

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Future Land Use Changes in Burns Park

From: Justin Berg

Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 10:40 PM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Future Land Use Changes in Burns Park

Dear Ann Arbor Planning Commission,

We are writing as homeowners in the Burns Park neighborhood, and we would like to express our strong opposition to the current proposal that would allow for potentially higher-density, multi-family development in historic single-family areas like ours. Burns Park is a unique and integral part of Ann Arbor's heritage, and we are deeply concerned that introducing apartment buildings here would diminish the character that makes our city so special.

According to the "Future Land Use Goals & Strategies" section of the draft plan, there is an emphasis on creating "more flexibility in residential districts" and expanding "where denser multifamily housing is allowed by right." While we understand the goal of increasing housing supply and affordability, we can achieve these objectives by focusing higher-density development along major corridors and near transit routes, rather than placing it in the heart of long-standing family neighborhoods.

Why would we want to risk replacing our historic homes with large-scale complexes when there are more suitable locations near busier roads or existing commercial zones? Many of us here in Burns Park and similar areas purchased our homes because of the neighborhood's distinctive character and community feel. Allowing apartment buildings would not only compromise the area's architectural and historical integrity, but it could also strain infrastructure and disrupt the fabric of daily life for current residents.

We absolutely support finding ways to increase housing options and encourage walkability in Ann Arbor. However, these goals do not need to come at the expense of our oldest and most beloved neighborhoods. We hope you will reconsider the proposal and direct denser development away from Burns Park and other similarly historic areas.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community. We appreciate the hard work you are putting into these issues and look forward to hearing how the Planning Commission will address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Amy and Justin Berg