

Subject:

Save the Thurston Prairie

From: Gina Schneider**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 9:37 AM**To:** Bennett, Michelle <MBennett@a2gov.org>; Manor, Courtney <CManor@a2gov.org>; Lenart, Brett <BLenart@a2gov.org>; Mallek, Jon <JMallek@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; Watson, Chris <CWatson@a2gov.org>; NAP Natural Area Preservation <NAP@a2gov.org>; Delacourt, Derek <DDelacourt@a2gov.org>**Subject:** Save the Thurston Prairie

Good morning,

I am a resident in ward 2 and parent to a child at Thurston Elementary School. I am contacting relevant city officials regarding an important and historic nature center at Thurston in northeast Ann Arbor. As you have probably heard, residents like myself have been fighting with Ann Arbor Public Schools for months over their plans to destroy a significant portion of the Thurston Nature Center to build a new school next to an existing one. Despite months of outreach, viable alternative plans, and stories of how negatively their plan will affect special needs children, AAPS has decided to move forward with their destructive plan.

Many of us have reached out to city officials for help, as this plan does not align with the values of Ann Arbor residents, nor the purported values of the city itself. Responses from the city have been the same, that there is nothing it can do because the land belongs to AAPS.

Recent research has revealed that the South Prairie portion of the Nature Center (which is at risk of being paved over in mid June) is actually owned by the city of Ann Arbor. Our community is respectfully asking for city planners to deny the permit allowing AAPS to turn a beloved and thriving habitat into an impervious paved road. We are optimistic that the revelation that the city does in fact have some jurisdiction here will result in action.

This is an opportunity to truly stand up for the values of Ann Arbor citizens and make a difference to animals, the environment, and the residents of this neighborhood. I sincerely hope the city has the courage to represent it's citizens on this issue.

Thank you,

Gina Schneider