



City of Bloomington

**Environmental Commission**

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to promote the stewardship and preservation of the city's environment and natural resources by seeking out and responding to emerging issues, addressing them with sound long-term policy recommendations, and increasing local environmental awareness and engagement.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION NOTICE and REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

June 26, 2025, 6:00 PM  
Hooker Meeting Room #245  
City Hall, 401 N Morton Street Bloomington, IN 47404  
Hybrid Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting here:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/8657231124?pwd=mPqboSiD0AhVwKSgkuW2aO7NHixihO.1&omn=81563021562>

Meeting ID: 865 723 1124

Passcode: COBPT

or on Community Access Television Service (CATS): <https://catstv.net/government.php>.

Auxiliary aids are available upon request with adequate notice.

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation:

2. Introductions and Roll Call

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
Carrie Albright			
Nadia Cain			
Matt Caldie			
Kasie Chappell			
Adam Fudickar			
Shannon Gayk			
Adam Martinez			
Mitchell Owens			

David Parkhurst  
Rachael Johnson,  
City Liaison

3. Approval of May 2025 minutes\*

Yes

No

Abstain

Carrie Albright  
Nadia Cain  
Matt Caldie  
Kasie Chappell  
Adam Fudickar  
Shannon Gayk  
Adam Martinez  
Mitchell Owens  
David Parkhurst

4. Public comment

Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

5. New Business

- a. Downtown Gardens (Carrie Albright)

6. Old Business

- a. Working group updates
  - i. Light Pollution
  - ii. Biodiversity
    - 1. Bee City USA & Bee City Campus
    - 2. Habitat Connectivity
      - a. [Link](#)
      - b. Website Update
  - iii. Water Quality
  - iv. Special Projects
- b. Annual Report

7. Staff Update

- a. Documents Update
  - a. Draft Working Group Descriptions
  - b. Draft Environmental Commission History
- b. Climate Resilience Map



- a. <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ee4f5219227f4863aac1b9d368f8bc09/page/Map>
- c. Buskirk Chumley Films
- d. National Weather Service Citizen Science

8. Reports from:

- a. Tree Commission (TC)
- b. Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC)
- c. Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM)
- d. Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)
- e. Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)

9. Commissioner announcements

10. Upcoming Meeting

- a. July 17, 2025, 6:00 pm, Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

11. Adjournment

*\* Item to be voted on*

The City is committed to providing equal access to information. However, despite our efforts, at times, portions of our board and commission packets are not accessible for some individuals. If you encounter difficulties accessing material in this packet, please contact Melissa Hirtzel at [hirtzelm@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:hirtzelm@bloomington.in.gov) and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page you are having problems with.

As a quorum of the Commission or its committees may be present, this gathering constitutes a meeting under the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. § 5-14-1.5). For that reason, this statement provides notice that this meeting will occur and is open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.

# Current Members

## [Kasie Chappell](#)

Seat: [C 1](#)      Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027      Appointed By: Common Council (voting)

## [Adam Fudickar](#)

Seat: [C 2](#)      Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027      Appointed By: Common Council (voting)

## [Mitchell Owens](#)

Seat: [C 3](#)      Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026      Appointed By: Common Council (voting)

## [Shannon Gayk](#)

Seat: [C 4](#)      Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026      Appointed By: Common Council (voting)

## [Adam Martinez](#)

Seat: [C 5](#)      Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027      Appointed By: Common Council (voting)

## [Nadia Cain](#)

Seat: [C 6](#)      Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026      Appointed By: Common Council (voting)

## Vacant

Seat: [M 1](#)      Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027      Appointed By: Mayor (voting)

## [Matt Caldie](#)

Seat: [M 2](#)      Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027      Appointed By: Mayor (voting)

## Vacant

Seat: [M 3](#)      Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027      Appointed By: Mayor (voting)

## [Carrie Albright](#)

Seat: [M 4](#)      Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026      Appointed By: Mayor (voting)

## Vacant

Seat: [M 5](#)      Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026      Appointed By: Mayor (voting)

## [David Parkhurst](#)

Seat: [M 6](#)      Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026      Appointed By: Mayor (voting)



City of Bloomington

Environmental Commission

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION NOTICE and REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

May 15, 2025, 6:00 PM  
Hooker Meeting Room #245  
Hybrid Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting here:

[https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/8657231124?  
pwd=mPqboSiD0AhVwKSgkuW2aO7NHixihO.1&omn=81563021562](https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/8657231124?pwd=mPqboSiD0AhVwKSgkuW2aO7NHixihO.1&omn=81563021562)

Meeting ID: 865 723 1124

Passcode: COBPT

or on Community Access Television Service (CATS): <https://catstv.net/government.php>.

Auxiliary aids are available upon request with adequate notice.

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation: 6:02 PM
2. Introductions and Roll Call

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
Carrie Albright	X		
Nadia Cain		X	
Matt Caldie	X		
Kasie Chappell		X	
Adam Fudickar		X	
Shannon Gayk	X		
Adam Martinez	X		
Mitchell Owens	X		

David Parkhurst			X
Rachael Johnson, City Liaison	X		

3. Approval of April 2025 minutes\*

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Carrie Albright	X		
Nadia Cain			
Matt Caldie	X		
Kasie Chappell			
Adam Fudickar			
Shannon Gayk	X		
Adam Martinez	X		
Mitchell Owens	X		
David Parkhurst			

4. Public comment

Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

5. New Business

- a. Discussion of Herald-Times article: Discovery of arsenic, benzene at Bloomington's Hopewell site requires cleanup, mitigation

Mitchell introduced the article. He recommended we reach out to staff, asking to be kept up-to-date.

Carrie asked about what the commission is interested in doing regarding the situation. The group seemed to agree that we'd like to kept "in the loop".

- b. Review Annual Report Slides

- i. To be presented at City Council meeting on June 4, 2025

Carrie gave an overview of the presentation.

A few individuals should send photos.

The group recommended mentioning the commission's feedback on the Summit PUD.

Added some information about the commission's role in supporting the Climate Action Plan and heat mapping efforts, as well as an op-ed.

Added a line about changing legislation, financial support, etc from state and federal governments.

Added information about priorities including workshops/educational materials, and grants.

Potentially mentioning the desire for official emails, allowing the commission to communicate digitally.

## 6. Old Business

### a. Working group updates

#### ii. Light Pollution

Plan to schedule a meeting soon.

#### iii. Biodiversity

##### 1. Bee City USA & Bee City Campus

Matt asked Bee City about how the application fee money is used. They say it goes towards running the program as well as educational materials and information.

##### 2. Habitat Connectivity Map

###### a. [Link](#)

Matt discussed the updates we recommended in a previous meeting.

#### iv. Water Quality

##### 1. HB 1037

###### a. [Link](#)

New law that prevents local governments from enacting regulations more stringent than those of IDEM. Projects involving less than 1 acre no longer requires permitting. Disallows prevention of runoff / pollution issues, can only react after the fact. Encouraging reporting of issues like illicit discharge. EC could help with outreach.

##### 2. Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grants

###### a. [Link](#)

Funding for handling non-point source pollution. EC will likely apply for next year's grant. May require cooperation with the county.

#### v. Special Projects

##### 1. IDEM Recycling Grant

###### a. [Link](#)

Potential for EC to apply? BCOS may have a project in mind.

## 7. Staff Update

### a. City Pollinator Week Events

Rachael informed the commission on upcoming events related to Pollinator Week.

### b. Grants Announcements from Economic and Sustainable Development Department

Rachael shared some grants that the commission may be interested in.

2026 Earth Day will be on April 18.

8. Reports from:

- a. Tree Commission (TC)  
They discussed removals and pruning, giving away of seedlings, and planting of pecans with the Girl Scouts. Canopy Bloomington has planted “many trees”
- b. Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC)  
No update.
- c. Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM)  
No update.
- d. Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)  
Discussed 2025 priorities and adopted their annual report.
- e. Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)  
Meeting postponed.

9. Commissioner announcements

Bloom magazine is writing about the Eco-Heroes contest winners for the June/July edition.

Clean Community Program had its first meeting. To qualify, Bloomington must implement 4-6 projects (depends on how students count towards city’s population). Potential for another commissioner to join.

Potential for Project 46 cooperation with nearby cities.

10. Upcoming Meeting

- a. June 26, 2025, 6:00 pm, Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

11. Adjournment: 7:49 PM

*\* Item to be voted on*

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Enriching Public Spaces

# Urban Meadows







Let's emphasize the  
**BLOOM** in Bloomington



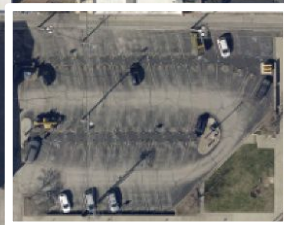


What if we made downtown  
Bloomington even more green?



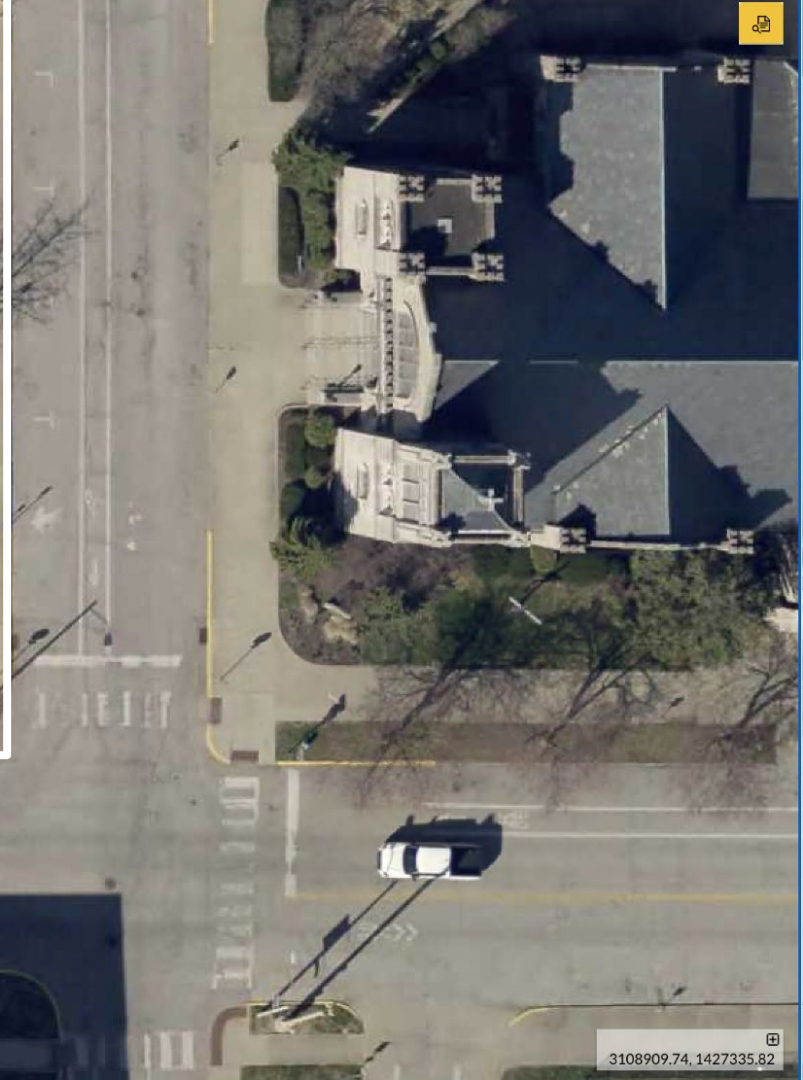
Ever notice this  
parking lot?

The City owns it



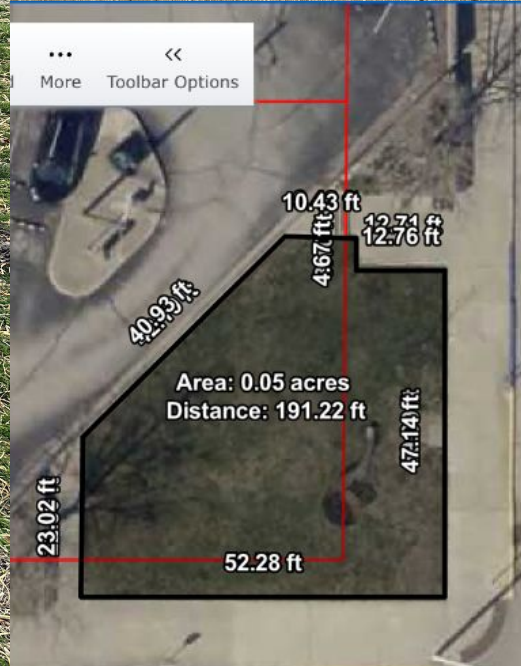


It has this sweet green space





# The corner of 4th & Washington





Do you know the local garden designer  
who won an international award?



Andrew Marrs Garden Design  
Bloomington IN





# What if he planted a native pollinator garden here?

4th & Washington



# Cost

**1,700 sqft lot**

**\$12/sqft** (includes design and install)

**\$20,400 total cost**

\*Price does not include required annual maintenance

**\$15k - \$18k ARPA funds**

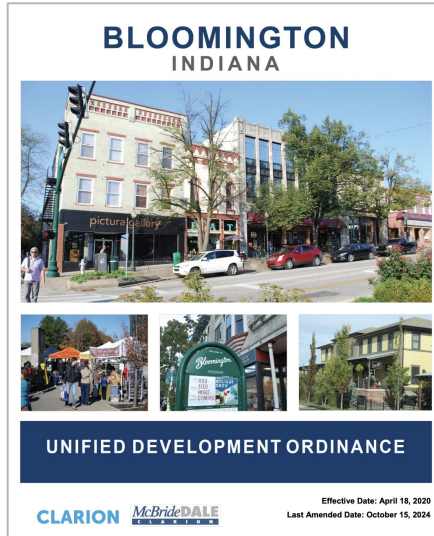
**\$5,400 - \$2,400 remaining needed**





# Our UDO encourages this

(7) Preserve and enhance the scenic beauty, aesthetics, and environmental integrity of the City



## Purpose

This UDO is adopted to:

- (1) Promote the orderly, responsible, and sustainable development and redevelopment of the areas within the City in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan and its components, including but not limited to the Transportation Plan, and subarea plans, which include among others the downtown vision and infill strategy plan, along with such additions and revisions as may be made to such plans after the effective date, and with all other city land use policy;
- (2) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change on our community;
- (3) Promote the public health, safety, morals, ecosystem services, comfort, convenience, and general welfare;
- (4) Protect the character and stability of residential, institutional, business, employment, and natural areas;
- (5) Provide a safe, efficient, accessible, and connected system of transportation that emphasizes public transit, walking, and biking to enhance options to reduce overall dependence on the automobile;
- (6) Secure adequate light, air, convenience of access, and safety from fire, natural disasters, and other danger, which may include providing adequate open spaces for light, air, and outdoor uses;
- (7) Preserve and enhance the scenic beauty, aesthetics, and environmental integrity of the City;
- (8) Encourage compatibility between different land uses and to protect the scale and character of existing development from the encroachment of incompatible uses;
- (9) Regulate and restrict the location and intensity of use of buildings, structures, and land for trade, industry, residence, and other uses;
- (10) Define the powers and duties of administrative officers and bodies as provided herein, and to establish procedures for the implementation and enforcement of this UDO;
- (11) Establish corrective and punitive recourse for violations or noncompliance regarding the provisions of this UDO;
- (12) Ensure ongoing compliance with the provisions of this UDO by requiring regular maintenance and replacement, as needed, of required improvements, including but not limited to landscaping;
- (13) Establish reasonable standards and procedures for subdivisions, in order to further the orderly layout and use of land;
- (14) Avoid scattered, illogical, and uncontrolled subdivisions of land that would result in the imposition of an excessive expenditure of public funds for the distribution or supply of infrastructure and/or services;



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

# 2024 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION



**CARRIE ALBRIGHT,  
CHAIR**



**MATT CALDIE,,  
VICE-CHAIR & TREASURER**



**ADAM MARTINEZ,  
SECRETARY**



**DAVID PARKHURST**



**MITCHELL OWENS**



**SHANNON GAYK**



**NADIA CAIN**



**KASIE CHAPPELL**



**ADAM FUDICKAR**



**RACHAEL JOHNSON,  
CITY LIAISON**



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MISSION



The mission of the Environmental Commission (EC) is to promote the stewardship and preservation of the City's environment and natural resources by seeking out and responding to emerging issues, addressing them with sound long-term policy recommendations, and increasing local environmental awareness and engagement.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# 2024 PRIORITIES

- **Biodiversity Working Group**
  - Promote Habitat Connectivity Map at local events & gatherings
  - Extend focus to pollinators and native plants
  - Create, update, and collect additional educational materials
- **Outreach Programs and Activities**
  - Continue existing efforts (Eco-Heroes, BugFest, Weed Wrangle, etc.)
  - Engage with other organizations in the City, community, and the university in overlapping interests
  - Support and drive momentum for the City of Bloomington Climate Action Plan
  - Increase presence in local media (newspaper, radio, IU campus) when sharing reports, activities and events, and locally relevant information

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# 2024 PRIORITIES

- Biodiversity Working Group
  - Continue to promote Habitat Connectivity Map while taking steps to improve its functionality and user experience
  - Extend focus to pollinators and native plants
  - Create, update, and collect additional educational materials

<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment/habitat-connectivity>

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# 2024 PRIORITIES

- Outreach Programs and Activities
  - BugFest
  - Grandview STEM Night
  - Eco-Heroes





# 2024 ECO-HEROES ART CONTEST

- 30 submissions
- 20 sponsors
- Art, videos, songs, essays, and poems

City of Bloomington  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMMISSION**

*Presents the  
12th Annual*

**Eco-Heroes  
Art Contest!**

2024 Theme  
**DROPS  
to  
DRAINS!**



<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment/eco-heroes-contest>

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# 2024 PRIORITIES

- Outreach Programs and Activities
  - Engage with other organizations in the City, community, and the university in overlapping interests
    - Pursuit of Bee City launched
    - Advocating for educational urban farm variance
    - Support for local organization supporting sustainable practices in Bloomington
    - Summit advisory efforts

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# 2024 PRIORITIES

- Outreach Programs and Activities
  - Support and drive momentum for the City of Bloomington Climate Action Plan
    - Reviewed, presented questions for, and suggestions for the Climate Action Plan
    - Coordinated locations and installation of air quality sensors to collect PM data
    - Continue engaging with ESD to explore, propose questions, and promote Climate Dashboard



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# 2024 PRIORITIES

- Outreach Programs and Activities
  - Local interviews:
    - WFHB Activate!
    - WFHB Public Service Announcement
    - Interview with The 812 Podcast
  - B Square article sourced at May 2024 EC meeting
  - Submitted Op Ed on House Bills 1108 and 1383

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# LONG-TERM PRIORITIES (3-5 YRS)

- **Internal structure and communication**
  - Revisit active working groups, establish social media strategy, improve Commissioner onboarding process
- **Supporting activities and communications**
  - Establish workshop or training by or for EC members, connecting skills, the community, and the Bloomington environment
  - Publish Water Quality report for City of Bloomington
  - Conduct or support stream inventory to inform riparian buffer UDO standards
  - Pursue city certifications that promote commitment to Bloomington's environmental quality
  - Seek out funding to support environmental activities or resources for Bloomington

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# 2025 GOALS

- Launch revised onboarding process for new commission members (Admin)
- Establishing water quality contacts for data and priority setting (Water Quality)
- Continue progress on UDO riparian buffer measurement (Water Quality)
- Generate social media strategy and seasonal content ideas (Admin)
- Establishing an avenue for the public to bring environmental concerns to the EC's attention (Admin)
- Release updated Habitat Connectivity Map (Biodiversity)
- Gathering information on light pollution in the city and ways to positively impact (Light Pollution)
- Collaborate on Bee City/Campus Certification (Biodiversity)
- Collaborating with the Clean Team to support IDEM clean community programming (Water Quality)
- Work with the Planning Department (ECPC) on relevant projects
- Updating the EC website with a wide range of environment-related resources (Admin)
- Hosting a 2025 Eco-Heroes contest (Eco-Heroes)

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### WHAT IS GOING WELL FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION?

- ★ Communication and collaboration across partners
- ★ Enthusiasm for long-term projects and initiatives
- ★ Positive response from Bloomington residents
- ★ Active in the Bloomington community (tabling, etc.)

### WHAT ARE OUR CHALLENGES FOR 2025?

- ★ Complex and inefficient changes to communication
- ★ General engagement during challenging times
- ★ Vacancies
- ★ Changing legislation at the State and Federal level and our role in impacting those changes

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Processes**
  - The speed of the commissioner interview process impacts our commissioner count. We always appreciate expediency.
  - Understanding and communicating the process when Council approval or input is needed.
- **Upcoming initiatives**
  - Bee City USA
  - Dark Sky Place
- **Improve communication**
  - Propose commissioner emails to adhere to Open Door Laws
- **Open invitation to bring YOUR environmental questions to our meetings**

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

# 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION



**CARRIE ALBRIGHT,  
CHAIR**



**MATT CALDIE,  
VICE-CHAIR & TREASURER**



**ADAM MARTINEZ,  
SECRETARY**



**DAVID PARKHURST**



**SHANNON GAYK**



**MITCHELL OWENS**



**NADIA CAIN**



**KASIE CHAPPELL**



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**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

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**DATE:** May 23, 2025  
**TO:** Mayor Kerry Thomson  
Bloomington Common Council  
Director David Hittle, Planning and Transportation  
**FROM:** Chair - Carrie Albright, on behalf of the Environmental Commission  
**RE:** 2024 Annual Report, Bloomington Environmental Commission

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Active: Carrie Albright (Chair), Matt Caldie (Vice-Chair/Treasurer), Adam Martinez (Secretary), Rachael Johnson (staff liaison, ex-officio), David Parkhurst, Mitchell Owens, Shannon Gayk, Nadia Cain, Kasie Chappell, Adam Fudickar

Transitioned Off/Resigned in 2024: Linda Thompson, Mike Litwin, Megan Murphy, Karenna Tankersley, Megan Bankowski, Gabby Robles, Connor Wright

2025 Interns/Fellows: Fiona Kilgore

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2024 the Environmental Commission (EC) focused on outreach programs and activities in the community and further improvements to the Habitat Connectivity Plan. We tackled existing projects as well as new (or previously paused) initiatives. Among the top accomplishments were the annual Eco-Heroes Art Contest, increased public engagement and visibility, and new initiatives that have since gained momentum in 2025.

**GOALS**

During the first meeting of 2024, the Environmental Commission held a “bucket list” meeting, where members discussed environmental initiatives to consider for the coming year. The members discussed the merits of each proposed idea and then voted on the top priorities. These

topics typically become the main focus for the EC throughout the year. Starting in February, the Commission proceeds to produce action items for these goals.

In 2024, the Environmental Commission's top bucket list items were:

**Biodiversity Working Group**

Promote Habitat Connectivity Map at local events & gatherings

Extend focus to pollinators and native plants

Create, update, and collect additional educational materials

**Outreach Programs and Activities**

Continue community efforts (Eco-Heroes, BugFest, Weed Wrangle, etc.)

Engage with other organizations in the City, community, and the university in overlapping interests

Support and drive momentum for the City of Bloomington Climate Action Plan

Increase presence in local media (newspaper, radio, IU campus)

**MEMBERSHIP**

The EC concluded 2024 with three vacancies, due to resignations for personal reasons, to be filled by both the Bloomington Common Council and Mayor Kerry Thomson. Our current membership is comprised of scientists, educators, university students and faculty, and environmental policy hobbyists.

**COMMISSION PROJECTS**

**Unified Development Ordinance**

In the interest of benefiting the community as a whole, the Environmental Commission continued its 2023 work of submitting revision recommendations to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to the city staff, the Common Council, and the Plan Commission. Our membership read the various modules and drafts of the UDO and then held working sessions wherein members proposed, debated, and considered amendments to the documents.

**Eco-Heroes Art Contest**

Each year, the EC hosts the Eco-Heroes Art Contest, which encourages students and residents to think environmentally through a creative expression. The EC appeals to local K–12 schools (including homeschools) to incorporate environmental education in a fun, artistic way. Adult members of the public are also invited to participate in our 18+ category.



For the 12th annual Eco-Heroes Art Contest, the theme was “Drops to Drains: Eco-Heroes Working with the City on Stormwater Strains!” which received over 30 submissions. The awards ceremony was held at Bloomington’s Earth Day celebration event at Switchyard Park. During the ceremony, Mayor Thomson awarded the winners of the contest with their prizes. Our Commission intern and staff liaison helped gather 20 sponsors for prize bags for the participants.

### **Environmental Commission Outreach**

New and renewed outreach was a priority in 2024. Outreach ideas included a renewed the EC’s use of social media, tabling at IU Bug Fest and Grandview Elementary’s STEM Night, and becoming more visible to the public. In 2024, the Chair and Vice Chair were interviewed by WFHB’s Activate! which led to a feature and evergreen PSA. The Chair was also interviewed by local podcast, The 812.

### **INTERN PROJECTS**

The Environmental Commission hosted Graduate Research Fellow, Alauna Keeley through April of 2024. Alauna contributed to work behind the scenes on events, data analysis, and City projects concerning the environment. On multiple occasions in 2024, Alauna volunteered to take minutes for the EC, submitting both minutes and memos to the City website.

Moving into 2025, the intern will no longer contribute to the Environmental Commission, instead prioritizing projects within the Planning and Transportation Department.

### **Eco-Heroes Art Contest**

Alauna assisted Linda Thompson, our staff liaison, in putting on Eco-Heroes, which included outreach to local schools/teachers for participants, local businesses for prize sponsorships, and arranging logistics for the day of the event. Commissioners attended and represented the EC at tables featuring the winning entries as well as the EC’s usual educational materials.

### **WORKING GROUPS**

#### **ECPC (Environmental Commission Planning Committee)**

The Environmental Commission Planning Committee meets as needed to address environmentally relevant petitions that come before the Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Along with our staff liaison, Linda Thompson, members of this Committee review the petitions and environmental surroundings of the parcel in question. The ECPC then produces a memo outlining our concerns/wishes for the parcel. In 2024, one memo was sent to

the Plan Commission, and one memo was sent to the City Council. Moving into 2025, the ECPC subcommittee anticipates less involvement in this aspect of our role.

### **Biodiversity Working Group**

The Bloomington Habitat Connectivity Plan, an initiative of the Biodiversity Working Group started in 2020, was determined to be a top priority for 2024. Before the working group could promote and further implement the Habitat Connectivity Plan, the existing database and resources needed to be updated. As time permitted, the subcommittee used 2024 to assess the functionality and changes needed in the Habitat Connectivity Map. Although this continues to be a highly valued deliverable, the 2024 year spent less effort distributing the HCP and more focus on how we might improve it for long-lasting community engagement.

### **Water Quality Working Group**

The Water Quality Working Group was resurrected in late 2023 to assess local storm, drinking, and general water quality. In 2024, this subcommittee gathered to discuss the status of stormwater in Bloomington, active ordinances as updated by the Bloomington Utilities' MS4 Program Coordinator, and a renewed focus on the EC's role in supporting implementation and enforcement. Because of IDEM's report reflecting poor water quality, this subcommittee will prioritize a Clear Creek water monitoring citizen science project over the next 3–5 years.

### **Guest Presentations**

The Commission's dedication to lifelong learning includes occasional guest appearances or presentations on subjects of interest.

January 2024	Representatives from both Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and the Tree Commission	Interest in collaborating on overlapping areas of interest
February 2024	Representatives of the Summit Development project	Discussion of the environmental impacts of this new development
February 2024	Jacqueline Scanlan Assistant Director, Planning and Transportation	UDO recommendations as provided by the EC
June 2024	Shawn Miya Assistant Director of Sustainability	Bloomington's Climate Action Plan and Dashboard

### **Liaison with other Commissions and Committees**

To allow the EC to focus on the work of the City as a whole, the membership of the EC attends various other meetings to gather information and, when asked, to provide input.

1. Bloomington Tree Commission	David Parkhurst
2. Environmental Resources Advisory Council	David Parkhurst
4. Bloomington Commission on Sustainability	Matt Caldie
5. Friends of Lake Monroe	David Parkhurst
6. MC-IRIS	Linda Thompson

Thank you for your continued support of the Environmental Commission and all it does to serve the future of Bloomington. We look forward to our continued work in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie A. Albright  
Chair, Bloomington Environmental Commission

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS

## Waste & Recycling

### Working Group Discription

This working group began preparing a proposal for Commission approval that would expand curbside recycling to include apartment buildings and downtown businesses. The working group is composed of volunteers from the Commission and members of the community. It meets as needed to identify the action steps required for the commission to present its proposal in ordinance form to the City Council. In 2016, its charter expanded to include city-wide compost collection, and examination of the feasibility of a city materials recovery facility (MRF).

### Publications

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### Previous Members

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS

## Land Use & Planning (ECPC)

### Working Group Discription

This working group is composed of Commissioners and representatives from other commissions. The group examines plans, architectural drawings, and other documents related to new construction or major renovation; visit sites proposed for construction; and assists the Staff Liaison in communicating its recommendations to the Plan Commission or the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

### Publications

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### Previous Members

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS

## Biodiversity

### Working Group Discription

This working group facilitates research, outreach, and recommendations to the commission concerning the protection of native habitats, the use of native, non-native, and invasive species.

### Publications

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### Previous Members

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS

## Light Pollution

### Working Group Discription

Text

### Publications

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### Previous Members

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS

## Outreach

### Working Group Discription

This working group prepares material and makes recommendations to the Commission to help raise the community's awareness of environmental issues and the work of the Commission. The working group acts as an internal public relations/marketing team for the Commission.

### Publications

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### Previous Members

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS

## Hazards

### Working Group Discription

This working group studies sources of possible contamination that affect human, animal, and plant health and makes recommendations for action to the Commission.

### Publications

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### Previous Members

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS

## Administration

### Working Group Discription

The working group in Administration are responsible for conducting the necessary business of developing procedures to facilitate the Commission's work.

### Publications

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### Previous Members

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS

## Water Quality

### Working Group Discription

This working group directs research, responds to citizen concerns, and makes recommendations to the Commission regarding water supply and other water resource issues in the Bloomington area.

### Publications

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### Previous Members

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## WORKING GROUPS

### Air Quality

#### Working Group Discription

This working group was formed following a 'bucket list' meeting, and immediately started assisting the Planning & Transportation Department with their portable air quality measuring project. After determining the portable monitors were not sufficiently accurate, conversations pivoted to IDEM monitoring data, 2-stroke leaf blower exhaust pollution, concerns about site-specific potential air pollution, and the logistics of setting up a local air quality monitoring network. In the spring of 2023, the group chair released an advisory report on Bloomington's air quality and reported on it to the Bloomington Common Council.

#### Publications

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#### Previous Members

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS

## Steering Committee

### Working Group Discription

The Steering Committee consists of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, and the Staff Liaison from the Planning & Transportation Department. This executive group is responsible for meeting if there are Commission matters that must be discussed related to non-ethical behavior of a commissioner, conflicts of interest that have arisen with a commissioner or in a contract/agreement, or administrative issues that must be addressed prior to the next scheduled meeting.

### Publications

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### Previous Members

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS

## Eco-Heroes

### Working Group Discription

This working group begins meeting in December/early January to organize the Commission's annual art contest, Eco-Heroes, which takes place in April.

### Publications

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### Previous Members

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORKING GROUPS

## Nominations Committee

### Working Group Discription

This committee meets November and December each year to nominate Commissioners to serve as officers for the next year.

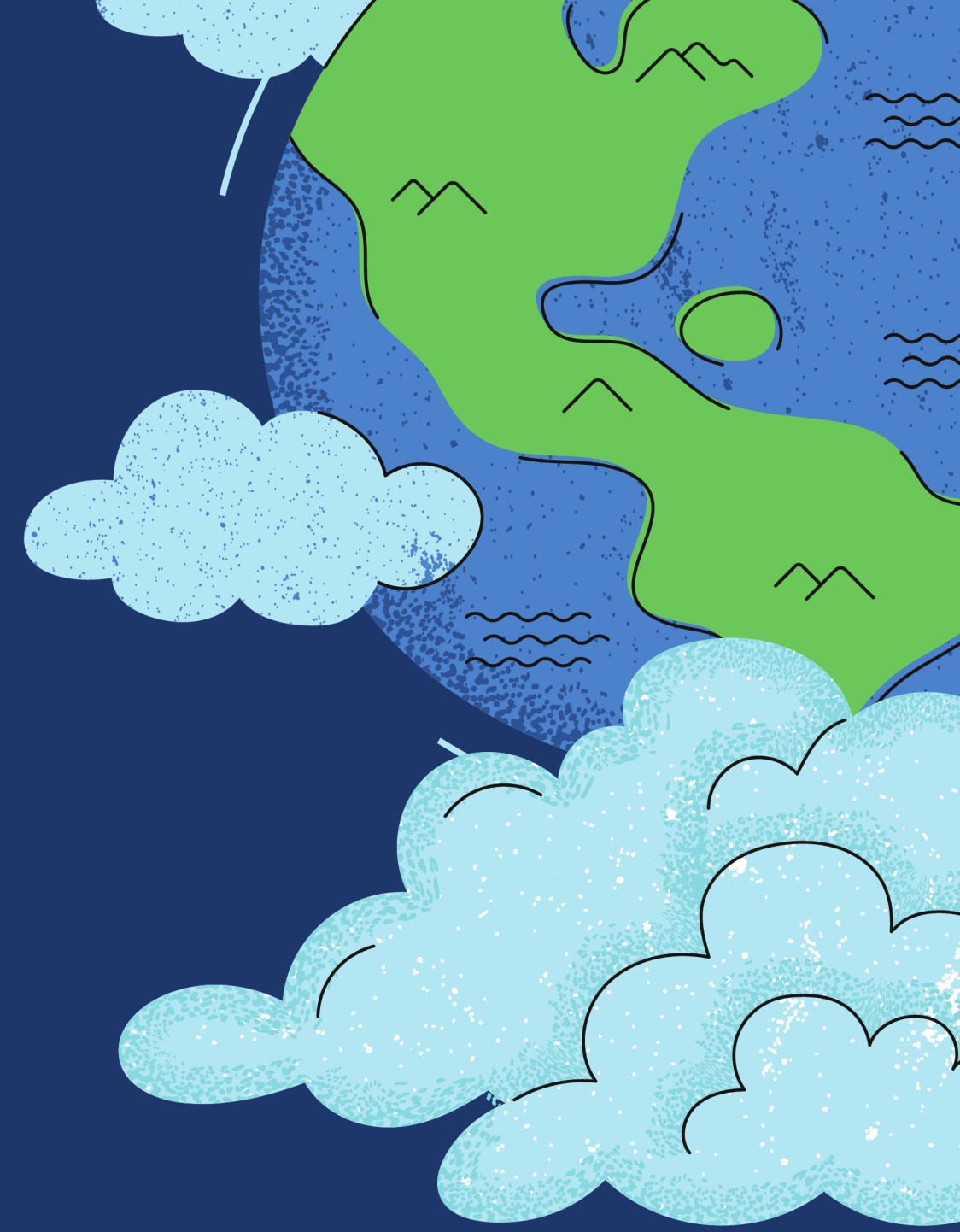
### Publications

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### Previous Members

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# History of the Bloomington Environmental Commission



Originally Written by Michael Litwen

Amended May 19, 2025

DRAFT

## Introduction

This history was based upon the City files of Bloomington Environmental Commission (EC) meeting minutes and from a previous history written in 1988 [reference indicated by (#)]. It is arranged by calendar decades, to provide chronology, continuity and a reasonable level of conciseness. Items within each category of a decade are generally listed in chronological order. Many of the listed events and activities overlap multiple decades, but reached their peak activity in the decade(s) to which they are described. This document is periodically updated to reflect modern accomplishments.

## The 1970's: Origin of the Environmental Commission (EC) and Early Years (#)

The Bloomington Environmental Quality and Conservation Commission was created on August 20 1971 through an ordinance enacted by the City Council (#71-39) and signed by the mayor. The mayor at that time was John Hooker. The EC's primary purpose was to advise the City on environment, conservation and natural resource issues, but the enabling legislation included a list of EC responsibilities. It had no actual enforcement powers, but was to report directly to the City Council. Its first year was mainly devoted to organizational work. Afterward, the EC was extremely diligent in its efforts, but in 1974 commissioners became very discouraged at the City's lack of attention to their advice, and 9 of the 12 commissioners resigned.

In the early 1970s, due to awareness of increasing pollution problems and loss of wildlife habitat, several major federal environmental laws were enacted, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) and the Endangered Species Act. At that time Bloomington was first gaining awareness of the severe PCB pollution problem that would eventually become a Superfund site under the 1980 Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), leading to protracted debates and court actions related to a remediation effort. All of these occurrences were factors in the creation of the EC.

The EC spent a significant portion of its time on the PCB issues. Much correspondence was sent to local, state and federal agencies and other relevant parties. The EC also participated in various aspects of the PCB inventory and remediation strategy.



# New Commissioners Appointed During the Decade

(\* indicates commissioners who served lengthy terms on the EC ( typically 8-10 years or more; Commissioners who served in multiple decades are shown in each).

Edward Bair*	Bob Bareikis	Thomas Barton
Nancy Boberg	Walter Bron*	Shirley Cordes
Danna D’Escopo	Rick Darby	Thomas Dixon
Kathryn Ferger	Bob Firenze	Wayne Fix
Marcia Gelpe	Lynne Granger	Charles Hagen
Barbara Heise	George Heise*	Jean Hopewell
Richard Howe	Ronald Hughes	Ward Inman
Jim Jontz	John Kyle	Bernard Lavine
Gary Lindgren	Rick Loftman	David Parkhurst*
John Patton	Robert Ramaley	Polley Randolph
Vaughan Rice	Anne Richmond	Mrs. Robert
John Snider	B.A. Spencer	Robinson
Mrs. Perry Stewart	Frank Thomas	Allen Stewart
Kevin Walther	William Weddle	Lori Tsang
		Donald Whitehead

## Top Priorities

- PCB inventory and cleanup
- Other toxic substance problems in the City and County
- Lake Monroe

## Reports, Brochures and Other Products

None found.

## Major Development Projects Reviewed

- Development of The Point and Fourwinds Marina at Lake Monroe
- New sewage treatment plant at Dillman Road



## Other EC Activities

- Participated in the State Management Plan for Lake Monroe and proposed a sediment survey
- Supported a proposal for the Salt Creek Wilderness area in Hoosier National Forest
- Investigated and reported on problems concerning septic systems in shallow bedrock areas
- Encouraged expansion of bike/ped paths.
- Conducted an air quality survey
- Implemented a recycling pilot program
- Conducted a City noise survey
- Promoted historic preservation and City beautification
- Conducted a study on runoff from the IU coal storage facility
- Submitted recommendations for reducing the amount of the City's road deicing chemicals
- Organized a public forum on recombinant DNA at IU
- Participated in agreements to improve septic systems at the IU Alumni Association family camp
- Promoted non-chemical weed treatment at Lake Lemon
- Locally publicized an EPA ban on defoliate chemicals

## Major Activities in the City or County with Impacts on Environmental Issues

- The City passed Resolution 71-19, committing to “environmental quality and the conservation of natural resources”, and referred to the EC as a key component of that commitment.
- Lake Griffy had a problem with erosion from off-road vehicles.
- In 1975 Mayor McCloskey issued an executive order requiring City departments to provide the EC with project descriptions early in the planning stages (however compliance did not develop immediately).
- The City participated in the third annual cleanup of Lake Monroe.
- The City initiated its first recycling program.

# The 1980s

During the 1980s the EC stabilized, with fewer short-term commissioners. The PCB superfund site continued to be a top priority. PCB activities included a site inventory, remediation strategies (including an incinerator), and a consent decree among the EPA, the City and the responsible parties. Another priority was other toxic substances being produced or released in the City. The EC also focused on Bloomington's water resources, especially Lake Monroe as our water supply, Lake Griffy and major streams.

In this decade the EC also began to review some major development projects, although the City ordinances at that time were not as protective of environmental resources as are current ordinances. The EC also began to issue reports on some of the aforementioned priorities.

## New Commissioners Appointed During the Decade

(\* indicates commissioners who served lengthy terms on the EC ( typically 8-10 years or more; Commissioners who served in multiple decades are shown in each).

Mike Andrews	Jeanette Austin	Tom Barton
Keith Bobay	Craig Brenner	Tim Crouch
Tom Dixon	Thomas Dixon	Kevin Dogan
Herb Dukes	George Duncan	Tim Federson
Ed Feigenbaum	Kathy Ferger	John Foster
Barbara Fredin	Bruce Frost	Kurt Gilliam
George Heise*	Bill Jones	Ken Kinney
Kevin Komisarcik*	Loren Laetner	Full
David Liebl	Chock Lillis	Rick Loftman
Chris Maron	Jerry Moll	Mike Nardi
David Parkhurst*	Alex Pettiford	Patricia Raue
Terri Reed	Kimberly Schevtchuk	Barry Solomon
Leo Thornebeck	Laura Trout*	Jesse Zurschmeide

## Top Priorities

- PCBs
- Other toxic substances
- Lake Monroe
- Land use in large greenspace areas



## Reports, Brochures and Other Products

Report on risks associated with several hazardous chemicals and PCB incineration.

## Major Development Projects Reviewed

- SR 446 reroute
- Meadowwood retirement facility
- Proposed North Point development off Dunn Street north of Lake Griffy
- Devonshire Development off Russell Road (erosion problems at Lake Griffy)
- Proposed development near Latimer Woods

## Other EC Activities

- Cosponsored an Earth Day celebration
- Publicized current PCB levels in Clear Creek fish; high but reduced considerably since 1976
- Advocated against deforestation of part of Dunn Woods for IU building construction
- Continued to monitor and request inspections at the septic system at IU Alumni Camp
- Changed its name to Environmental Commission (EC) (1984)
- Sponsored a seminar for small quantity hazardous waste generators
- Created a committee to study the PCB incinerator proposal; endorsed the proposal, but with reservations
- Monitored pollution compliance at local industries
- Studied and commented on the proposed PCB consent decree
- Surveyed local service stations concerning used motor oil recycling; set up waste oil collection facilities
- Sought EPA grants for household hazardous waste collection (Tox-away Day, which was well attended)
- Promoted creation of a City smoking ordinance
- Advocated for inclusion of bike/ped facilities in the City's Thoroughfare Plan
- Investigated IU ash dump off Range Road
- Opposed logging at Lake Griffy
- Surveyed gas stations for leaking underground storage tanks (LUST)
- Investigated creosote fumes and contamination at the Indiana Wood Treatment Plant; resulted in City law suit
- Investigated contamination in sludge being given away from Wastewater Treatment Plants; installed signage.
- Worked on an emergency response plan for the City

## **Other EC Activities (continued)**

- Investigated Chlordane contamination and health effects
- Promoted protection of former Leonard Springs drinking water reservoir property
- Participated in the recycling program, including a pilot curbside pickup
- Expressed opposition to a large RV park on Lake Monroe in Brown County
- Assisted City in a study of erosion control regulations

## **Major Activities in the City or County with Impacts on Environmental Issues**

- The City Council passed a resolution requesting postponement of clearcutting in the Hoosier National Forest.
- PCBs were confirmed at Winston-Thomas Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), draining to Clear Creek.
- PCB testing conducted at Neal's Landfill and Lemon Lane landfill and associated springs.
- The City formed search groups to look for PCB sites.
- Griffy Lake was drained, poisoned and restocked, and a nature center was constructed.
- The County landfill on Anderson Road was having problems with uncontained leachate near a floodplain.
- A new Sewage Treatment Plant was proposed for a site on Bottom Road.
- The Parks and Recreation Department created the Environmental Resources Advisory Committee.
- The Griffy Nature Preserve was created.
- The City Council passed a smoking ordinance and a waste oil collection ordinance.
- The City began developing a growth and development plan (the EC promoted reducing the growth rate).
- The Quality Growth group formed in 1989.
- The City acquired jurisdiction over the 2-mile fringe.
- Dave Porter started a composting operation on Vernal Pike near SR 48.
- The City's radon monitoring program started.



# The 1990s

In the late 1990s the EC was switched from the Public Works Department to the Planning Department for administrative and budgetary purposes. This change may have been partially due to the fact that during this period the EC spent a significant proportion of the decade reviewing large new development projects on the City’s periphery. The change generated some disagreement and friction with the Planning Department over the EC’s autonomy in commenting on developments. Many of the new projects involved dozens or even hundreds of acres, often with many sensitive environmental features. Projects were often proposed as Planned Unit Developments (PUDs), because the development plan did not fit the current zoning for that location. Examples of major projects include the Woolery Mill property, the Sudbury Farm and the Public Investment Corporation property (all on Tapp Road), the Canada Farm, Walmart and the Southern Indiana Medical Park. Some of the PUDs were still being built out in more recent times. Some were not approved, or were approved with significant changes. in part due to their excessive environmental impacts.

The EC was also very active in writing letters to City and County departments concerning various environmental issues. A major emphasis was placed on reviewing and providing input on the environmental sections of another update of the city master plan (GPP).

## New Commissioners Appointed During the Decade

(\* indicates commissioners who served lengthy terms on the EC ( typically 8-10 years or more; Commissioners who served in multiple decades are shown in each).

Keith Arabright	Kelly Boatman*	Jim Capshew
Keith Clay	Jeff Ehman	Emily Fields
Mark Figg	Phillipa Guthrie	Rajih Haddawi
Tim Hanson	Sharon Jones	Tom Klein
Marc Lame	Mike Litwin*	Randy Lloyd
Deanne McClellan	Lambda Mort	George Munich
John Neal	Mike Probst	Ken Richards
Dave Rollo	Ken Shidler	Thomas Thornton
Patty Werner		

## **Top Priorities (usually assigned to ad hoc committees)**

- PCB testing, cleanup and disposal
- Other hazardous waste sources
- Lake Monroe watershed
- City master planning process
- Review of large development proposals

## **Reports, Brochures and Other Products**

- Greenspace report (200 acres lost from 1988 – 1991)
- Guidelines for environmental review of developments
- First and second BEQI reports

## **Major Development Projects Reviewed**

- Southern Pines development off Rockport Road
- Rogers Farm development (goat farm)
- Large development on Lanham Ridge Road
- Bradford Woods development north of Twin Lakes
- I-69 (early planning stage)
- New asphalt plant on South Rogers, EC opposed it inside the City (1992, moved to County).
- New Walmart on Bloomfield Road; EC request for avoidance of sensitive areas; generally ignored (1992)
- The Tammaron development on SR 45 East
- Gentry East off SR 446
- City rail/trail development on old CSX line
- SR 46/SR 37 interchange
- Whitehall Crossing (1994)
- Sudbury Farm (1995), PUD expired; new PUD proposed in 1999
- Canada Farm on Sare Road (150 acres, 1996)
- Woolery Farm on Tapp Road (1996)
- Latimer Woods (1996); project scope reduced to preserve the oldest section of forest
- Cascades Golf Course expansion
- Reviewed and commented on the draft EIS for I-69
- Arlington Park (1997)
- Adams Bend



## Major Development Projects Reviewed (continued)

- Unity project/(Southern Indiana Medical Park (SIMP); many environmental issues (1997)
- Thompson property (previously RCA) redevelopment
- IU golf course expansion (sinkholes avoided)
- Proposed golf course development on Fullerton Pike near SR 37
- Deer Park development (Sarkes Tarzian site)
- City Thoroughfare Plan proposed route through the North Twin Lake forest (very high quality, with karst)

## Other EC Activities

- Actively involved in the master planning process
- Continued participating on the erosion control task force, inspecting and commenting on erosion problems
- Expressed concerns about logging effects and pesticide use in the Hoosier National Forest
- Continued active involvement in household hazardous waste collection program
- Began work on the first City greenspace inventory
- Officially opposed the PCB incinerator proposal
- Worked on developing a City tree ordinance
- Participated on a task force for Hoosier National Forest environmental issues
- Created a Green Award for environmentally sensitive developments
- Sent letters of commendation to developments with good erosion control compliance
- Participated in the County Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance process
- Used new City ordinances to review development sites with karst issues
- Assisted Bloomington's Sister City (Posoltega, Nicaragua) with a waste disposal plan

## Major Activities in the City or County with Impacts on Environmental Issues

- A new state law required counties to manage solid waste and to reduce the waste stream (1990).
- The City initiated the master planning process (the EC was invited to participate).
- The City disposed of some property around Lake Lemon; transferring it to a local conservancy.
- The City proposed a sports park complex at Twin Lakes.

## Major Activities in the City or County with Impacts on Environmental Issues (continued)

- PCB testing found new sites with high concentrations of PCBs, including one karst site that drains to a cave. Research was conducted on PCB concentrations at Winston Thomas WWTP.
- The city had part of its Lake Griffy property designated as a State Nature Preserve (1991).
- The City Council passed a new erosion control ordinance (1991, amended 1997) and a detailed noise ordinance.
- The Planning Department created an Environmental Planner position (1992).
- The Center for Sustainable Living was created (1992).
- The City Council passed a tree protection ordinance (1991).
- A cleanup was initiated for the former Indiana Creosote Company site.
- The County initiated construction of the Limestone Greenway Trail.
- The City initiated an Open Space Fund.
- Tom Micuda became the new Planning Department Environmental Planner (1995).
- The two-mile fringe was transferred to the County.
- The City Council passed the new Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).
- A private landowner rights group named Positive Progress formed; it aggressively opposed some EC actions.
- A group formed to actively opposes the PCB incinerator: Citizens opposed to Incinerator Ash (COPA).
- The City started the Jackson Creek Trail project.
- The County adopted a new zoning ordinance.
- The City moved the EC from Public Works to the Planning Department (1997)
- The City legal department stated that the EC has no authority to inspect erosion control on private lands.
- PCB cleanup continued through the end of the decade.
- The City began an update of the 1992 Growth Policies Plan (GPP).
- The City of Bloomington Utilities Department (CBU) was found to be exceeding its WWTP capacity.
- MCCSC initiated an Integrated Pest Management program, mentored by EC commissioner Marc Lame



# The 2000s

In the latter part of this decade and part of the next, development in Bloomington was curtailed by the mortgage bubble-induced recession, and building slowed for several years. Also during this period, developments tended to be smaller and many were more urban, as most of the larger sites had already been spoken for. The City Council and Plan Commission were more concerned about environmental issues than in past decades. The City revised and updated the master plan (GPP) and the UDO, with increased environmental protections. The City also undertook several environmental projects, including, a Greenways Plan with several trails bicycle/pedestrian facilities, nature parks, and an inventory of environmental sensitive areas.

The EC was very involved in the master plan and zoning ordinance updates, and participated in City environmental projects, The EC also produced several reports, and public outreach documents, which the Commissioners and interns distributed at several venues.

## New Commissioners Appointed During the Decade

(\* indicates commissioners who served lengthy terms on the EC ( typically 8-10 years or more; Commissioners who served in multiple decades are shown in each).

Paul Amico	Deb Backhus	Jacqui Bauer
Kristen Becher	Kelly Boatman	Ross Brittain
David Campbell	Rick Dietz	Regina DiLavore
Harry Ford	Christian Freitag	Tim Hanson
Jonathan Heald	Kriste Lindberg*	Rebecca Lowe
Tom McGlasson	Don Moore	Andrea Need
Phaedra Pezzullo	Isabel Piedmont	Mary Reuter
Heather Reynolds	Rebecca Schmitt	Brandon Schmitt
Erin Shane	Jim Shelton	Linda Thompson
Mike Tosick	Laura Trout*	Keith Vogelsong
Matt Weber	Gina Williams	

## **Top Priorities (usually assigned to ad hoc committees)**

- Review of large new development projects
- The City Unified Development Ordinance (Zoning Ordinance) update
- Involvement with other advisory bodies
- Maintaining and restoring greenspace within the City
- Outreach/environmental education
- Climate change/greenhouse gases

## **Reports, Brochures and Other Products**

- Report on urban sprawl and how to manage it
- Report on effects of local parks on property values
- Brochure on green building
- Guidance recommendations for developments
- Environmental review guidance for karst terrain
- Brochure on native plants
- Updated BEQI (Bloomington Environmental Quality Indicators) report
- Updated greenspace report
- Brochure on natural landscaping
- Cost of Growth Report
- Greenhouse gas reduction report
- Lawns for Life brochure (distributed at Farmers Market)

## **Major Development Projects Reviewed**

- Gateway Industrial Park proposal on SR 37 North
- Canterbury development north of Basswood (Basswood Drive extension into North Twin Lake forest)
- Proposed new MCCSC school building on a planned extension of Adams Street
- Warehouse project off Rogers Street
- Goat Farm development (Church of the Good Shepard)
- College Mall Road reconstruction (erosion/pollution of Jackson Creek)
- Woolery Mill redevelopment (2002)
- Daisy Garton Farm development; and Pedigo Bay development (large fines for erosion control non-compliance)
- Shadow Creek development off Moore's Pike (20 acres with forest)
- Burchfield development off Tapp Road
- Southern Indiana Medical Park (SIMP II) reappeared with new design (EC disagrees with Plan Commission)



## Major Development Projects Reviewed (continued)

- Renwick development off Hillside Drive
- Copper Beech and Forest Ridge; more developments north of Twin Lake (many environmental issues) (2004)
- Ridgefield development on North Kinser Pike
- Century Village expansion
- Advanced Auto development on West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (large sinkhole); concurrent with 3<sup>rd</sup> Street widening
- Multifamily housing project on South Adams Street
- Housing and Neighborhood Development project off Rockport Road; many green building features
- The Deckard Subdivision project
- Gentry Estates
- Ivy Chase off Walnut Street Pike (forest and karst)
- New Fairview School
- Howard Young property and Deckard (YFD) site along Jackson Creek; including a proposed bridge
- Rogers Building Supply site redevelopment (Patterson Point)
- Meadowwood/Jill's House development
- Monroe Hospital

## Other EC Activities

- Created an updated Greenspace Report (2000)
- Researched golf course best management practices (BMPs)
- Developed an EC web page
- Partnered with City of Bloomington Utilities (CBU) on a storm drain marking project
- Participated on the City's steering committees for Greenways and the GPP update
- Hosted a presentation by the Monroe County Solid Waste District (MCSWD)
- Reviewed and made recommendations for the GPP update
- Advocated for a City greenspace acquisition project
- Created a cost/benefit analysis for the City's recycling program
- Sponsored a City presentation by the Center for Advancement of a Steady State Economy (CASSE)
- Requested a City moratorium on new developments until the Zoning Ordinance (UDO) update was approved
- Promoted City code modification to allow naturalization of residential yard
- Promoted including sensitive areas in new developments in a conservation easement with no overlap of lot lines

## **Other EC Activities (continued)**

- Met with the Planning Department to discuss environmental standards for the updated UDO
- Completed a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and reduction plan with the City
- Promoted a 'complete streets' policy that was eventually; passed by the City Council
- Expressed concern that expanding the water treatment plant would facilitate sprawl
- Conducted a native plant giveaway at Farmers Market
- Submitted recommendations for a process to amend the UDO
- Issued a position statement supporting the CASSE steady state economy policy
- Issued a position statement on deer management in the City
- Discovered that the EC is the City's oldest commission
- Conducted a successful green building tour

## **Major Activities in the City or County with Impacts on Environmental Issues**

- Tom Micuda, former environmental planner, was appointed director of the Planning Department
- The City Council debated an "adequate public facilities" ordinance (developers pay for new infrastructure)
- The Parks and Recreation Department constructed parts of the Jackson Creek Trail, B-line and Cascades Trails
- The City completed a Greenways Plan
- The City reconstructed Miller Showers Park as a storm water treatment facility.
- The Parks and Recreation Department installed a stream naturalization project in Bryan Park.
- Environmental Planner Josh Campbell produced a City of Bloomington Environmental Resource Inventory (COBERI), which is GIS-based, then departed for a new job
- Linda Thompson was hired by the Planning Department for the Environmental Planner position
- The City increased its greenspace fund to \$120,000/year
- Lake Griffy was drawn down for Brazilian elodea control
- A developer bulldozed part of Jackson Creek at Sare Road without permits; State and City enforcement ensued
- Members of the City Council initiated a peak oil study for Bloomington



## Major Activities in the City or County with Impacts on Environmental Issues (continued)

- EPA installed a water treatment facility at Illinois Central Spring for PCB drainage from Lemon Lane Landfill
- Rick Alexander of City Engineering provided the EC with monthly updates of development inspections, notices of violation and penalties assessed
- The City began preparing for the emerald ash borer; first sighting in Monroe County in 2006
- Indianapolis proposed to construct a water supply pipeline from Lake Monroe.
- The amended UDO was approved, effective 2007
- The Plan Commission approved the SIMP II development with extended road easement; denied by the Council
- The City hosted a series of home energy forums with the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)
- The City updated its Thoroughfare Plan
- The Utility Service Board (USB) initiated an expansion of the water treatment plant
- CBU proposed a water conservation plan for the City
- The City changed the UDO minimum parking limits for commercial developments to maximum limits
- The Parks Department began to consider lethal deer control at Griffy Lake; a City task force was created
- The County landfill initiated a methane recapture program
- The first electric car charging station was installed downtown
- The City hired a Sustainability Director
- The City Council created a Bhopal Day to inventory toxic sites in Bloomington, and requested an EC report
- The City Council issued Peak Oil recommendations for the City.
- The City refused to include I-69 in its Transportation Improvement Plan; INDOT withheld highway funds

## The 2010s

The trend of smaller, more urban new developments continued, as did the trend for more an environmentally conscious City Council and Plan Commission. Because of the urban nature of most developments, EC memos to the Plan Commission often consisted of standard language about green building techniques, energy savings and landscaping.

In most of 2020 and again in late summer, 2021, the Covid epidemic forced the EC to conduct all meetings virtually by Zoom (broadcast on CATS). This limitation reduced meeting lengths and the scope of what could be accomplished. All indoor activities involving face-to-face meetings had to be cancelled or temporarily postponed. Several new members joined the EC during this period, and some left again without having attended a face-to-face meeting. Despite this obstacle, the EC continued to work on outreach activities, produce reports and review development petitions.

## New Commissioners Appointed During the Decade

(\* indicates commissioners who served lengthy terms on the EC ( typically 8-10 years or more; Commissioners who served in multiple decades are shown in each).

Carrie Albright  
Matt Caldie  
David Debikey  
Don Eggert  
Sean Gorman  
Ramsey Harik  
Lindsey Hummel  
Nick Kappas  
Rob McCrae  
Zoe Need  
David Parkhurst  
Scott Shackelford  
Morgan Taylor  
Wendy Wertz  
Kristina Wiltsee

Sam Armstrong  
Andrew Carty  
Meredeth Dickerson  
Chris Ericson  
Dani Graf  
Diane Henschel  
Chaim Julian  
Andy Marrs  
Carissa Moncavage  
Chris Neggers  
Cory Ray  
Louise Sharrow  
Erica Walker  
Dedaimia Whitney

Mathias Benko  
Norman Crampton  
Meredith Dowling  
Suzanna Evans Comfort  
Andrew Gunther  
Shelby Hoshaw  
Dian Jung  
Dianne May  
Deborah Myerson  
Daniel Olson  
Chad Roeder  
Beth Smith  
Andrea Webster  
Andy Williams



## **Top Priorities (usually assigned to ad hoc committees)**

- Outreach and education
- Low impact and green development
- Climate change impacts and mitigation measures
- Habitat connectivity within the City
- Review of new development projects

## **Reports, Brochures and Other Products**

- A database of conditions of approval for new developments
- Greenhouse gas tracking report
- Toxics inventory database for City's Bhopal Day
- Lasagna gardening brochure
- Mason bee house brochure
- Updated BEQI report
- Updated EC handbook
- A historical summary of the PCB sites and cleanup efforts
- Recycling information brochure
- Brochure on EC history and duties
- PCB bookmark
- GIS based Habitat Connectivity Plan (2017, Chris Neggers), using the COBERI report, to link core habitat areas
- Bloomington Environmental Action Plan (BEAP)

## **Major Development Projects Reviewed**

- Sare Road roundabout
- Site on Rockport Road (6.5 acres of quarry land; forest, sinkholes, steep slopes)
- Hoosier Heights (former creosote superfund site)
- SR 46 bypass widening
- Bloomington Dandelion Village (communal living) on West 8<sup>th</sup> Street (2012) (project not built)
- Thomson property PUD
- Warehouse Community Center (floodplain wetland)
- Fullerton Pike corridor study
- Several new multifamily housing developments for students near downtown
- Old National Bank redevelopment plan, with multiple buildings
- A medical office on Moore's Pike behind the theaters (wooded site) (project not built)
- Habitat for Humanity project off Diamond Street near B-line Trail (wooded, possible hazwaste)

## Major Development Projects Reviewed (continued)

- Chandler's Glen development between West 17<sup>th</sup> Street and I-69 (partially wooded, 2015)
- Sudbury Farm Parcel O development (the plan avoided environmentally sensitive areas)
- Bill Brown property development on Fullerton Pike at I-69
- The new hospital site at the IU golf course (2016)
- Mother Bear's new restaurant at West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Cory Lane (petition withdrawn)
- North Crescent Road development (EC recommended denial)
- Public Investment Corporation development proposal on property north of Tapp Road (woods, karst)
- Culver's Restaurant on West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (EC recommended denial due to excessive environmental variances)
- Tri-north Middle School building replacement
- Catalent expansion (riparian buffer variance)
- Trinitas development at 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Arlington Road
- Demolition of large warehouse off Rogers Street, to be replaced by mixed housing
- Comcast building replacement and expansion
- McDoel Business Park

## Other EC Activities

- Recommended that the City replace all invasive plants on City property with native plants
- Partnered on project to reduce school cafeteria waste and use of Styrofoam containers
- Provided another native plant giveaway at Farmers Market
- Manned a table at Farmers Market for lawns for Life brochures
- Conducted a PCB tour on Earth Day (2011)
- Initiated the Eco-Heroes award program (school kids environmental artwork) (2012); becomes an annual event
- Participated on the GPP update steering committee
- Reviewed and commented on the draft EIS for I-69 Section 4
- Received strong concerns from multiple citizens about alleged undiscovered PCB sites and incomplete cleanup
- Sent letter to the CDC about updated PCB testing of citizens
- Received a presentation on Bloomington Food Policy Council
- Coordinated on Parks and Recreation Department use of pesticides
- Received a presentation on deer population growth and damage



## **Other EC Activities (continued)**

- Partnered with Bloomington High School North on developing a monarch butterfly educational display
- Participated in the development of an updated City Master Plan (formerly GPP); recommendations included a stream classification and inventory system
- Developed a strategy for state installing gray water systems; unsuccessful in getting State approval
- Assisted the City with planning for development of the Goat Farm nature park
- Assisted with developing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge for Bloomington
- Participated on the UDO update steering committee; submitted many recommendations to the City Council
- Submitted monthly guest editorials on environmental issues to the H-T
- Issued an environmental justice statement
- Planning for the EC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021
- Developed a strategy for public outreach and assistance implementing the Habitat Connectivity Plan (2021)

## **Major Activities in the City or County with Impacts on Environmental Issues**

- Jacqui Bauer was the first person selected to fill the City Sustainability Coordinator position
- The Hoosier to Hoosier sale began (keeping abandoned furniture out of the waste stream)
- The FEMA floodplain maps for the City were updated
- The Deer Task Force meetings started
- The City initiated a proposal for a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)
- The City began another GPP update, to be called the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP)
- The PCB cleanup at the former Westinghouse site was completed (2011)
- Lake Griffy was drawn down for dam repair, then refilled and stocked with fish
- The City constructed a new Cascades Park trail extension to Lake Griffy
- The City (CBU) instituted emergency water restrictions during a near-drought
- The City began a program to control the emerald ash borer
- The City Council unanimously passed the Deer Task Force's report
- The County undertook a watershed project for Beanblossom Creek
- The first Bugfest took place at Hilltop Garden
- The City initiated an adopt-a-stream program
- The City expressed concerns about Vectren and Duke Energy's policies of street tree removal on easements

## Major Activities in the City or County with Impacts on Environmental Issues (continued)

- The City dredged sediment from Lake Griffy
- Bloomington was named a “bicycle-friendly community”
- A new group called Bring Your Bag Bloomington was formed to advocate for banning plastic bags
- The first deer cull was implemented at Lake Griffy
- The county’s Anderson Road landfill and the construction/demolition landfills were closed
- Weimer Lake was classified as impaired with a leaking dam, which was eventually removed
- Beavers were trapped in Miller-Showers Park and transferred to Leonard Springs Park
- John Hamilton was elected Mayor; a new Planning Department director was appointed (2016)
- The City water treatment plant had a problem with excessive levels of disinfectant byproducts; linked to organic material in Lake Monroe water
- CBU began monitoring homes with lead plumbing
- The CMP was completed, including recommendations from the EC’s BEAP.
- The City developed a Sustainability Action Plan
- Green Camino began a residential composting service
- A local group began actively promoting a carbon fee and dividend bill in Congress.
- Indiana banned 44 species of invasive plants
- A landowner deforested a tract of land on a peninsula in Lake Monroe, and was sued (state law prohibited county regulation of logging)
- Lake Monroe and Lake Griffy experienced blue-green algae problems.
- As part of the new UDO, the City promoted allowing duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes in neighborhoods
- There was a lot of local opposition to the Hoosier National Forest Houston South logging/burning proposal
- The City closed the road through Cascades Park
- Contaminated water was found in Leonard Springs Park, apparently from Shirley Spring

# The 2020s

Draft Text

## New Commissioners Appointed During the Decade

(\* indicates commissioners who served lengthy terms on the EC ( typically 8-10 years or more; Commissioners who served in multiple decades are shown in each).



## Closing

The EC has evolved through the years, and priorities have changed, often in response to changing local conditions and occurrences. It has generally maintained a high level of integrity and has used the best available science in its decisions. There is no indication that the EC will be of any less value to the City in the future.

It should be mentioned that, in addition to many devoted commissioners, the EC has been very fortunate through the years to consistently have had very competent and hard-working interns and SPEA fellows, who did the lion's share of research for the many reports and brochures that the EC produced. We are also appreciative of the many ways in which, in the latter decades, other City agencies and commissions partnered with the EC on environmental projects.





Rachael Johnson &lt;rachael.johnson@bloomington.in.gov&gt;

## We Are Guardians (2025) and Ocean (2025) With David Attenborough at the BCT Promotions

1 message

Danny Gutierrez <marketing@buskirkchumley.org>  
To: BCT Marketing <marketing@buskirkchumley.org>  
Bcc: environment@bloomington.in.gov

Wed, Jun 11, 2025 at 1:06 PM

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well! My name is Danny and I am a Marketing Associate at the Buskirk Chumley Theater! I was wondering if you would be interested in helping us promote 2 of our upcoming films, [We Are Guardians \(2025\)](#) and [Ocean \(2025\) with David Attenborough](#) to your social media and/or email audience(s)? We'd love your help sharing these events to your followers.

If so, that would be amazing! I'll attach files for 8.5x11 fliers, and 1080x1080 photos that can be used for social media, email, etc.

Let me know if this is something you'd be able to help us out with, any help at all is greatly appreciated! If you have any questions or need more info/assets please reach out, thank you!!

**We Are Guardians (2025) link:**

<https://buskirkchumley.org/events/we-are-guardians-2025-july-13-2025/#buy>

**We Are Guardians (2025) trailer:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NrD7ytwN\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NrD7ytwN_Y)


**Ocean (2025) with David Attenborough link:**

<https://buskirkchumley.org/events/ocean-2025-with-david-attenborough-july-24-2025/#buy>

**Ocean (2025) with David Attenborough trailer:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIZAdCtKT\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIZAdCtKT_g)

**Social Media/email captions (feel free to edit!)**


We Are Guardians

 *We Are Guardians* — an award-winning documentary about the fight to save the Amazon — screens at the **Buskirk-Chumley Theater** on **July 13 at 7 PM**.

A powerful story of hope, resistance, and the human cost of environmental crisis.

 Tickets at [buskirkchumley.org](https://buskirkchumley.org)

#WeAreGuardians #DocumentaryFilm #BloomingtonEvents #EnvironmentalJustice #BCTTheater

 *Ocean with David Attenborough* — an awe-inspiring dive into the beauty, urgency, and hope of our planet's oceans — screens at the **Buskirk-Chumley Theater** on **July 24 at 7 PM**.

This special theatrical version includes **12 minutes of exclusive footage** not shown anywhere else.

 Tickets at [buskirkchumley.org](https://buskirkchumley.org)

#DavidAttenborough #OceanFilm #BloomingtonEvents #BCTTheater #PlanetEarth #EnvironmentalFilm

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out,  
Thank you!!

**Danny Gutierrez**

Marketing Associate ♦ Buskirk-Chumley Theater  
812-323-3022 ♦ [marketing@buskirkchumley.org](mailto:marketing@buskirkchumley.org)



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**6 attachments**

**072425 Ocean 1080x1920.png**  
1455K



**071325 We Are Guardians 1080x1080.png**  
865K



**072425 Ocean 1080x1080.png**  
1276K



**071325 We Are Guardians 1080x1920.png**  
2047K



**071325 We Are Guardians Flyer.png**  
2306K



**072425 Ocean Flyer.png**  
2169K





# WANTED: CITIZEN SCIENTISTS



National Weather Service Seeks CoCoRaHS Observers!

## What is CoCoRaHS?

CoCoRaHS, or the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow network, is a grassroots network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation.

- CoCoRaHS data is used by the National Weather Service, state climatologists, emergency managers, civil engineers, researchers, and more!
- Ground truth observations inform meteorologists and hydrologists, **leading to better forecasts!**
- Collecting daily weather data is a great activity for kids and curious adults, and only takes 5 minutes!



*Image courtesy Dave Johnson, MN-SL-18*

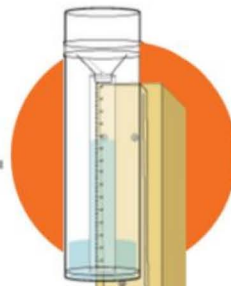
### It Takes 4 Easy Steps To Get Started



Register Online:  
[www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org)



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Purchase a Rain  
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Join today! [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org)



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service