

Subject: Thurston Nature Center South Prairie Permit

From: Alexandra Taylor

Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 10:43 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 South Prairie Permit

Dear City Council Representative and City Planning Committee,

I am a resident of the Thurston Elementary neighborhood writing to express concern over the planned construction of the new Thurston Elementary School building on a site that would significantly impact the Thurston Nature Center and I am requesting your help as part of the permitting process.

The current plan requires removing a portion of the nature center, including many mature trees that have long served as a critical buffer for stormwater and flooding in the area. Since the removal of the oak savanna and other water absorbing trees as part of site preparation, we have already witnessed notable flooding on the trails and surrounding grounds (see picture below).

It has recently come to my attention that the South Prairie portion of the Thurston Nature Center is actually city owned property. If that is the case, then the Ann Arbor Public Schools will require a permit from the city to pave over part of this land in order to create an access road. **I strongly urge you and the relevant city planning authorities to deny this permit.**

Denying the permit would help support the Thurston community and advocate for a more sustainable and less destructive location for the new school. The children and families of this neighborhood deserve a school that coexists with its environment, not one that sacrifices it.



(Most springs this trail collects a large puddle of water. This year water overtook the whole area for weeks on end.)

Sincerely,

Alexandra Taylor

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