

Subject: Golf Courses, Development, Bike Lanes and Traffic

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From: Jean Cunningham

Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 9:26 AM

To: City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>

Cc: Dohoney Jr., Milton <MDohoney@a2gov.org>; Landefeld, Josh <JLandefeld@a2gov.org>; Lenart, Brett <BLenart@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Subject: Golf Courses, Development, Bike Lanes and Traffic

Dear Mayor Taylor and Members of the City Council,

The main purpose of this message is to voice my strong opposition to any proposal to develop the land currently occupied by Leslie and Huron Hills golf courses. The city's green spaces are an important source of pleasure for its residents and visitors. Many children and adults, including myself, use Huron Hills to walk and for winter recreation. The Leslie course is likely used by many non-golfers, as well. It is shocking that you would take the irreversible step to destroy these beautiful public spaces and allow them to be developed. One argument for eliminating the golf courses is that they don't turn a profit. Yet, it isn't realistic to expect parkland to make money. If you're concerned about the golf courses' negative impact on the environment, then we have something in common. Instead of selling off our irreplaceable open spaces, please consider converting them to natural areas or botanical gardens.

Meanwhile, you've spent millions of taxpayer dollars on a little used bicycle lane system. This driving hazard makes the jobs of transportation, garbage collection and delivery drivers much more difficult and dangerous, and strangles our city's traffic flow. Michigan's weather makes isn't conducive to year-round cycling, and from what I've seen, bike lanes aren't used much in warm weather either. Such a waste of money is shameful.

And, on the subject of traffic flow, new high rises have been built too close to the edge of the street. Please consider requiring developers to provide short-term parking for ride share, delivery vehicles and public transit in front of their buildings. Those vehicles would then have a safe and convenient space to pull into, without obstructing traffic. These pullouts would have the added benefit of setting the buildings back a few additional feet from the street, creating a more visually appealing space.

Finally, the 2003 Greenbelt Millage provides funds to preserve open spaces outside the city, and to purchase parkland within the city. How does selling off city owned golf courses for development square with the goal of increasing parkland in Ann Arbor.

I appreciate your consideration and hope you will consider my suggestions.

Best regards,

B. Jean Cunningham
2996 Provincial Drive