

Memorandum

TO: Members of the City of Bloomington Common Council
FROM: Gretchen Knapp, Deputy Mayor
Date: February 26, 2024

The City of Bloomington, Indiana University, Town of Ellettsville, and Monroe County as a whole are located in the “Path of Totality” to view the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8th, 2024. But in Indiana, Bloomington and Ellettsville win the eclipse lottery, located almost directly on the centerline. For a total solar eclipse, the centerline is where the duration of totality lasts the longest in any one area, and the lucky residents of Bloomington will enjoy durations that exceed the 4-minute mark. In the downtown Bloomington area, the sun will go dark for about 4 minutes and 2 seconds. The eclipse will begin to enter the state around 1:47 p.m. with totality beginning around 3:02 p.m. and completely ending at 3:12 p.m.

Visit Bloomington is considering this to potentially be the “largest tourism event in Indiana history.” Estimates on the number of visitors to the County range from being close to a sell-out football game of ~50-60,000 individuals, to the high side of having up to 250,000 extra visitors to the larger community. In preparation for this unique opportunity, Indiana University, Monroe County Community School Corporation, and Richland Bean Blossom School Corporation have already canceled classes for the day.

The Monroe Solar Eclipse Coordination Committee

In 2023, Visit Bloomington and Indiana University in coordination with the City of Bloomington and many other partner organizations created the Monroe Solar Eclipse Planning Committee with the following mission: The Monroe Solar Eclipse Coordination Committee (MSECC) will convene government, academic, business and non-profit organizations to coordinate Monroe County community planning, response, and recovery in preparation for the eclipse event on April 8, 2024, in order to provide a safe environment for residents and visitors, educate the public and efficiently use resources. The MSECC has nine subcommittees covering topics such as public safety, public information, transportation, education, housing and human services, and more.

City of Bloomington Response

The large influx of travelers may result in slow internet, intermittent cell service, card reader issues, long travel delays, parking issues, and other challenges.

Due to these anticipated challenges, City facilities will be closed to the public on April 8th. Although many employees will still need to work onsite or in the community due to their roles, department heads or their designees may allow certain employees, based on their position, to take PTO or to work from home. Virtual and in-person meetings should be canceled due to traffic and internet congestion. An email will communicate details to City staff on Friday, March 1, 2024.

Information & Press

- **March 6 joint press conference.** A press conference will be held to share information on public safety and how to prepare. The media advisory of the press conference goes out Tuesday, February 27, and a press release will go out after the press conference. The media team includes OOTM Communications, IU Media Relations, MCCSC Communications, and the County.
- **Online information.** The [Visit Bloomington eclipse website](#) will be the hub for most information, to provide one-stop shopping for out-of-town visitors. Most participating organizations are linking their individual pages to that one. The City's website also has [an informational eclipse page](#) listing City events. The County EMS, Visit Bloomington, and IU also have pages on their websites.
- **Joint Information Center (JIC).** Monroe County Emergency Management Services has created the JIC to coordinate communications during the eclipse. Justin Baker from Monroe County EMS is heading up the JIC. This is a closed group for security purposes.
- **Network broadcasting.** NBC, CBS, and others will be broadcasting the eclipse from Bloomington. The Convention Center is likely to serve as the hub for media.

Traffic & Transportation

Travel is likely to be very difficult. ITS/Dispatch are looking into configuring a "major Traffic Event" in Waze and Google Maps to route drivers away from certain locations and roads. We are a Waze4Cities partner and can send push notifications. There's also a possibility of using game-day texting technology from IU for eclipse notifications, for those who sign up—this is in progress. There will be no authorized traffic patterns for the day as traffic will cover the entire county.

The State Police will be focused on I-69 and unable to perform the usual traffic direction they do for IU on game days. IU PD is recruiting volunteers to train to assist with traffic direction.

Some restaurants won't be open because of traffic difficulties for staff. The eclipse also falls on a Monday, when some restaurants are regularly closed. The Convention Center will be open and providing food and beverage.

Sanitation & Parking

Public Works will provide and coordinate sanitation, parking, and traffic management services in coordination with other local agencies and institutions.

- Parking Services is fielding calls from the public and outside groups about viewing the eclipse from the top levels of parking garages. This will not be allowed due to safety issues.
- Sanitation Division will be providing and placing additional trash and recycling receptacles throughout the community.
- Street Division will be on call and ready to assist with traffic control planning and implementation leading up to, during, and after the actual eclipse.

Utilities is planning for providing adequate water and wastewater leading up and during the influx of visitors for the eclipse.

Public Safety

BPD will have a modified staffing schedule beginning on April 6 (all hands on deck, no PTO) to maximize resources and coverage. They're using a modified version of their yearly Little 500 Operations Plan and will have 50+ officers working. They're coordinating with other safety agencies.

Fire will be staffing up with 12 additional personnel as well as using administrative staff and MIH to staff all fire stations at all times even if apparatus are on calls. They are dedicating 1 apparatus to the IU event. They're working on a communication plan for the day and utilizing their UTV to be able to maneuver if traffic is bad. All stations will be available as reunification locations if needed. All additional positions have been identified and filled.

CFRD will have 2 After Hours Ambassadors and the AHA Program Manager available for downtown hospitality, outreach, and resources.

It's possible that even FirstNet (public safety comms) will be degraded. ITS is looking into requesting AT&T COWs (Cell on Wheels) for downtown to assist.

Activities

Parks & Rec will also be all hands on deck, no PTO. Four days of activities are planned, including live music, crafts, food & beverage, and games:

- Friday: Food Truck Friday and Solar Eclipse Trivia Night (6-9pm)
- Saturday: Solar Celebration: Karaoke, crafts, beer & food, Hidden Figures movie (6-10)
- Sunday: There Goes the Sun: Bloomington Symphony Orchestra (3-5), Glow Float at Griffy, Lunar Putt-Putt at Cascades
- Monday: Celestial Spectacle: Two live bands, crafts/games, food and alcohol (10-6)

A variety of events are scheduled both within City limits, on the Indiana University campus, and at event locations throughout the county. Indiana University is focusing its event efforts to Memorial Stadium with Events begin at 1 p.m. at Memorial Stadium, featuring a musical performance by Janelle Monae, a spoken-word performance from acclaimed actor William Shatner of “Star Trek” fame, and a guest appearance by Mae Jemison, the first African American female astronaut.

Beyond these major events, mid and smaller size events are scheduled for the following locations:

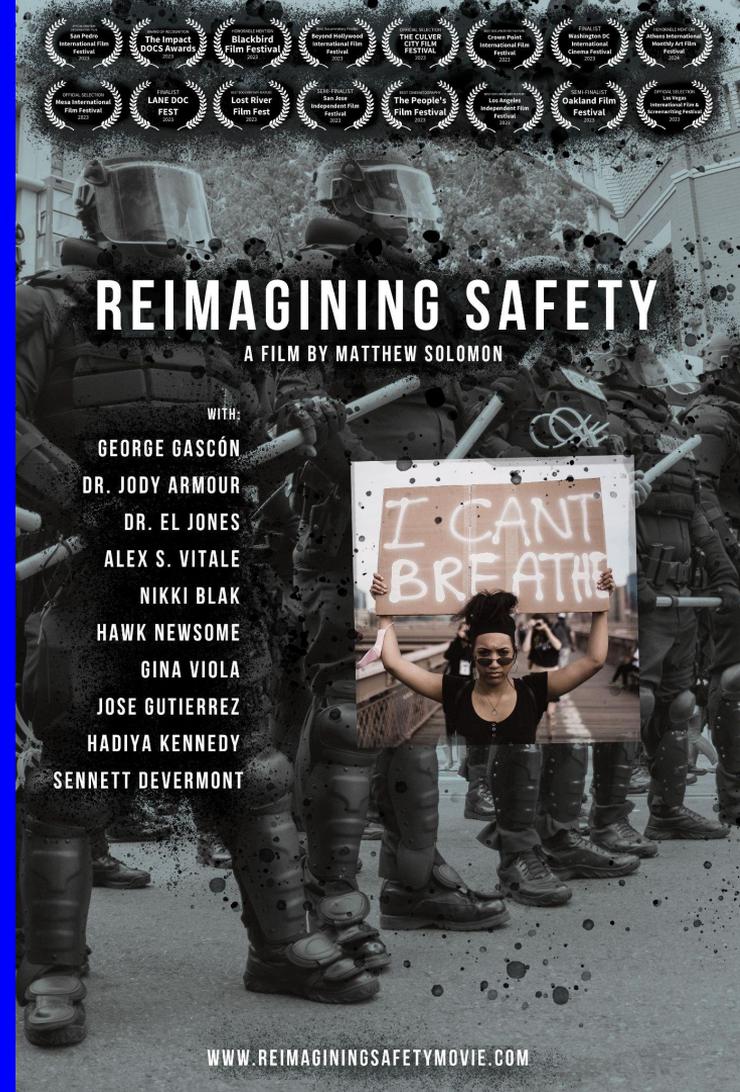
- Monroe County Fairgrounds: Shadowfest with camping, live music and other events throughout the weekend.
- Butler Winery: Viewing party with food and music
- Fowler Pumpkin Patch: Viewing party with food and music
- Lake Lemon - Riddle Pointe Park: camping, live music, and other outdoor activities
- Monroe Lake - Paynetown SRA: camping and other outdoor activities
- Wonderlab: Educational events for children and families leading up to the event

CAPS Commission film screening and discussion on “Reimagining Safety” (Feb. 24-25)

- Film by Michael Solomon
- Viewable on Amazon Prime – rent for \$5
- Describes the ways in which policing is the best tool to achieve public safety

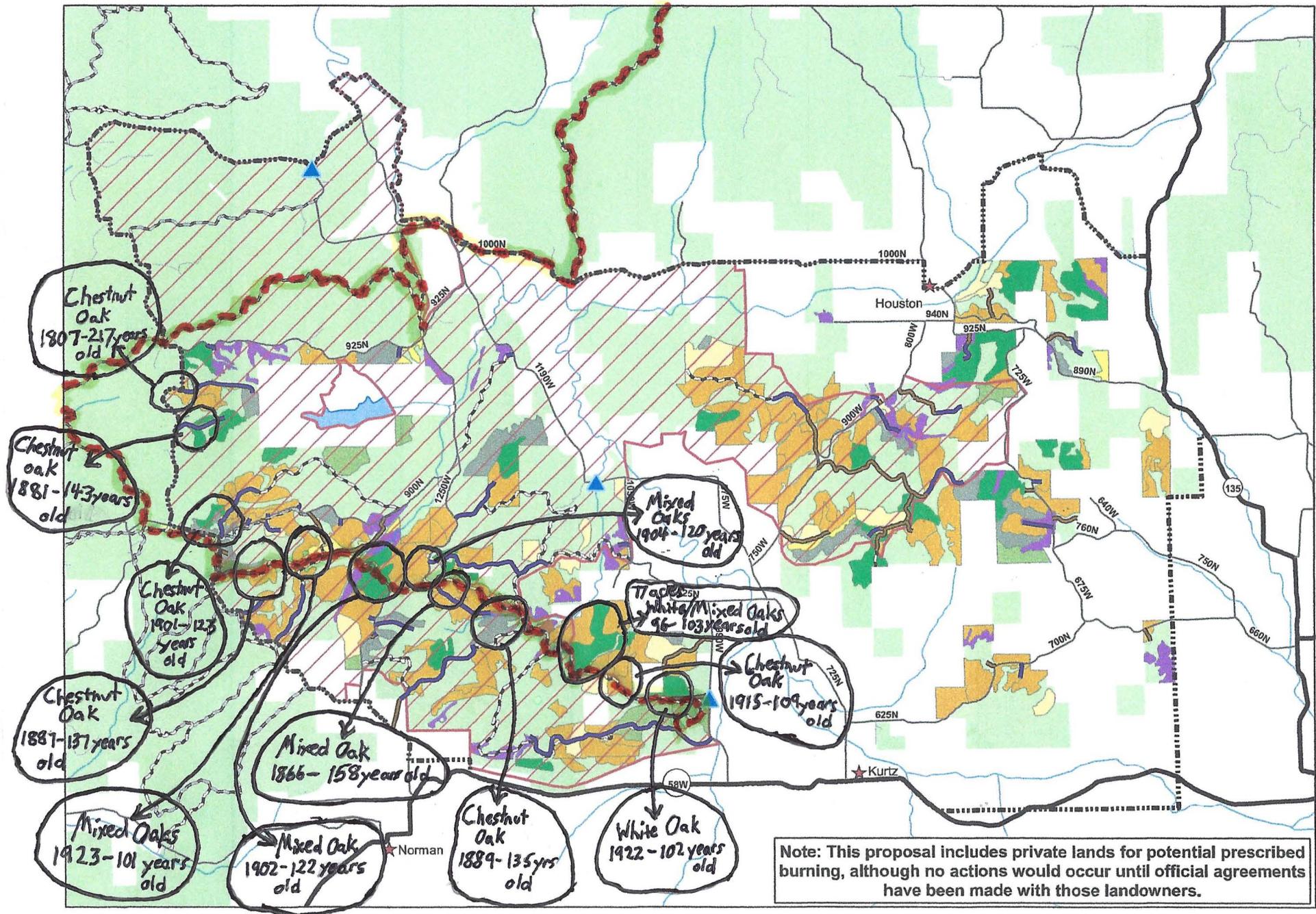
Join Bloomington Community Safety Roundtable:

bit.ly/BlgtnSafetyRoundtable



Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project

Hoosier National Forest - Brownstown Ranger District



Legend

- Project Area
- Proposed Bur
- Proposed Silvicult Treatment**
- Clearcut
- Shelterwood
- Hardwood TI
- Pine Thinnin
- Selection
- Crop Tree R
- Midstory Re
- Town
- Proposed AC
- Trail
- Highway
- County Roa
- FS Road
- Proposed Cc
- New FS Roa
- Proposed Re
- of Existing F
- miles
- Stream
- Lake
- Forest Servi

Note: This proposal includes private lands for potential prescribed burning, although no actions would occur until official agreements have been made with those landowners.

Original data compiled from n and may not meet National I Standards. For specific data contact the Hoosier National F is made to the contents of ac Created November

Knobstone Trail

West side of Houston South project Silvicultural Treatment Areas Scoping

