



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 REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

January 15, 2026, 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

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

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:
2. Introductions and Roll Call

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

3. Approval of December 18, 2025 minutes*

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

4. New Business

- a. Title 20 Unified Development Ordinance Housing Affordability Amendments & Environmental Amendments (Jamie Kreindler)

Jamie gave an overview of some proposed UDO changes, including an incentive for developments with a certain percentage of affordable units. It would update the allowed percentage of impervious lot coverage to 80% in some cases. The commissioners had a few questions that will be passed along to city staff.

- b. Handbook Update* (Rachael Johnson)

Rachael reminded the group of Bloomington's attendance requirements for commissioners and presented updated language for the EC's handbook to match.

5. Old Business

a. Commission Residency Requirement* (Carrie Albright)

Carrie recapped Matt Flaherty's statement from the December meeting about updating residency requirements for boards commissions. The group did not take a strong stance on the matter and decided to not hold a vote.

b. Tree Commission Seat* (David Parkhurst, Carrie Albright)

David has resigned from the Tree Commission. The Environmental Commission is hoping to have a member on the Tree Commission. No one expressed interest in joining.

c. Working group updates

i. Biodiversity

The group has not met since the previous EC meeting. The focus for the next meeting will likely be the Habitat Connectivity Plan.

ii. Eco-Heroes

Rachael printed fliers for commissioners to hand out. The meeting focused on reaching out to potential participants and donors. Rachael is working on a press release and the city is reviewing the group's materials. The website has been updated.

iii. ECPC

The group has not met since the previous EC meeting. The next scheduled meeting is Feb 5th at 11:30.

iv. Light Pollution

The group will meeting January 21st at 7:00 PM.

Rachael mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Department may be interested in lowering the light levels in city parks.

v. Outreach & Education

The group met and discussed organizing the EC's materials on the website. The "Natural Landscaping" page will be reorganized to hold more materials. Information may be categorized by working group. Each working group should consider collecting 3 resources to link to on the website.

Norm showed a potential flier about reducing the frequency of lawn mowing and asked for recommendations about design and distribution. Materials will have to be reviewed by the city.

vi. Special Projects

No updates.

vii. Water Quality

The group met and discussed education and outreach. Mitchell could help facilitate a tour of the new water treatment plant or storm-water infrastructure.

6. Public comment

Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

Karl mentioned that his neighborhood association and a few others may be interested in talking with the EC.

James shouted out the bsquarebulletin, a local news outlet. He also brought up that many multi-unit lots engage in excessive lawn maintenance. He asked Rachael about why “environmental justice” may not factor into government decisions. It is a state and federal rule.

7. Staff Update

a. Waste Reduction District of Monroe County 2026 Community Grants

There is a grant available via the Waste Reduction District of Monroe County that the EC could apply for.

b. 2026 Monroe County Master Gardener Garden Fair

The event will be on Saturday, April 11th. The EC has tabled at this event in the past and may be interested in doing so again. That week will also have Eco-Heroes voting, an EC meeting, and then the Earth Day event the following Saturday. A few members expressed interest in tabling.

8. Reports from:

a. Tree Commission (TC)

Many callery pears have been removed. Bloomington is seeking approval for Tree City USA. IU’s landscape architect plans to retire soon.

b. Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC)

The group has not met since the last EC meeting.

c. Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM)

No updates.

d. Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)

In December they have 2 new commissioners and discussed priorities for 2026. In January they received a presentation about transportation emissions. 3 members have resigned.

e. Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)

No EC members attended. The agenda referenced money available for removing certain invasive plants and distributing yard signs .

f. Clean Community Program

9. Commissioner announcements

David plans to retire from the EC after many years of service.

Matt reminded the group that officer elections will be held in the February meeting.

Carrie asked about a future presentation by the DNR.

10. Upcoming Meeting

- a. February 19, 2026, 6:00 pm, Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

11. Adjournment

7:55 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>.

Commission appointments may serve up to 90 days after a term has expired.