student Life at the University of Michigan and the University of Michigan Law School Office of Student Life for such recreational/outdoor seating and seeking their approval,
 - Some of the locations to be explored for recreational renovation could be the Law Quadrangle and the Diag at the University of Michigan;

AND FINALLY RESOLVED,

The Speaker of the Assembly shall issue a copy of this resolution upon passage to the President of the University of Michigan, each member of the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan, the Provost of the University of Michigan, the Director of the University of Michigan Office of Logistics, Transportation and Parking, the Director of the Division of Public Safety and Security, the Dean of the Office of Student Life, the Executive Director of the University of Michigan Real Estate Office, the Interim Associate Vice President for Finance, the Assistance Vice President and Treasurer, the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities, the Associate Dean of the Office of Student Life at the University of Michigan Law School, and each of the Deans of the schools of the University of Michigan.

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