

Dear Wendy,

We have personally seen and experienced the dramatic growth in traffic on E. Huron River Drive, Chalmers, and Washtenaw. It is now nearly impossible to get onto Washtenaw from Chalmers and very dangerous. It is now also, nearly impossible to walk along E. Huron River Drive and is increasingly difficult and dangerous to drive on that road due to fast moving and heavy traffic especially around the curves on that narrow road. Golfers are frequently looking for lost balls near the road. Bikers and walkers are trying to walk with heavy traffic flow, in what should be one of Ann Arbor's beautiful areas. More traffic on any of these three roads will surely be the cause of more accidents or injuries to pedestrians. There is no way that increased traffic will not be the result of increased building in that area.

The South Pond, which could be one of Ann Arbor's most beautiful parkland spots, with the historically designed golf course and the water shed, will surely be damaged. Already the run off from neighborhoods that feed the creek and increased impervious surfaces have increased the weed growth and have endangered the pond. The filtering that is provided by the wetlands will be further diminished. Builders who covet the land on the south side of E. Huron River Drive have been seen dumping fill dirt there and little-by-little illegally trying to fill in the wetlands. There are two piles dumped there already this year. We want the wetlands protected, not damaged by illegal dumping and excessive building. There is no way that further damage to these areas will not occur if this planned development is approved and implemented.

For a city that claims to value its green belt, this proposed South Pond Development seems so ill advised as to blatantly belie that claim. It threatens the wetland, the South pond, and the serenity and safety of those who live and use that area for recreation.

We have attested to these problems when builders have previously proposed profit-making plans on this or adjacent land. By coming back again and again, they feel that they will eventually be rewarded with a City approval. The same problems exist-- increased traffic, increased safety concerns, damage to the environment, the water, and the landscape, increased pollution to the environment for people and diminishing of the beauty of Ann Arbor. Please listen to the voters by recognizing the values and promises of Ann Arbor for park space and the preservation of a Greenbelt with historically planned and enhanced water features and vegetation. Don't reward builders who persist in trying to use this space to increase population density and make a profit at the expense of the environment. This space should be a park, NOT a parking lot.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns and comments.

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Cc: Mr. Christopher Taylor, Ann Arbor Mayor
Ms. Wendy Woods, Chairperson of Ann Arbor City Planning Commission
Ms. Brenda Cronin, President Geddes Farms Community Association
Ms. Ann Andrusiak, Vice President Geddes Farms Community Association