

## ENVIRONMENT

Ann Arbor is a city with a strong environmental conscience. When most citizens think of the environment we think nationally; national air quality, water quality and undeveloped areas such as national parks. This aspect of environmentalism is important. I have served on the Executive Committee of the local chapter of the Sierra Club. I am a member of the Nature Conservancy, the Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, and Friends of the Ann Arbor Greenway. My positions on the environment have earned endorsement by the state and local chapters of the Sierra Club.

There are also local aspects of environmental quality: local agriculture, our local parks and Ann Arbor water issues. These are areas where we can work together for progress that will directly effect us.

Michigan ranks second in the nation in agricultural diversity. This is reflected at Ann Arbors outstanding Farmers Market. The market has operated continuously for almost 90 years and is one of the oldest in the state. It has been rated as one of the top 10 Farmers Markets in the nation. We must be careful that any modifications to the Market are the best for the vendors and their customers.

The Selma Cafe is the result of local citizens promoting local agriculture. I very much enjoyed one of their a recent breakfasts. At the Selma Cafe we agreed that it would be desirable if more local produce were available at city sponsored events and in our park concessions. I will encourage city staff to consider this.

Ann Arbor must work to improve the water quality of the Huron River. The city is required to reduce the amount of phosphorous and other pollutants discharged into the River from the Allen Creek. Two projects planned at Pioneer high and West Park will help to improve the Allen Creek water quality and I support this effort.

Ann Arbor also has a second water problem which is the risk of flooding after very hard storms. Matt Naud, the city's environmental coordinator has stated that it is not a question of "if" a major storm will occur but only "when" it will happen. We should expand the projects at Pioneer high and West Park to include greater water storage for improved flood control.

The proposed Ann Arbor Allen Creek Greenway would set aside land in the Allen Creek floodway and floodplain to improve water quality in normal rains and to provide space for harmless flooding when the very hard storm occurs. I think this is a very important concept and I will continue to work with citizens and the Allen Creek Greenway Conservancy to promote the concept.

The Allen Creek Greenway also provides a ideal north/south path for alternate non motorized transportation. If we use the east/west tributaries of the creek this would provide a network of alternate transportation in the west side of Ann Arbor. I have visited other cities at my own expense to investigate how they have used excess government buildings and land to produce beautiful gardens and facilities for art and artists. The choice is ours, we can have these amenities or we can sell the land for development. I will work for green space and gardens but I will need your help and support.