

Subject:

Thurston South Prairie-Call to Action: Protect the Prairie

From: Anne Cox

Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 2:18 PM

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Subject: Thurston South Prairie-Call to Action: Protect the Prairie

A Call to Action to Protect the Thurston Nature Center South Prairie Habitat!

Dear Council Members, Planning Officials and Natural Area Preservation Advocates

The Thurston Nature Center (TNC) South Prairie habitat **is owned** by the City of Ann Arbor and **NOT** Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS). The South Prairie is an essential part of the Nature Center's ecosystem. Destroying that habitat for a construction access road would cause irreversible harm to native biodiversity and decades of community stewardship.

The AAPS plans to pave over the prairie to build an impervious surface road for construction equipment and service vehicles. When the Planning Commission reviews this issue, please keep in mind that this parcel was once a small road with a right-of-way distinction but has been a documented TNC prairie habitat for decades. The project was led by Mr. Bob Grese in 1988 and maintained by our collective community ever since. AAPS does not own this land, so your opinion to save this habitat is essential.

I am urging you to **deny the AAPS request** to build a road over this ecologically sensitive land owned by the City.

Construction is set to begin on June 12, so our concerned community members are raising our voices to make our opinions known. Please stop this construction on the South Prairie Habitat!

--Anne M. Cox