

Subject: Thurston

From: Anita Goldstein

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To: Mallek, Jon <JMallek@a2gov.org>; Watson, Chris <CWatson@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Cc: NAP Natural Area Preservation <NAP@a2gov.org>

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My husband and I are long-time residents of Ann Arbor. We have always enjoyed living here. The education of our two children was one of the main reasons we moved here. They both had excellent experiences, and incidentally, both graduated from the University of Michigan Law School.

Sadly, the recent decisions about reconstructing Thurston School and its resulting impact on the natural environment around the school left us shocked and saddened. Now there is something else of concern, but surely a solution can be found!

The South Prairie Habitat is an essential part of the Thurston Nature Center's ecosystem. It is owned by the City of Ann Arbor, not the AAPS. To destroy it to build a road would cause irrevocable harm to the natural biodiversity, and decades of community involvement and care. So *much* is already being lost due to the new school construction. I think this city can find a way to minimize some of the damage, by protecting this area.

Can you use your good offices to prevent the AAPS from building this road? It's hard to believe another way can't be found to meet the needs of the construction equipment. This is a delicate spot, beloved by Ann Arborites for many years. It is a vital educational resource for our children. We are supposed to be an enlightened community. There are lots of very smart people here who could figure out a different solution concerning this road.

Thank you for your interest,

Anita Goldstein