



**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation  
Regular Meeting

**Olcott Park Young Pavilion**  
**Wednesday, April 9, 2025**  
**4:30 - 6:00 p.m.**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER at 4:40 p.m.**

**II. ROLL CALL –**

Anne Crecelius, Marne Potter, Adam Fudickar, Denise Gardiner, Dave Parkhurst  
Staff: Heidi Shoemaker, Rebecca Swift, Joanna Sparks, Ella Thompson, Lucas Redmond, Emerson Wells, Brandon Olson, Erica Nadolski, Courtney Haverbusch

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 2025**

**IV. AGENDA**

**A. Appearances**

A-1 Public Comment Period  
No Public Comment.

**B. Old Business**

**B-1 Bird Town Support**

The Bird Town letter of support will be drafted by ERAC members that are also members of the Sycamore Audubon Society. This letter will be sent to Heidi Shoemaker and presented to the Park Board when it is finished. Shoemaker will put the letter on official letter head to be sent with the application.

**B-2 2024 Deer Browse Results**

From Shelton's suggestion from the last meeting, Shoemaker reached out to George Parker at Purdue and is waiting to hear back about the use of pellet counts or if there is any additional information that should be collected from the deer hunts at Griffy Lake. Swift added the hunts

will continue in 2025 on November 15-16 and November 22-23 and will continue to avoid Thanksgiving weekend.

#### B-3 Aquatic Vegetative Management LARE Grant

Shoemaker shared the LARE (Land and River Enhancement) Grant had been awarded to Bloomington Parks and Recreation. The City was awarded \$5000.00 towards the treatment on Eurasian milfoil in Griffy Lake and an additional \$1,440.00 to continue the aquatic vegetation survey. The City is responsible for covering at least 20% of the total costs of these services. The City has contracted with Aquatic Control again who will begin treatment after receiving Park Board approval. Swift celebrated that we have seen the quantity of herbicide needed each year go down showing that we are making progress in the battle with invasive plants.

#### B-4 Griffy Interpretive Sign

Shoemaker opened the floor for feedback on the sign prototype that was sent around after the last meeting. Parkhurst did mention there were some typos. Shoemaker will send the prototype to the Parks Department's Graphic Designer to work on the final draft. Swift added that additional signs may be created for Wapehani Mountain Bike Park after the signs for Griffy Lake are finished. Signs may inform the public about the lake bed that remains on the property or the indigenous history of the name.

#### B-5 OuterSpatial Bird Tour

Shoemaker shared screenshots of the OuterSpatial bird tour for RCA Park. She addressed that the Council had concerns about there being too much information to read on a small phone screen during the meeting and that Ops Fellow Abby Garcia did a good job of pairing down the information into a much more user-friendly amount. During the tour, there is a photo of a bird species with three or four sentences about each species. Shoemaker invited the Council to look over the tour as it can be edited and updated easily if they see things they would like to have added or changed. The Parks Department is also working on a tree tour for Bryan Park. The end goal is to have one walking tour per park.

## C. New Business

### C-1 Griffy Insect Study

Brandon Olson presented the final report of the insect study he and his team conducted at Griffy Lake. The team used different sampling techniques to record insects they saw, and utilized photos submitted by citizen scientists through iNaturalist. iNaturalist provided about 1,000 observations with around 300 separate species. The final report has 481 species.

For some insects, they identified them only to the genus. Olson shared there are hundreds of species of caddisflies in Indiana, but they all share the same ecological role. For this study, it was more important to know that caddisflies were at Griffy Lake fulfilling the ecological niche and less important that we knew which exact species were present.

Olson stated his team was able to identify three species that are species of concern for our area. The American bumble bee is not endangered, but its population has seen declines over the last decade. It is far less common in the northern part of its range than it used to be, so knowing it is here in Bloomington and Indiana is impactful. The Hercules beetle could be a trophy species for Griffy Lake. They are big and unique and the public may get excited to know they are here. These beetles are listed as rare in our state and are experiencing decline. The third species of concern is the dusty azure, a small blue butterfly that resembles a moth. The report includes management suggestions to boost the host plants needed for these species to thrive.

Olson noted the team did not find invasive spotted lantern flies, but added that they will likely be here soon. It was also noted that all of the collection took place in June, July, and August and a little bit in September and that they may find different species in April and May.

There are also now iNaturalist projects open in every city park.

## **C-2 Education Update**

Sparks shared Weed Wrangles have had some incompatible weather this spring and promoted the upcoming wildflower walk at Winslow Woods. Thompson and Redmond shared they have done some educational presentations for some youth groups. Shoemaker noted that the Leonard Springs Nature Days have all wrapped up and there are two Griffy Lake Nature Days to go. She also shared that the Griffy Lake Boathouse was flooded and could not open its first weekend in April. She promoted the upcoming Earth Day Festival, the Earth Week Creek Cleanup, a Frog Songs program, and a DIY Bird Feeders program. After School Nature Club is back and in its third week and naturalists at the Farmer's Market starts on Saturday. The Council was told to look out for additional information about Bug Fest that will take place September 13 from 10am-2pm at Karst Farm Park.

## **C-3 Project Updates**

Swift updated the group that the Gateway project is officially done and the plants are coming back up at the project. Swift also invited the Council to the Hopewell ribbon cutting taking place on April 23. There may be a few items to finish up at the park after the ribbon cutting. Construction is set to begin by the end of April at Building Trades as long as all of the permits come in. Reed and Sons will be contracted for phase 1 which focuses on accessibility. Swift did mention that two trees, one of which was already compromised, would be lost in this project. Every effort was made to protect the trees in the park, but with approval from the tree commission and the urban forester, it was decided that two trees needed to be removed. Limestone blocks are part of the site plan as a nod to the park's history of being a limestone quarry. There will also be some skateboard features. The Powerline Trail plans are 99% complete.

## **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, June 11, 2025**

**Lower Cascades, Sycamore Shelter**

