



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](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 | 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 May 2025 minutes*

| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Abstain</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 | | | |

4. Public comment

Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

None.

5. New Business

a. Downtown Gardens (Carrie Albright)

A local garden designer is getting feedback on planting a native garden on city property on the corner of 4th & Washington. Some questions that came up:

- i. Will there be trees? Likely only the single existing tree
- ii. How much maintenance? Very little after the first year.
- iii. What plants will be included?
- iv. Will this attract deer?
- v. What will happen if the plants don't thrive?
- vi. Will there be a bench?
- vii. Would it be preferable to plant a tree for shade?
- viii. Nearby residents use the spot to relieve their dogs. Is this being considered?
- ix. Has the church next door been contacted?

The commission is generally supportive of the idea.

6. Old Business

a. Working group updates

x. Light Pollution

The group met and discussed short and long term goals. They will reach out to city and campus officials to discuss light fixtures and potential improvements.

xi. Biodiversity

1. Bee City USA & Bee City Campus

Matt will meet with council-member Piedmont-Smith soon.

2. Habitat Connectivity

a. [Link](#)

b. Website Update

The EC's website needs updated with a link to the new map. Matt believes the text on the site should be updated. The group discussed changes to the website. Outreach will be discussed in the July meeting.

xii. Water Quality

No updates.

xiii. Special Projects

No updates.

b. Annual Report

Carrie recapped the annual report given to council. Dave Rollo asked about the status of the Environmental Commission Planning Committee (ECPC). It has been fairly inactive in recent years. Matt suggested it only focus on large or uniquely impactful projects. We may request Rollo join us in a future meeting.

7. Staff Update

a. Documents Update

a. Draft Working Group Descriptions

b. Draft Environmental Commission History

Rachael showed drafts. Working groups should update their language.

b. Climate Resilience Map

a. <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ee4f5219227f4863aac1b9d368f8bc09/page/Map>

The city has released a map that includes some data gather by EC members. Carrie suggested grouping city materials together to make outreach easier.

c. Buskirk Chumley Films

The group is willing to share on social media.

d. National Weather Service Citizen Science

The NWS is searching for volunteers to gather data on rain, hail, and snow.

8. Reports from:

- a. Tree Commission (TC)
No EC members attended.
- b. Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC)
Nothing of note.
- c. Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM)
No EC members attended.
- d. Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)
Matt watched the recording of the meeting. It was mostly discussion about procedure.
- e. Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)
Rachael attended. They have applications on their website for replacement and removal programs. Dave Rollo talked about landscaping requirements for Bloomington and city planters which have non-native plants.
Spotted lanternfly have been spotted in Bartholomew County.

9. Commissioner announcements

Mitchell: Bugfest will be on Sep 13th. Matt will reach out to Megan about obtaining bug specimens.

IDEM is looking for public input for ways to improve “efficiency.”

efficiency@in.idem.gov

Carrie: How is our budget situation? Matt says we have not used any of our budget for the year. Some will be used for Bee City.

Carrie also suggested we strive for more learning opportunities, whether it be from commissioners or someone outside the EC.

Adam F. and Nadia may be interested.

10. Upcoming Meeting

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

11. Adjournment

7:44

** 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 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.