

Opinion



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Letter: Trees, farmland hit by runway plan

Posted by [Karen L. Healy](#) | [Ann Arbor](#) March 20, 2009 11:14AM

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I am writing in response to Sol Castell's "Other Voices" essay regarding the proposed runway changes at Ann Arbor airport. I think it is important that Ann Arbor residents are aware that in addition to the runway expansion, this proposal also outlines plans to extend the boundary fences right up to both Ellsworth and Lohr roads. This will mean the loss of trees and 70 acres of farmland, presumably to be replaced with unsightly fences, concrete and aircraft hangars.

This astounds me for several reasons:

1. This land is already owned by the City of Ann Arbor, yet on its Web site it is currently promoting its Open Space Preservation effort, which is looking to spend \$5 million to acquire land so that local residents can "maintain a high quality of life by preserving the rural characteristics of the countryside."
2. The airport has a FlyGREEN program to enhance the principles of environmental stewardship. This proposal therefore seems to be both a dramatic U-turn and somewhat hypocritical. Haven't they heard that the rest of the world is trying to reduce carbon emissions?
3. The City of Ann Arbor is proud to advertise that it was voted America's Healthiest City 2008 but seems happy to invite increased pollution to the local area, despite the fact it doesn't have to, thanks to the larger and safer airport just around the corner at Willow Run.

It is time the City of Ann Arbor really looked out for the health and safety of its residents by rejecting this ludicrous proposal.

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Posted by **Magz** on [03/23/09](#) at [9:09AM](#)

Thank you Ms Healy,

Interestingly I went to a meeting at the airport last week during which when the committee was asked about the plans for the field and fence you mentioned they denied any such proposal.

This was despite the fact that the airport long term plan (ALP), which is published on the Ann Arbor city council website, was hanging on the wall behind them!

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My suspicions are that if they can get the longer runway proposal approved, the increased business will generate the revenue they need to develop the farmland.

A bit of a slippery slope and just a matter of time before the airport becomes a concrete jungle!

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Posted by **ARBisSAFE** on [08/09/09 at 10:26PM](#)

Just the fact that they tell you they have "no plans" to eliminate the corn-field, while it is CLEARLY in the ALP (Which can be found on the airport website), approved by the AA Council (I doubt the AA Council members even knew what they approved...), shows you that one can NOT trust or believe whatever is coming out of the "Airport Advisory Committee".

Sadly, the AA Council member and Mayor have not figured it out yet .

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Welcome back, harryphysio!

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