

Subject: Thurston Nature Center Prairie

From: Lia Rose

Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 7:29 PM

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Good evening,

I am a resident in ward 2 and I am contacting relevant city officials regarding an important and historic nature center in NE Ann Arbor. As most of you are probably aware, Ann Arbor residents have been fighting with Ann Arbor Public Schools for months over their plans to destroy a significant portion of the Thurston Nature Center. Many of us have reached out to various city officials for help. Understandably, the responses have been regretful as the city does not have jurisdiction over AAPS land.

However, it has recently come to light after combing through endless documents, that the South Prairie portion of the Nature Center (which is at risk of being paved over in mid June) is actually owned by the city of Ann Arbor. This small oversight was noted in AAPS own documents, but missed by city officials during the planning proposal. This parcel was once a right of way, but has operated as a prairie for decades including officially documented city maintenance as such (controlled burns etc). AAPS is aware that they do not own this parcel per their own documents.

Our community is asking for the city planners to deny the necessary permit that would allow AAPS to turn a thriving habitat into an impervious paved road. Now that there is some protection and recourse that actually falls within city purview, we are hopeful that the months of responses full of regret will turn into advocacy and action.

Thank you,

Lia Rose

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