

## Aaron Panko

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**From:** William Wherity <wwherity@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 8:15 AM  
**To:** Aaron Panko  
**Subject:** Meyer farm proposal

Dear Mr Panko,

I am very concerned about the proposed plan to turn Meyer Farm into 138 single family houses. The Oak Savannah habitat is what used to make up most of the Willamette Valley, but it is now very rare, and has almost been completely eradicated in Salem. Once this precious ecosystem is gone it is gone forever. Salem should be preserving such biomes within its borders even though it is more expensive in the short term.

Salem, of course, does need more housing stock, but this sort of housing is not really the solution, and will certainly not put a dent into homelessness. The city needs to be more creative in finding areas to infill and rezone so that denser, more vertical dwellings can add to the housing stock, while green space is preserved for all. Everyone knows that many retail spaces are not going to be coming back as retail, and that more retail will move out in the near future. What is Salem doing to rezone this "brick and mortar" for housing?

Ultimately natural environments are the most precious resource we have. Thoughtless growth for profit will be the ruin of the planet, so that really is the most expensive option.

Please save Meyer Farm!

Sincerely,

Will Wherity, Salem

Sent from my iPhone