



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>

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*

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.