

City Planning Commission  
301 E. Huron St.,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Dear Commission Members,

I have been following the discussions concerning the South Pond Nature Preserve, and write to strongly support the petition that calls to “Permanently preserve all of South Pond Wetlands drainage basin as a nature area and wildlife sanctuary.” I understand that the petition, which has more than 1,100 signatures in its support, will be discussed at your meeting on January 21. I am among the many who hope that you will decide to preserve the environment of this special area, by protecting it from the runoff from the proposed development that will damage the wetlands and South Pond that lie immediately downstream. I know that many knowledgeable experts share this concern, and while I don't have detailed knowledge of the plan and likely environmental impacts, I trust the assessments of these experts and their careful study of the problem. The loss of habitat and negative effects on the critically endangered species that currently thrive there would be a black mark on our city, which prides itself on being environmentally friendly and oriented toward conservation and sustainability of our natural resources.

I strongly support the efforts to disallow the proposed destructive development of the area, and hope that the Ann Arbor Planning commission and the City of Ann Arbor will see the long-term wisdom of protecting this land for the people of Ann Arbor for generations to come.

Most Sincerely,

Mark L. Wilson, ScD  
Professor of Epidemiology  
Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology