

January 15, 2015

Dear Ann Arbor Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you reject the proposal for South Pond Village development because of the threat to the wetlands that drain the area, which provides the habitat for the rare Duke's Skipper butterfly. The green infrastructure benefits provided by the wetlands cannot be replaced. The quality of natural cleaning and absorption of water cannot be reconstructed by the efforts of the developer.

Water runoff from the proposed development will be polluted by chemicals placed on lawns, and by erosion from the construction process. These changes to the water that flows in the area will harm the habitat of the Duke's Skipper, as well as impair the quality of water draining into the Huron River. Constructed wetlands do not work as natural ones do. Please do not approve this project that proposes to destroy a functioning wetland and replace it with something that cannot function.

If Ann Arbor is to live up to its goals as a sustainable city, then it must care for the resources that are present. South Pond and the area proposed for development provide sustainable functions, and should be carefully assessed, preserved, and protected, so that they can continue to provide the green infrastructure that we need to sustain our city.

Please reject South Pond village and preserve the wetlands.

Sincerely,

Rita Mitchell
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