

Subject:

Time sensitive: Thurston - South Prairie

From: Birgit Rieck**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2025 10:04 AM**To:** Watson, Chris <CWatson@a2gov.org>; Mallek, Jon <JMallek@a2gov.org>; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>**Cc:** NAP Natural Area Preservation <NAP@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; Delacourt, Derek <DDelacourt@a2gov.org>; Dohoney Jr., Milton <MDohoney@a2gov.org>; Lenart, Brett <BLenart@a2gov.org>; Manor, Courtney <CManor@a2gov.org>; Bennett, Michelle <MBennett@a2gov.org>**Subject:** Time sensitive: Thurston - South Prairie

Good morning!

I was very happy yesterday, when I read in [MLive](#) that two lawsuits filed to save the Thurston Nature Centerfold will be heard in court on June 24th. I thought this meant that nothing can happen until these hearings. However, on my morning walk, I saw that two portable toilets have already been placed at the South Prairie.

I am not sure what this means, and I hope it doesn't mean that the city has already given in to the construction company and school board. They have shown through all their actions in the past year to not be fair and citizen-minded players, but instead used bullying tactics, disinformation and omission of information to squash any discussion about their plans including the demolition of Ann Arbor's natural environment - not only at Thurston. Everywhere in the world, cities are trying to introduce more trees and nature into their planning to brace for climate change, but here it seems that bigger sewers and paved over green spaces are the answer to increased numbers of storms, flooding, droughts and other extreme weather events.

I would like to remind you that only three weeks ago Ann Arbor passed the Natural Features Resolution, so leaving the South Prairie, which is on city land, as be should not be something the city administration would have to discuss in the first place. Even if these toilets were placed without your input on city grounds, it shines a bad light on the city and shouldn't be tolerated.

I hope you can give your attention to this. It is only about portable toilets but we now know from Washington tactics that every tiny step in a certain direction is made with a bigger plan in mind. And unfortunately, we have had to experience this on a local level for the past year, too.

Thank you,
Birgit Rieck,
Thurston Neighbor on Burlington Street



