

## Aaron Panko

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**From:** Aleta Wieneke <aletawnk005@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2021 4:28 PM  
**To:** Aaron Panko  
**Subject:** Proposed Subdivision on Meyer Property, SE Salem, OR

Mr. Panko,

We live on Elser Dr. SE, which is on the north side of the proposed subdivision development on the Meyer property.

We are truly sad to hear that this property, a rather small piece of quiet pasture and forested land, a rare rural retreat in SE Salem, is now being seriously considered for development. What a loss to SE Salem. This undeveloped farmland and forested area is a refuge for deer, opossums, skunks, squirrels, and many other animals, all struggling to survive amongst the ever-expanding developments in south Salem and Salem in general. It is a nesting area for birds of prey and many other species of birds. It is one small area of peace and quiet left. There are several productive ways to preserve and maintain this property, all while keeping it in its natural, undeveloped state. There could be educational opportunities for children and the citizens of our community if this property is minimally developed with conservation and education in mind, perhaps being turned into some kind of preserve or protected area.

There are many old trees on the property, including oak trees, which deserve to be protected and preserved. There are so few natural areas left; southeast Salem is being developed at an alarming rate. There is very little open space left that has not been the target of proposed housing developments; proposed apartment and housing developments seem to be filling every available acre.

There have been several instances of flooding in the past, which flooded our neighborhood due to the grade of the land that will become part of this development. Possible flooding issues need to be addressed before this land is excavated and covered with pavement and concrete.

Traffic is becoming a major issue. Pringle Rd SE and Battle Creek cannot handle the traffic that will be generated as a result of the construction of all of the proposed developments, and Commercial St. SE is already a traffic nightmare. Salem is no longer the beautiful, pleasant city it was before development became the primary objective. There is still great value in maintaining quiet, peaceful and natural areas for the ever-dwindling wildlife on this planet, and for Salem's citizens.

Sincerely,  
Aleta and Patrick Wieneke  
4235 Elser Dr. SE  
Salem OR 97302