

Subject:

Thurston Nature Center Professional Concerns

From: Joey Ryan**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 9:30 PM**To:** Mallek, Jon <JMallek@a2gov.org>; Watson, Chris <CWatson@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; NAP Natural Area Preservation <NAP@a2gov.org>; Delacourt, Derek <DDelacourt@a2gov.org>; Bennett, Michelle <MBennett@a2gov.org>; Manor, Courtney <CManor@a2gov.org>; Lenart, Brett <BLenart@a2gov.org>**Subject:** Thurston Nature Center Professional Concerns

Good Evening,

I am an alumna of Thurston Elementary and currently work as a civil engineer in the Ann Arbor area. Growing up in and around the Thurston Nature Center provided me with the love of Ann Arbor and natural spaces that influence my career to this day. I spoke against the current site plan that sacrifices critical natural resources when alternatives were presented that would've allowed for protection of these delicate prairie and wetland habitats.

I am deeply troubled by the Board of Education's (and their engineer's) cavalier attitude when it comes to the engineering design, and construction timeline. For example, various alternate locations for a new building would've placed it outside of historical wetland areas, preventing having to build on difficult, wet, swelling soil. This soil has high potential to **increase building costs, incur project delays, and increase the operational cost of the new building**. However, environmental documentation was only performed for this one building location. Furthermore, some of the information shown is simply not correct! The 'water's edge' shown in the revised plan during the last BOE meeting was wrong!

I now come to ask for your support. The current site plan proposes paving over an established prairie habitat for construction access at XXX Prairie Drive. For much of the life of this project, the Planning Commission and City Council have supported our concerns, but stated that AAPS was free to work and plan their property as they saw fit. However, this construction access road IS NOT ON AAPS PROPERTY. **The proposed access road is shown on CITY PROPERTY**. The AAPS engineer noticed this and applied for a commercial Right-of-Way permit. I urge you to call out these concerns while the city has leverage.

I am a product of 13 years of AAPS education that prepared me well. Please support the concerns of your constituents.

Best,

Joseph Ryan, EIT