

Subject: Please help our community!

From: James Freeland

Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 9:07 PM

To: Delacourt, Derek <DDelacourt@a2gov.org>; Bennett, Michelle <MBennett@a2gov.org>; Manor, Courtney <CManor@a2gov.org>; Lenart, Brett <BLenart@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; NAP Natural Area Preservation <NAP@a2gov.org>; Mallek, Jon <JMallek@a2gov.org>; Watson, Chris <CWatson@a2gov.org>

Subject: Please help our community!

Hello, I live in Ward 2 and I'm reaching out about the future of the Thurston Nature Center in northeast Ann Arbor. For several months now, neighbors and residents have voiced serious concerns over Ann Arbor Public Schools' intention to pave over a large section of this natural area.

Until recently, the city's response has largely been sympathetic but hands-off, as the land was believed to fall under AAPS's authority. But after reviewing planning records and documentation more closely, it turns out that a key section — known as the South Prairie — is actually city-owned property. AAPS's own materials even acknowledge this.

This area, once classified as a right-of-way, has functioned as a restored prairie for decades and has received direct maintenance from the city. Despite this, it's still at risk of being paved over as soon as mid-June.

Now that this part of the Nature Center clearly falls within the city's responsibility, I'm hoping that the city will actually do something instead of avoiding the issue.

Thanks,

James