

Subject:

Thurston Nature Center

From: Dan Salamone**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:42 PM**To:** Mallek, Jon <JMallek@a2gov.org>; NAP Natural Area Preservation <NAP@a2gov.org>**Cc:** Watson, Chris <CWatson@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@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

Hello,

My name is Dan Salamone. I am a former Thurston, Clague and Huron parent, former Thurston PTO Treasurer, and longtime resident of the Thurston neighborhood.

I am writing to all of you this evening to ask that you please put a pause to the AAPS flawed plan to forever change the Thurston Nature Center (TNC). I was part of the crowd in attendance last October that was appalled at the disrespect shown to the voters and residents in attendance.

The TNC was the very first nature center affiliated with an elementary school in the nation. It has been cared for by generations of Thurston students, their parents and neighbors, and those who love nature. The oak savannah is an integral part of the TNC, and the plan from AAPS and their construction vendor, Gilbane, does not take this into account. Neither does it take into account the high water table in this area, and the plan to place a 2 story concrete and steel building on land directly adjacent to a wetland area. Finally, Thurston Pond is the headwaters of Millers Creek, so the pond's health is directly related to the health of the creek, and then to the Huron River itself.

With the revelation that part of the land the AAPS is trying to hurriedly alter is actually owned by the City of Ann Arbor, this allows all of you to help do what is right, and protect the will of the vast majority of Thurston neighbors, the Thurston Elementary teaching staff, and numerous local and state politicians such as Congresswoman Dingell. Please, help protect this irreplaceable and historic neighborhood asset.

Thank you for considering my plea.

Dan Salamone
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