2016 Environmental Resources Advisory Council Annual Report

2016 Initiatives and Topics of Interest

- Plans for Miller-Showers Park
- Trail Updates
- Switchyard Project
- B-Line Trail Extension

Integrated Pest Management Plan
Members stayed informed on the development of this plan and reviewed drafts and offered suggestions. The plan was completed and is now being implemented. ERAC members will continue to be involved in the review and maintenance of this document.

Trail Updates
B-Link Trail – staff sought crossing suggestions from members and members stayed up to date on construction progress.
Wapehani – members stayed updated on the design and construction plans for a reroute.
Cascades Trail – members stayed updated on the extension of this trail and plans for future phases.

Griffy Lake Deer Management
Support of sharpshooting efforts to control the deer population at Griffy remained a top priority to ERAC members. Communication to the Mayor and City Council was organized in the form of a letter including data on the impacts of deer on the property. The letter will be sent this year.

Switchyard Park Tour and Update
Soil contamination: Joel Markland, Director of Project Development, BCA Environmental Consultants, LLC presented information about soil contamination at the property and shared details of the remediation efforts that will take place in the construction of the park.

Pollinator Issues
Members were kept up-to-date on BPR's efforts, in collaboration with the Environmental Commission, to increase pollinator habitat in parks. These included increasing native plantings, establishing prairies, and adding more wetlands and bioswales where beneficial.

IU Health Hospital Development
Members expressed concern for the possible environmental impacts development of the new IU Health Hospital will have on the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve property. The disturbance of soil during construction and the runoff impact of the increased impervious surfaces could significantly impact Griffy Lake. Members will stay updated on the progress and possible impact of this construction.

Wapehani Dam
The dam at Wapehani has been discussed for the past couple of years, as the condition of the dam has become a concern for state inspectors. Owned by CBU, consultants have determined breaching this dam will be the best action to take. This will likely leave a wetland area for BPR to manage and ERAC members will continue to be involved in management and use suggestions for this property as it changes.

Comprehensive Master Plan
This document, updated every 5-7 years, aims to develop a vision for the growth and development of the city. The Planning Department sought input from ERAC members on the environmental scope of the plan. Members worked together to develop a list of suggestions. A letter of these suggestions was presented to the Board of Park Commissioners and then submitted to the Planning Department.

Education
ERAC members were regularly updated on the outreach activities of the department such as Naturalist at Market, Nature Days, and after-school programs. Information on partner programs such as Bug Fest and Sustaining Nature and Your Land Day was also shared. Members shared their outreach efforts including MCPR programs and Bloomington High School North field trips. Members helped with BPR programs, working as volunteers for Nature Days and coordinating student participation as volunteers.