



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

September 18, 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.

Environmental Commission Members

Carrie Albright, Chair
Appointed by Mayor
Term: February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2026

Heidi Brown
Appointed by Mayor
Term: February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027

Nadia Cain
Appointed by Common Council
Term: February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2026

Matt Caldie, Vice Chair & Treasurer
Appointed by Mayor
Term: February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027

Kasie Chappell
Appointed by Common Council
Term: February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027

Norman Crampton
Appointed by Mayor
Term: February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027

Adam Fudickar
Appointed by Common Council
Term: February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027

Shannon Gayk
Appointed by Common Council
Term: February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2026

Adam Martinez, Secretary
Appointed by Common Council
Term: February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027

Mitchell Owens
Appointed by Common Council
Term: February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2026

David Parkhurst
Appointed by Mayor
Term: February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2026

Vacancies: 1

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation:

2. Introductions and Roll Call

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
Carrie Albright			
Heidi Brown			
Nadia Cain			
Matt Caldie			
Kasie Chappell			
Norman Crampton			
Adam Fudickar			
Shannon Gayk			
Adam Martinez			
Mitchell Owens			
David Parkhurst			
City Liaison			

3. Approval of August 21 2025 minutes*

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Carrie Albright			
Heidi Brown			
Nadia Cain			
Matt Caldie			
Kasie Chappell			
Norman Crampton			
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. How to Make Your Grass "Greener"
- b. Habitat Connectivity Plan - Draft

6. Old Business

- a. Working group updates
 - i. Water Quality

- ii. ECPC
 - iii. Light Pollution
 - iv. Biodiversity
 - 1. Mayor Monarch Pledge
 - 2. Bee City USA Resolution
 - v. Special Projects
- b. Presentation Schedule

7. Staff Update

- a. Seeds documentary – social media post

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)
- f. Clean Community Program

9. Commissioner announcements

10. Upcoming Meeting

- a. October 16, 2025, 6:00 pm, Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

11. Adjournment

** Item to be voted on*

The views expressed here are solely those of the Environmental Commission as approved in their public meetings, and do not necessarily reflect the views, policies, or positions of the City of Bloomington. Only the Office of the Mayor has the authority to issue policy statements on behalf of the Executive Branch of the City of Bloomington.

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.

The City offers virtual options, including CATS public access television (live and tape delayed) found at <https://catstv.net/>. Working group meetings may be found at <https://bton.in/ECWGreco>.



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

August 21, 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.

Environmental Commission Members

Carrie Albright, Chair

Appointed by Mayor

Term: February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2026

Nadia Cain

Appointed by Common Council

Term: February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2026

Matt Caldie, Vice Chair & Treasurer

Appointed by Mayor

Term: February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027

Kasie Chappell

Appointed by Common Council

Term: February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027

Norman Crampton

Appointed by Mayor

Term: February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027

Adam Fudickar

Appointed by Common Council

Term: February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027

Shannon Gayk

Appointed by Common Council

Term: February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2026

Adam Martinez, Secretary

Appointed by Common Council

Term: February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027

Mitchell Owens

Appointed by Common Council

Term: February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2026

David Parkhurst

Appointed by Mayor

Term: February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2026

Vacancies: 2

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation: 6:01 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		
Norman Crampton	X		
Adam Fudickar		X	
Shannon Gayk	X		
Adam Martinez	X		
Mitchell Owens	X		
David Parkhurst	X		
Rachael Johnson, City Liaison	X		

3. Approval of June 2025 minutes*

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

4. Public comment

Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

5. Old Business

a. Bee City USA Resolution* (Biodiversity Working Group)

Joanna Sparks will be the city liaison for Bee City.

a. Confirm attendance for September 3, 2025 City Council meeting

Matt and Carrie will be attending with Carrie presenting.

Shannon showed the commission the slides that will be presented.

b. Downtown Gardens (Carrie Albright)

The commission went over the responses to questions posed at the previous meeting.

The city does not plan to undertake this project due to state-level changes to local government funding alongside the fact that the city is currently undergoing its own budgeting process.

Joanna Sparks mentioned that lack of resources for maintenance is a concern.

Native plants usually require less maintenance, but the difficult downtown environment may negate that benefit

Shannon suggesting planting a tree may be a better solution, but Joanna mentioned issues with utilities.

c. Working group updates

i. Light Pollution

Adam M. talked about a meeting with Christina Smith. Changes will likely have to go through the UDO or be discussed with Duke since they own most of the city's streetlights.

ii. Biodiversity

1. Habitat Connectivity Map outreach

The map is live and has a handful of pins. The next goal is to plan outreach.

2. Mayor Monarch Pledge

Bloomington used to be certified, but the pledge has lapsed. Matt thinks it is worth investigating the requirements and reapplying if the criteria aren't a heavy lift.

3. Bug Fest

Rachael will be unavailable that week. A few people have agreed to help table.

iii. Water Quality

No updates.

iv. Special Projects

No updates.

v. ECPC

Carrie and Rachael talked with planning about the possibility of reviving the ECPC. Planning would like a set schedule throughout the year to avoid since the Board of Zoning Appeals is on a strict schedule. The ECPC would only be involved in projects of significant environmental concern.

1. Designate committee members

Carrie, Matt, David, Adam M. and Mitchell showed interesting in joining.

2. Schedule meeting

The group will plan to meet on September 2nd.

6. New Business

a. Annual Goals & Budget (Carrie Albright)

Carrie mentioned commissioners or other individuals give a presentation on environmental issues. Nadia will ask Joe Caudell to give a talk about deer. Cassie and Nadia may give presentations on their research. Norman recommended looking into lawn mowing and the impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

Carrie suggested spending budget on a table cloth. Kasie recommended getting a presentation board that can be easily deployed for tabling events. The commission expressed interest in cooperating with the Monroe County Public Library and their seed library.

7. Staff Update

a. Hopewell Brownfields Update

Arsenic was detecting at the Hopewell site which is common in Indiana soil. Other contaminants were likely a product of the railroad formerly located on the property. Previously mentioned underground storage tanks are being handled in cooperation with IDEM.

b. September Meeting

David Hittle will be leading the September meeting.

c. Tree Assistance Program

<https://bloomington.in.gov/about/trees/assistance-program>

Parks and Recreation are launching a program to provide funding to residents with hazardous trees.

d. Monroe County Master Gardeners Association Fall Fling

<https://www.mcmga.net/fall-fling>

September 27th at Ivy Tech Community College

8. Reports from:

a. Tree Commission (TC)

No new or old business.

b. Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC)

No present EC members attended.

c. Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM)

No update.

d. Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)

BCOS has met twice since EC's last meeting. They have created a template for resolutions to send to the council which may be useful to the EC.

- e. Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)
 - a. Native Plant Sale: September 6, 2025, 9 am to 1 pm, Switchyard Park Maintenance Building, 1601 S. Rogers St.

The meeting was focused on the native plant sale.

- f. Clean Community

No meetings. Four projects are in the process of being approved. Six are required for silver. Mitchell mentioned that the city has likely already completed enough projects to qualify.

9. Commissioner announcements

Shannon mentioned some events commissioners may be interested in.

Mitchell mentioned that IDEM is updating the state's "material management plan." There will be a series of presentations on the changes.

Carrie mentioned Purdue is looking for participants for a study about household food waste.

10. Upcoming Meeting

- a. September 18, 2025, 6:00 pm, Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

11. Adjournment

7:44 PM

** Item to be voted on*

The views expressed here are solely those of the Environmental Commission as approved in their public meetings, and do not necessarily reflect the views, policies, or positions of the City of Bloomington. Only the Office of the Mayor has the authority to issue policy statements on behalf of the Executive Branch of the City of Bloomington.

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.

The City offers virtual options, including CATS public access television (live and tape delayed) found at <https://catstv.net/>. Working group meetings may be found at <https://bton.in/ECWGreco>.

How to Make Your Grass “Greener”

With an Easy Change of Routine

By the Bloomington Environmental Commission

Bloomington, Indiana, is known as pretty place for a bunch of reasons that residents recite with pleasure. And one favorite is our lawns, those charming green carpets surrounding our houses that we tend with pleasure (“Honey—don’t forget to cut the grass!”).

But we’re also responsible for the good, green, planet Earth. And that’s the point at which cranking up the mower has begun to raise some questions. Your gasoline-powered lawn mower (and your leaf blower) spew lots of Earth-warming, greenhouse gases.

According to scientists at Princeton University, running a lawn mower for an hour produces as much air pollution as driving a car 500 miles.

How do you change your lawn-mowing routine? A good first step may be to share your concerns by chatting with your neighbors, especially if you’re planning to mow less often (and risk neighbors’ complaints!). You may hear that they’re thinking the same way, and you can compare strategies.

Here’s what Princeton suggests:

1. First and best: cut how often you mow—go from once a week to once every two weeks, for example. This should improve the health of the lawn because taller grass improves moisture retention in the soil. (And you may be surprised to see your lawn looking just as nice on a two-week routine.)
2. Mow in the evening. “During the day, ozone forms more easily,” Princeton notes. “Mowing at evening gives these chemicals time to disappear overnight because they lack sunlight.”
3. Reduce your use of other landscaping tools that are gasoline-powered: hedge trimmers, weed whackers, chippers, shredders.

What about avoiding the greenhouse-gas problem by switching to electric-powered mowers and trimmers? Sure, shop around. You may find discounts as the growing season winds down in the fall.

But suppose you've hired a lawn-maintenance company to do all the cutting and trimming. And you've contracted for weekly service over a stated number of months at a fixed rate.

Our advice: talk it over with your contractor. See if you can find common ground by explaining that your objective is to reduce greenhouse gases. See if you can adjust your lawn-cutting routine, maybe keeping the service fee the same but covering a longer period. That'll help keep your contractor going and give him or her room for new customers and new services.

Our research finds that landscapers are responding to the reduced frequency of lawn-cutting by expanding services to include sustainable, low-maintenance, and high-value offerings, like...

Carrie... You've suggested inviting a landscaper to talk with us about how climate is changing the business. Shall I look for someone who could drop by for, say, half an hour at the next meeting, Sept. 18?



BLOOMINGTON HABITAT CONNECTIVITY MAP



The Habitat Connectivity Plan

was established to reduce habitat fragmentation and create high-quality corridors for plants, insects, and animals. Residents are encouraged to take the Habitat Pledge and commit to take actions that reduce habitat fragmentation.



Take the Habitat Pledge & add to the connectivity map!

Bloomington residents are invited to visit the Habitat Connectivity website where they can add details about what they're doing to bridge greenspaces across the city, making it easier for plants, insects, and animals to cultivate and reproduce, & thrive.



ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE



Remove invasive species



Install bird or bat houses

Plant a native tree species



Provide clean water for birds and insects

Plant native flowers



Use natural pest treatment over pesticides



Replace cultivated lawn with native understory



Create insect habitats

Ready to add how YOU are supporting biodiversity in Bloomington? Start here



GET MORE INFORMATION ON NATIVE HABITATS AT



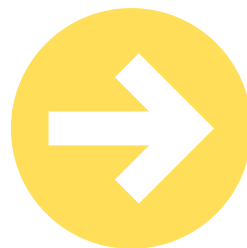
<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment/habitat-connectivity>

**VISIT THE
HABITAT CONNECTIVITY MAP
TO JOIN THE GROWING LIST OF
PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT NATURE
IN BLOOMINGTON**





**VISIT THE
HABITAT CONNECTIVITY MAP
TO JOIN THE GROWING LIST
OF PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT
NATURE IN BLOOMINGTON**



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



Rachael Johnson <rachael.johnson@bloomington.in.gov>

Sept. 27 at IU Cinema: SEEDS

Owens, Michaela Ann <owensmia@iu.edu>

Mon, Sep 8, 2025 at 4:50 PM

Hi!

I'm Michaela Owens, the communications and marketing contact for Indiana University Cinema. **I wanted to reach out and let your organization/department know about our upcoming screening of [Seeds on Sept. 27 at 7pm](#).**

With remarkable intimacy, *Seeds* documents the everyday lives of three Black generational farmers and underscores the urgency of their story: Black farmers owned 16 million acres of land in 1910 but today, that number has dwindled to a fraction. The farmers in the community struggle to access funding that white farmers nearby seem to secure with ease. Through these intergenerational stories, we see the cycles of inequity and embedded racism that persist to this present day, and the signs of hope and renewal with younger generations of farmers.

If you'd like to mention this event on your social media feeds and help us spread the word, we'd love for you to tag us! (Facebook, X, Instagram, Bluesky: @IUCinema)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. Thank you and we hope to see you there!

All the best,
Michaela

IMPORTANT: Indiana University is eliminating all email addresses with the "[indiana.edu](#)" domain. Please update my contact information to owensmia@iu.edu now. Thank you!

Michaela Owens (she/her/hers)
Programming and Audience Development Manager | **IU Cinema**
Film for All!
owensmia@iu.edu | [@iucinema](#)
[Establishing Shot: Cinema Critically Framed](#)

IU Cinema is committed to using cinema to create tangible material outcomes in the service of purposefully cultivating transformative educational, cultural, and community work that benefits all people. IU Cinema—film for all!