

Subject:

Please Deny AAPS Request to Build on City-Owned Prairie Land

From: Daniel Arini

Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 6:15 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: Please Deny AAPS Request to Build on City-Owned Prairie Land

Dear Members of the Ann Arbor City Council and Planning Commission,

I am writing as a concerned member of the Ann Arbor community to urge you to **deny the request by Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) to build a road over the South Prairie habitat within the Thurston Nature Center.**

It has recently come to light that the land parcel in question is **owned by the City of Ann Arbor**, not AAPS. Despite this, AAPS plans to construct an impervious surface road for construction access—threatening a sensitive prairie ecosystem that has been restored and maintained by the community since 1988.

This prairie is not just a piece of open land—it is a thriving native habitat, a community-led environmental success, and a vital part of the Thurston Nature Center’s ecosystem. Allowing this construction would cause **irreversible ecological damage** and undermine decades of local stewardship.

I respectfully urge you to:

- **Deny** any permit or approval allowing AAPS to build on this city-owned land
- Ensure transparency and public input in any decisions that impact our natural areas

With construction slated to begin on **June 12**, we need swift and decisive action to protect this habitat.

Thank you for your attention and standing up for our environment.

Sincerely,

Daniel Arini