

Subject:

Thurston Nature Center

From: John Leidy**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 7:08 PM**To:** Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>**Subject:** Thurston Nature Center

Dear AA Planning Commission:

Speaking as a retired 30+ year employee of the Ann Arbor Public Schools, all but one of those years at Thurston Elementary, I have a great interest in, and love for, my former place of employment. During the whole unfolding of the plans for the new school building, it never occurred to any of us that the school would be placed right up next to the Nature Center on land that was like a flooded marsh every spring, an area that we had to keep the children out of so as not to track mud and water into the school. Everyone seemed to think that the new school would likely be placed in the large open (and dry) area that has been the "soccer field" area. For many of us, the proposed placement of the new school is about the worst possible – other than plopping it right in the midst of the Nature Center's woods and taking down the trees.

And so, now we learn that the plan is to place an impervious construction road over the Nature Center's prairie, which- it is said- is on Ann Arbor's land. Whatever you can do to preserve this part of the Nature Center and reroute this proposed road would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

John Leidy

AAPS Elementary Teacher, retired