

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Environmental Commission](#)
Subject: Resolution to encourage the city to increase the importance of natural features and biodiversity
Date: Monday, April 21, 2025 3:17:10 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I write in support of adoption of the resolution to include Natural Features Sustainability in Ann Arbor City Planning and Development. This resolution is needed to reduce the wanton destruction of various natural features within the city.

There are many recent examples on both public and private land (such as those owned by developers or by the Ann Arbor School District) where woodlands, savannas, rain gardens and other features that help protect our land, water and wildlife have been sacrificed to new development.

One further thing I would like to see is the adoption of a policy that only native plants be used when adding plants to any city-owned or -controlled property, including strips along residential streets. Native plant communities are in serious trouble, primarily due to new developments and indiscriminate use of non-native and often-invasive plants. Native plants are essential for the continued health of the environment and wildlife, particularly butterflies, moths, and the vast majority of bird species that require feeding caterpillars to their young.

Numerous years ago, to replace a dead ash tree along our street, I consulted the city's list of approved street trees. Not knowing any better at the time, we picked a non-native tree. A few years later, it was making babies all over our and our neighbors' yards. Even after removing this new tree and replacing it with a native one, we were still, for several years, getting new seedlings from the non-native tree. I talked with a city forester, who claimed that that tree was non-invasive. Yet, it had been dropping seeds right where they would quickly enter the storm water system and flow to Millers Creek and then the Huron River. As a result, I believe a revision to the approved street tree list should be a priority.

Jim Vallem
[REDACTED]