

Subject:

Thurston Nature Center South Prairie Habitat

From: Susan Tarpley**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 11:14 AM**To:** Mallek, Jon <JMallek@a2gov.org>; Watson, Chris <CWatson@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>**Subject:** Thurston Nature Center South Prairie Habitat

I have recently learned that the Thurston Nature Center South Prairie Habitat is owned by the City of Ann Arbor, and that the Ann Arbor Public School system is requesting approval to pave over the prairie.

Please do not approve this request.

The prairie is a vital part of the Nature Center ecosystem, and it has been a community gem for over 30 years. I live about a mile away from the Nature Center and have walked around the pond and trails in that area well over 1,000 times. I have seen the results of the volunteers who have kept up the area, which includes adults and children. Besides supporting the ecosystem, with animals, birds, and plant growth, the Thurston schoolchildren have used the prairie for projects and so many opportunities to learn about nature. It has been a joy to watch them over the years.

This is a precious resource in this part of Ann Arbor, and one of the reasons people love living in this part of the city.

I urge you to request that the AAPS plan does not disrupt the prairie and to develop another plan for the building project

Thank you,

Susan Tarpley