

## Landefeld, Josh

---

**From:** Sam Homan <samhoman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2024 10:17 PM  
**To:** Planning; Landefeld, Josh  
**Cc:** Eyer, Jen; Akmon, Dharma  
**Subject:** Woodbury Gardens Rezoning || Pedestrian Path Suggestion

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello Planning Commission and Parks Commission,

My name is Sam Homan and I live at 1451 Coler Rd. With the Woodbury Gardens complex seeking rezoning to TC1, I'd like to make a suggestion for a community benefit for the project, likely in lieu of a parks contribution.

Where I live, Coler Rd, there is a little footpath at the end of the street that connects to Woodbury Gardens. I walk my dog through this cut every day, and this little cut through gets a surprising amount of foot and bicycle traffic. I've even been held up pulling out of my driveway in order to let an entire high school cross country team run down my street to use the cut through. And to be clear, I think this is a good thing. However, the reason I'm writing is because I think pedestrian connectivity could be even better in the area.

One thing I notice every time I walk on the little path connecting Coler to Woodbury is that there is a densely vegetated 30 foot wide buffer between the complex and the single family neighborhood where I live.

Here's what the 30 foot buffer looks like looking south and north at the Coler cut through. (These fish eye shots don't exactly do it justice, but it is very wide.)



There are three things I'd like to draw your attention to:

1. This buffer is very wide, 30 feet

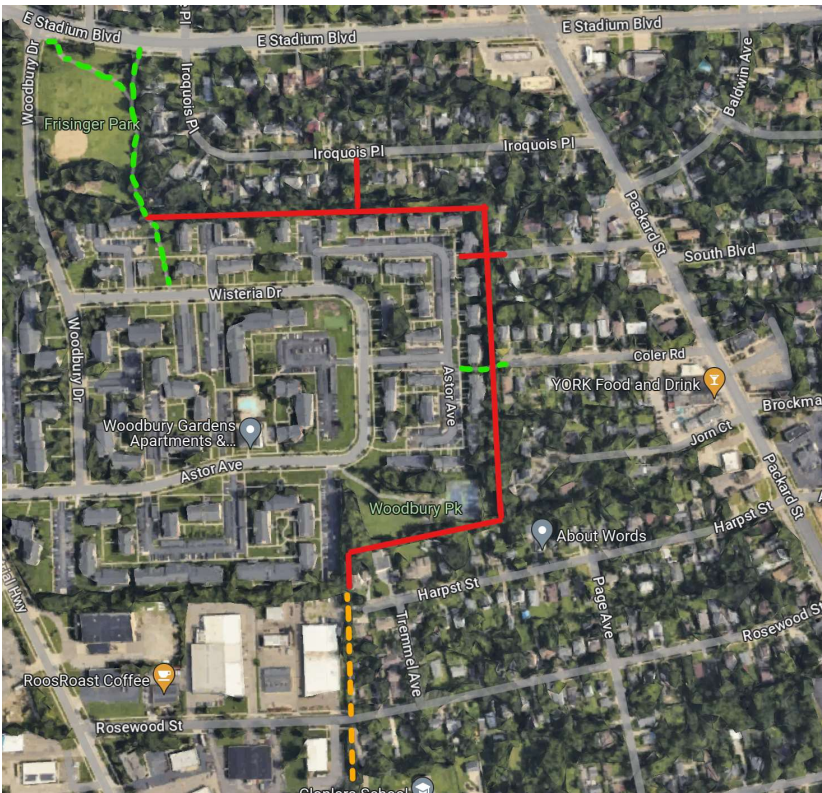


2. Both **Frisinger Park** and **Woodbury Park** are at either end of the buffer and a third, tiny city park, **Iroquois Park**, abuts the buffer as well.
3. No roads cut through the buffer.

The reason I'm writing to you is to see if it would be possible, as part of the rezoning, for this buffer to have a public walking path (approx. 8 feet wide) installed in from the existing footpath in Frisinger Park to and through Woodbury Park and then down to Harpst St. Because it's wide, because it's densely vegetated, and especially because there are no roads cutting through it, I think this would be an exceptionally popular walking and jogging path for the community.

Already the central block of Woodbury is a popular walking and jogging loop. I see couples there in the evening, new parents with strollers, joggers, dog walkers, I think I've seen (although admittedly have never confirmed) Army reservists jogging laps around it from the Army Reserve station across from Woodbury on Industrial. Adding this additional half loop would enhance the area even more. Especially if the central block is going to get a lot busier with redevelopment.

Here's what I'm proposing. New path in red (~8 feet wide), Existing footpaths in green, Future potential extension in orange:



I would propose to you that adding this path would provide more than enough community benefit to justify the rezoning Woodbury is requesting and be a huge contribution to our parks by connecting three of them together with a single path. The path would greatly expand general pedestrian connectivity in the neighborhood by adding connections to South Boulevard and Iroquois St (via Iroquois Park).

Furthermore, in the future, this "urban trail" (if you will) could theoretically be extended down all the way to Eisenhower given the buffer between the residential and industrial zones. Obviously, this would be far

off into the future and would require land acquisitions, but the possibility would be there. I think this extension would be popular as well, given only two streets would cross it, Rosewood and Jewitt.

Whatever the outcome, I'm not opposed to rezoning. But if this footpath could be part of it, I think it would really enhance the neighborhood.

Best,  
Sam