

1-19-00
Withdrawn

RESOLUTION 00-02

**REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY PROPERTY
LOCATED SOUTH OF THE GRIFFY LAKE NATURE PRESERVE**

- WHEREAS, the Griffy Lake watershed contains over 5,000 acres which drain into a 109 acre lake that remains an emergency water source for the City; and
- WHEREAS, roughly two-fifths of the land is under public ownership equally divided between the City Utilities Department and Indiana University; and
- WHEREAS, most of the Griffy Lake watershed is forested land that lies within two miles of the courthouse square and constitutes a unique and valuable natural asset to the community; and
- WHEREAS, the City's portion of the watershed includes the lake and roughly 1060 acres of land, which are all managed by the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department under the name of the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve; and
- WHEREAS, the City has set aside 240 of those acres in a conservation easement that is recognized by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and is known as Griffy Woods Nature Preserve; and
- WHEREAS, the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve has been properly thought of as the City's "natural jewel" because it provides:
- a) environmental educational services for schools, researchers, and students of all ages;
 - b) a natural sanctuary for hiking and contemplative recreation;
 - c) a water resource for fishing and environmentally-friendly boating;
 - d) water purification, pollution abatement, and sediment containment; and
 - e) intact, unfragmented habitat for plants and animals, including many rare species; and
- WHEREAS, just south of Griffy Woods Nature Preserve lie approximately 943 acres of public land owned by Indiana University, which include large forested areas and rolling terrain that turn into steep slopes and valleys as it approaches the city property and the lake; and
- WHEREAS, the character of this land and its proximity to the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve raise concerns about the impact of development in the Griffy Lake watershed, and also offers opportunities for cooperative expansion of the protected areas in this watershed; and
- WHEREAS, first, there are legitimate concerns that development of the proposed golf club would:
- a) destroy forest land and intact habitat of valued and sensitive wildlife;
 - b) create soil erosion on the steep slopes and ravines and increase the rate of sedimentation into Griffy Lake;
 - c) significantly alter the hydrological balance of the watershed by altering percolation and runoff rates; and
 - d) increase agricultural runoff from use of fertilizers and pesticides; which could lead to eutrophication and the accumulation of toxic residue in Griffy Lake; and
- WHEREAS, second, there are opportunities for Indiana University to expand uses that are more compatible with those occurring in the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve; and
- WHEREAS, the Common Council acknowledges the University's authority to make land use decisions regarding its real estate; and

WHEREAS, public confidence in the University's eventual decision would be increased by a fully informed discussion by the citizens of the community of any University action on this matter;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

Section 1. The Common Council urges Indiana University to follow the recommendations of the Mayor as contained in his letter of January 7, 2000, and in particular to comply with the City's environmental regulations and construction management standards in the development of this environmentally sensitive land.

Section 2. The Common Council urges Indiana University to defer any decision on a long-term land lease for the Griffy Watershed property until the University has performed and publicly disclosed an environmental impact analysis.

Section 3. The Common Council further requests Indiana University to consider alternative uses compatible with the protection of the Griffy Lake watershed, including consideration of a natural area to expand protection for the core watershed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2000.

TIMOTHY MAYER, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2000.

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2000.

JOHN FERNANDEZ, Mayor
City of Bloomington

Synopsis

This resolution is sponsored by Council Members Gaal and Willsey. It urges the University to comply with local environmental regulations and construction management standards when developing of the land south of the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. It also urges Indiana University to postpone their decision regarding the use of this land until they have performed and publicly disclosed an environmental impact analysis. And, it invites the University to consider alternative uses compatible with the protection of the Griffy Lake watershed, including consideration of a natural area.