

**Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience  
Meeting Packet**

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

McCloskey Conference Room (Room 135), City Hall, 401 N Morton St, Bloomington, IN 47404

[This meeting may also be accessed by Zoom<sup>1</sup>](#)

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  - a. **Resolution Language for Second Reading**
  - b. **Amendment 1 with supporting memo**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84327085962?pwd=na18LVmKZSoinPUHbXuw3h7oqMyi5g.1>  
Meeting ID: 843-2708-5962, Passcode: 034238

# Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:00pm

McCloskey Conference Room (Room 135), City Hall, 401 N Morton St, Bloomington, IN 47404

[This meeting may also be accessed by Zoom<sup>1</sup>](#)

## Commission Members & Terms

Tara Dunderdale, appointed by Common Council, February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2027

Justin Vasel, appointed by Common Council, February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2027

Matt Austin (interim), appointed by Common Council, February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028

Christopher Miles, February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028

Zach Ammerman, February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028

Dave Rollo, appointed by Common Council on January 10, 2024

Quentin Gilly, appointed by IU Office of Sustainability on November 21, 2024

Alex Jorck, appointed by the Mayor, February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028

Maria Aarstad, appointed by the Mayor, February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028

Chenghuai Xu, appointed by the Mayor, February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2027

Diana Ogradowski, appointed by the Mayor, February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2027

Ross Carlson, appointed by Monroe County Commissioners on November 24, 2025

## Agenda

- 1. Call to Order** **6:00 PM**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. March 10, 2026
- 4. Public Comment** **6:05 PM**  
3 minutes per person
- 5. Commissioner Reports** **6:15 PM**
  - a. **Chair's Report**  
Justin Vasel
  - b. **Waste Management Working Group**  
Matt Austin
  - c. **Council Ex-Officio**  
Dave Rollo
- 6. Discussions Not the Subject of Resolution** **6:30 PM**
- 7. Resolutions for First Reading** **6:30 PM**
  - a. **Resolution 2026-05: Concerning Anticoagulant Rodenticides and Adhesive-Based Animal Traps and Their Impact on the Biodiversity Crisis**  
Presenter: Zach Ammerman
    - i. Action Item: Advancement of the resolution to second reading

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84327085962?pwd=nal8LVmKZSoInPUHbXuw3h7oqMyi5g.1>

Meeting ID: 843-2708-5962, Passcode: 034238

**b. Resolution 2026-06: Minimizing Light Pollution and Attaining Dark Sky Certification for Bloomington**

Presenter: Zach Ammerman

- i. Action Item: Advancement of the resolution to second reading

**8. Resolutions for Second Reading**

**6:35 PM**

**a. Resolution 2026-04: Against The Use of Glyphosate in Bloomington's Public Spaces and Environmental Practices**

Presenter: Matt Austin

Subject Matter Experts: Ellen Jacquart (President, MC-IRIS); Mary Welz (Natural Resources Manager, Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department)

- i. Action Item: Adoption of the resolution

**b. Resolution 2026-03: Concerning The Pedestrianization of Kirkwood Avenue and Sustainable Transportation**

Presenter: Zach Ammerman

- i. Action Item: Adoption of the resolution

**9. Staff Liaison Report**

**7:20 PM**

Shawn Miya

**10. Member Announcements**

**7:30 PM**

**11. New Business**

**7:30 PM**

**12. Adjournment**

**by 7:30 PM**

# Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

## Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2025 6:00pm

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

- 1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Vassel called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm
- 2. **Roll Call:**

### Members

Commissioner	Present	Virtual	Note
Tara Dunderdale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Justin Vassel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Matt Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Christopher Miles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Zach Ammerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dave Rollo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Quentin Gilly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Alex Jorck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Maria Aarsta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Chenghuai Xu	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Diana Ogrodowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ross Carlson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

### City Staff

# Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

Shawn Miya

Jolie Perry

## 3. Approval of Agenda

**ACTION:** Commissioner Carlson made a motion to move item 12A. Officer Elections to after item 6. Commissioner Reports. Commissioner Ogradowski seconded. No debate. Agenda passed by unanimous consent as amended.

### **ACTION:**

## 4. Approval of Minutes: Feb 10, 2026

**ACTION:** Commissioner Jorck moved to approve. Commissioner Austin seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

## 5. Public Comment

No public comment

## 6. Reports from Commissioners

### a. Chair's report

- i. Commission currently has 2 vacancies.
- ii. Welcoming new mayoral appointee Commissioner Maria Aarsted.
- iii. Commissioner Xu will be move out of Bloomington but hopes to do one more sustainability forum before departing at the end of April
- iv. Retreat planning is still underway. For future planning holding it after March elections aligns well with out organizational calendar.

## **Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience**

- v. **2025 annual report is in progress.**
  - vi. **The capstone project will be presented in Council Chambers Tuesday April 28, 2026.**
  - vii. **Congratulations to the city for the A list rating from CDP.**
  - viii. **City Council passed the renaming of the commission. The move included some changes to code the govern BCORS.**
  - ix. **The waste reduction District Compost and Rainbarrel sale is going on now.**
  - x. **BCOSR will have presence at Earth Day. COMmissioner Dunderdale will work with city staff to get materials.**
- b. Waste Management Working Group**
- i. **No report**
- c. Council Ex-Officio Report from Councilmember Rollo**
- i. **Hopewell development has a second discussion scheduled for March 25**
  - ii. **Deliberative session is Feb 11 to discuss budget priorities for council. They are discussing a lot of items relevant to BCOSR mission.**
  - iii. **Council is understaffed right now so BCOSR drafting legislation on chicken flock size amendment would improve chance of it being considered.**

### **12. New Business**

# **Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience**

**A. Officer Elections - commission decided via consensus to use a position by position approach to elections.**

**a. Chair**

**i. Commissioner Dunderdale nominates Chairperson Vassel, Councilmember Rollo seconded. Chairperson Vassel accepts the nomination. No other nominations.**

**ii. Commissioner Dunderdale ran the rolcalls. Chairperson Vassel elected chair via unanimous rollcall vote 11-0-0**

**b. Vice-Chair**

**i. Commissioner Carlson nominates Commissioner Ammerman. Commissioner Dunderdale seconds. Commissioner Ammerman accepts. No other nominations. Commissioner Ammerman elected Vice-Chair by unanimous roll call vote 11-0-0.**

**c. Secretary**

**i. Commissioner Austin nominates Commissioner Dunderdale. Commissioner Ammerman seconds. Commissioner Dunderdale accepts. No other nominations. Commissioner Dunderdale elected Secretary by unanimous rollcall vote 11-0-0.**

**d. Treasurer**

**i. Chairperson Vassel nominates Commissioner Miles. Commissioner Austin seconds. Commissioner Miles**

# **Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience**

**accepts. No other nominations. Commissioner Miles elected Treasurer by unanimous roll call vote 11-0-0.**

## **7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions**

- a. Presenter: Justin Vassel**
- b. i. Action Item: Approval is requested for a redesign of the Commission word logo to reflect the new name. Discussed what new masthead to use given name change for the commission. Preferred option voted on by unanimous voice vote. No dissent or abstention.**

## **8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion**

- a. Resolution 2026-02: Concerning Automated License Plate Reader Surveillance Technology and Its Implications for Social Sustainability, Community Resilience, and The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**  
**Presenter: Justin Vassel**  
**Action Item: Adoption of the resolution**  
**Motion to adopt: Chairperson Vassel moved to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Ammerman seconds.**  
**Discussion: Chairperson Vassel moved to amend the resolution as changes that appear in the meeting packet. Commissioner Ogradowski seconds.**

**Discussion of amendment: commissioner Dunderdale agrees the amendment makes good changes to the resolution.**

# **Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience**

**Vote on amendment - amendment passes with unanimous roll call vote 11-0-0.**

**Discussion: conversation among commissioners about the environmental impact of the data resources utilized by Flock and other similar companies. Commissioners discussed planning for a subsequent resolution about the environmental impact of data centers and utilizing technologies that rely on them.**

**Amendment: Chairperson Vassel moves to amend section 5, striking the word and and adding to the list of recipients of the resolution: IU Parking operations, IU Board of Trustees, IU President, Monroe County COmmissioners, Monroe County Council, and Monroe County Sherrif. Commissioner Ammerman Seconds. Amendment passed by unanimous roll call vote.11-0-0.**

**Discussion: discussion of making reference to specific materials in the research packet. No amendment brought forward but Commission will ensure research packet is included in the public meeting materials.**

**Vote to adopt as amended: Resolution passes with a unanimous rollcall vote 11-0-0.**

## **9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion**

### **A. Resolution 2026-03: Concerning The Pedestrianization of Kirkwood Avenue and Sustainable Transportation**

**Presenter: Zach Ammerman**

## **Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience**

### **i. Action Item: Advancement of the resolution to second reading**

**Chairperson Vassel read aloud an email from city staff Jane Cooper-Smith informing the commission that the city is invested in pedestrianization and is planning an RFP.**

**Commissioner Ammerman moves to advance to second reading,**

**Commissioner Jorck seconds.**

**Discussion: Context of resolution shared from Commissioner Ammerman, Questions from commissioner Dunderdale about accessibility concerns of closure and accessing public buildings like the library. Councilmember Rollo discussed that this is a source of on-going dispute but is difficult for council to address without sufficient staff. Resolution advanced to a second reading by unanimous roll call vote 11-0-0.**

### **B. Resolution 2026-04: Against The Use of Glyphosate in Bloomington's Public Spaces and Environmental Practices**

**Presenter: Matt Austin**

**Action Item: Advancement of the resolution to second reading**

**Commissioner Miles moves to move to second reading, commissioners Ogradowski and Gilly second.**

**Discussion of current city practices, volume of use, and use in treating invasive species. Advances to second reading by unanimous roll call vote- 11-0-0.**

## **10. Report from Staff Liaison**

## **Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience**

- a. Project 46 applying for a green infrastructure grant. City hall LED lighting upgrades are complete.**

### **11. Member Announcements**

- a. Garden Quest is bringing back Bokashi workshop**
- b. Bloomington Energy works canvassing will be March 28th**
- c. There is an sustainability aligned art installation at Eshkanzi**
- d. Canopy bloomington has tree planting events coming up.**

- 13. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm. Next Meeting is April 7, 2026.**

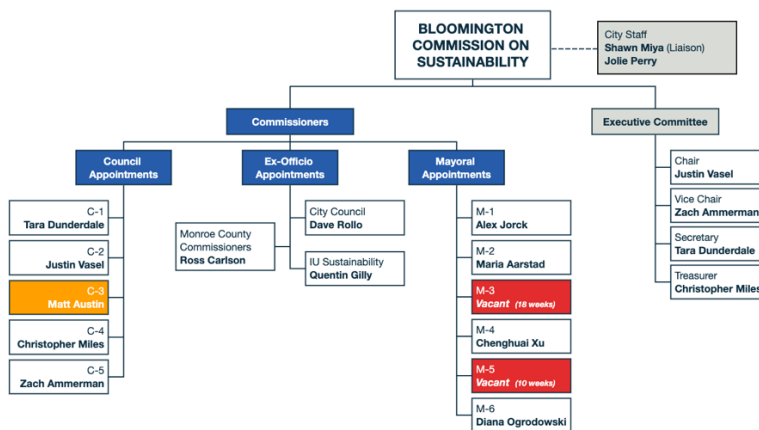
# BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

## BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

### CHAIR'S REPORT APRIL 14, 2026

Justin Vasel

#### Organizational Updates



We elected the following officers at our meeting on March 10, 2026:

- Chair: Justin Vasel
- Vice Chair: Zach Ammerman
- Secretary: Tara Dunderdale
- Treasurer: Christopher Miles

There are currently two vacancies (seats M-3 and M-5) and one interim (C-3 M. Austin).

12 of 14 seats are filled; our quorum threshold is 7.

#### O'Neill School Capstone Project on Sustainable Energy Utilities

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 5:30–6:30 PM** in Council Chambers: Final Report

Please plan to attend so that we can achieve quorum.

## Resolution 2026-02 (Automated License Plate Reader Technology)

We adopted this resolution on March 10, 2026.

Resolution was transmitted to Office of the Mayor, Common Council, City Clerk, Bloomington Chief of Police, Corporation Counsel, Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission, Bloomington Board of Public Safety, Monroe County Commissioners, Monroe County Council, Monroe County Sheriff, IU President, IU Board of Trustees, IU Parking Operations

Per Council Resolution 2026-04, BPD Chief of Police and Office of the Mayor will provide a written information packet by April 15, 2026 covering contract terms, total costs, data retention, access controls, training, rules on searches/auditing/data sharing, and general device placement (anticipating public briefing at April 22 Council meeting)

### Seeking Champions:

- [Resolution 2025-01](#) (“To Adopt a Scalable Poultry Flock-Size Model”)
  - Seeking a commissioner to identify what changes to the municipal code and the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) are needed to implement our recommendations.

### Internal Updates & Ongoing Projects

- 2026 Strategic Planning Retreat
- 2025 Annual Report
- Commissioner’s Handbook & Onboarding Materials
- Bylaws Reform

### External Updates

- Hopewell South PUD
  - Lots of activity going on right now to work out the final details.
  - Next two Council meetings (April 15 and April 22) will address it
  - Commissioners encouraged to follow along to gain a better understanding of housing and zoning policy, especially at it relates to PUDs
- [State of the City 2026](#): Address by Mayor Thomson

- Bloomington Transit [considering](#) merging some routes and expanding “micro-transit” in the face of ridership decline.

### Misc Reminders / Notes

- [WRDMC Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Sale](#) (LAST CALL)
  - Order deadline: April 15, 2026. Pickup dates: April 24/25
- [Bloomington Energy Works](#)
- Early voting for the May 5 primaries has begun. Don’t forget to vote!
  - There is a new location: County-government-owned North Showers building at 9<sup>th</sup> and Morton streets.

### Resources

- Websites
  - [BCOS Webpage](#)
  - [BCOS OnBoard Page](#)
- Commission Documents
  - [2024 Annual Report](#)
  - [Bylaws](#)
  - [Standard Operating Procedures](#)
- Working Group Grants
  - [Standard Operating Procedure](#)
  - [Application Template](#)
- BCOS Templates
  - [Resolution Template](#)
  - [Resolution Amendment Form](#)
- Bloomington Policy Documents
  - [Bloomington Municipal Code](#) (BMC)
    - [BCOSR BMC Section](#)
  - [Climate Action Plan](#) (CAP)
  - [Comprehensive Plan](#)
  - [Unified Developer Ordinance](#) (UDO)

Sponsor:  
Zach Ammerman

**RESOLUTION 2026-05**

**CONCERNING ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES AND ADHESIVE-BASED  
ANIMAL TRAPS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS**

- WHEREAS, the global biodiversity crisis is devastating non-human life across the planet, with wild animal populations facing an average decline of 73% in size since 1970<sup>1</sup> and the extinction rate skyrocketing to 1,000 to 10,000 times<sup>2</sup> higher than the normal background rate of species extinction, which is at least 70 times higher than that caused by the Chicxulub asteroid impact that wiped out the non-avian dinosaurs and 76% of all species on Earth<sup>3</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, Bloomington's location, surrounded by some of the last remaining areas of largely intact ecosystem in the state of Indiana, make our city's stewardship of wildlife and promotion of biophilic policies especially important; and
- WHEREAS, anticoagulant rodenticides, both first-generation and second-generation, kill through uncontrolled internal hemorrhaging over a period of days to weeks, constituting a prolonged and painful death for any animal that ingests them; and
- WHEREAS, anticoagulant rodenticides pose a grave and well-documented threat to non-target wildlife through secondary poisoning, in which a predator or scavenger consumes a poisoned rodent, and tertiary poisoning, in which a predator consumes an animal that was itself secondarily poisoned, allowing anticoagulant compounds to move through multiple levels of the food chain; rodents that have consumed bait remain active and mobile for days before death, and the toxin persists in their tissues after death, making them easy prey for raccoons, opossums, foxes, and other wildlife, which in turn may be consumed by larger predators such as bald eagles, great horned owls, coyotes, or bobcats; and
- WHEREAS, second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides are particularly hazardous because they persist in animal tissues for approximately four weeks or longer, dramatically increasing the risk of bioaccumulation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has acknowledged these elevated risks by restricting second-generation compounds from consumer-market products since 2008<sup>4</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, scientific research has documented very high rates of exposure in non-rodent wildlife: a Cornell University study found anticoagulant chemical residues in 68%

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<sup>1</sup> <https://wwflpr.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/2024-living-planet-report-a-system-in-peril.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [Estimating the normal background rate of species extinction](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Vertebrate biodiversity losses point to a sixth mass extinction](#)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/rodenticides/restrictions-rodenticide-products>

of red-tailed hawks tested<sup>5</sup>, a 2024 study in the Journal of Wildlife Management found that 98% of urban and suburban coyotes in Southern California were exposed to at least one anticoagulant compound<sup>6</sup>, and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation documented poisoning across species including raptors, gray squirrels, raccoons, white-tailed deer, red foxes, skunks, and opossums<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County supports resident or transient populations of red-tailed hawks, red-shouldered hawks, Cooper's hawks, barred owls, screech owls, short-eared owls, barn owls, long-eared owls, great horned owls, turkey vultures, black vultures, broad-winged hawks, bald eagles, skunks, bobcats, gray and red foxes, coyotes, raccoons, and other predators and scavengers, all of which are vulnerable to secondary poisoning from anticoagulant rodenticides; and

WHEREAS, several of the species listed in the preceding paragraph are either listed as species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) by the state of Indiana in its State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), listed as state threatened or endangered, listed as regionally threatened or endangered by the Midwest Landscape Initiative, or are listed in more than one of these categories; and

WHEREAS, the poisoning of raptors and predators is counterproductive as a single raptor family, for example, may consume thousands of rodents per year, and their removal causes increase in rodent populations, driving greater reliance on the very poisons that caused the decline in the first place; and

WHEREAS, adhesive-based traps (glue traps) are barbaric and cause extreme and prolonged suffering: trapped animals tear off fur, feathers, and skin, break bones, or chew off limbs attempting to escape, and die over hours to days from blood loss, shock, suffocation, or dehydration; they are inherently indiscriminate, routinely capturing songbirds, chipmunks, lizards, and domestic pets; and

WHEREAS, anticoagulant rodenticides have been banned or restricted in California<sup>8</sup> (all first- and second-generation compounds banned, effective 2025), South Carolina<sup>9</sup> (second-generation restrictions, 2025, extended indefinitely), and Connecticut<sup>10</sup> (second-generation compounds classified as restricted-use, 2026), with legislation pending in Massachusetts<sup>11</sup>, New York<sup>12</sup>, and Rhode Island<sup>13</sup>; and the EPA finalized its Biological Evaluation for eleven rodenticides in November 2024<sup>14</sup>, with an amended Proposed Interim Decision anticipated in 2026; and

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<sup>5</sup> <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2022/07/rodenticide-poisoning-widespread-among-nys-red-tailed-hawks>

<sup>6</sup> <https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.22696>

<sup>7</sup> <https://jwd.kglmeridian.com/downloadpdf/view/journals/jwdi/35/2/article-p187.xml>

<sup>8</sup> <https://responsiblerodenticides.org/california-issues/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://news.clemson.edu/pesticide-regulators-extend-restrictions-on-certain-rodenticides/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.jteaton.com/rodenticide-state-restrictions/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S644.Html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S7532/amendment/A>

<sup>13</sup> [Rodenticides kill more than rodents. Providence lawmaker sponsors bill to ban their use.](#)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-rodenticide-strategy-including-final-biological-evaluation-effects-11>

WHEREAS, adhesive-based traps have been banned or restricted in England<sup>15</sup>, Scotland, Wales<sup>16</sup>, Ireland, Norway, the Netherlands, Germany, Iceland, New Zealand, nearly all Indian states and union territories, and the Australian state of Victoria; and voluntarily restricted by hundreds of corporations and U.S. airports<sup>17</sup>; and

WHEREAS, anticoagulant rodenticides are legally classified as pesticides under both the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and Indiana law (IC § 15-16-5-25)<sup>18</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 15-16-5-71<sup>19</sup> explicitly states: “A political subdivision (as defined in IC 36-1-2-13) does not have authority to regulate by ordinance the use or application of pesticides”; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 15-16-5-71(b) provides, however, that a political subdivision may, by resolution, petition the Indiana Pesticide Review Board for a variance because of special circumstances relating to the use or application of a pesticide; and

WHEREAS, adhesive-based traps, as mechanical devices rather than pesticides, may be regulated directly under the City's home rule authority.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE, THAT:**

**SECTION 1. The Commission finds that:**

- (a) Anticoagulant rodenticides cause severe suffering to target and non-target animals alike, including vulnerable wildlife populations, and pose a direct threat to raptors, other predators, and scavengers in Monroe County through secondary and tertiary poisoning, undermining the natural rodent control these species provide.
- (b) Adhesive-based traps are indiscriminate, inhumane, barbaric, ineffective as pest management, and pose public health risks to humans.
- (c) The use of both anticoagulant rodenticides and adhesive-based traps would be inconsistent with the City's commitments to environmental stewardship and sustainability, and would contribute to the broader biodiversity crisis.
- (d) Proven, humane, and cost-effective alternatives are widely available, including Integrated Pest Management strategies such as habitat modification, exclusion, sanitation, snap traps, and nature-based solutions including barn owl nest box programs.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/26>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckgx9pkq7w0o>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.peta.org/issues/wildlife/wildlife-factsheets/glue-traps/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://iga.in.gov/laws/2025/ic/titles/15#15-16-5-25>

<sup>19</sup> <https://iga.in.gov/laws/2025/ic/titles/15#15-16-5-71>

## **SECTION 2. Recommendations**

- (a) The Commission recommends the Mayor issue a directive prohibiting the purchase or use of anticoagulant rodenticides and adhesive-based traps by all City departments, contractors, and subcontractors on City-owned, City-leased, or City-managed property, and adopt a policy prioritizing non-chemical methods.
- (b) The Commission recommends the Common Council, in conformity with the language of Indiana Code § 15-16-5-71(b) prohibiting political subdivisions from passing an ordinance restricting the *use* or *application* of pesticides, consider passing an ordinance restricting the *sale* of anticoagulant rodenticides within city limits.
- (c) The Commission recommends the Common Council, pursuant to Indiana Code § 15-16-5-71(b), adopt a resolution petitioning the Indiana Pesticide Review Board for a variance to restrict the use and application of anticoagulant rodenticides within the City of Bloomington, citing secondary and tertiary poisoning of non-target wildlife, the availability of effective alternatives, the impact of these products on the ongoing biodiversity crisis, and Bloomington's unique location amid Indiana's last remaining largely intact and sensitive ecosystems as the rationale.
- (d) In conformity with Indiana Code, the Commission recommends the Common Council adopt an ordinance prohibiting the use and sale of adhesive-based traps within the City.
- (e) The Commission recommends the City develop public education materials on the ecological harms of these products, the availability of humane alternatives, and the role of raptors and predators as natural rodent control.
- (f) The Commission recommends the Common Council and/or Mayor work with the Monroe County government to bring the county's policy in line with the city on the use of these products.
- (g) The Commission respectfully requests that the Mayor ask that Indiana University provide information about the use of these products on its campus, and to cease the use of them, if applicable.

## **SECTION 3. Transmittal**

Copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Mayor, to all members of the Common Council, to the Director of Economic and Sustainable Development, to the Director of Public Works, to the Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development, to the Director of Animal Care and Control, to the Facilities Maintenance Director, to the Chair of the Animal Control Commission, to the Chair of the Environmental Commission, to all members of the Monroe County Council, to all members of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, to all members of the Indiana General Assembly representing Bloomington, to the Chancellor of Indiana University Bloomington, to the President of Indiana University, and to the Board of Trustees of

Indiana University. Additionally, a courtesy copy is requested to be sent to the Executive Director of WildCare Bloomington.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience upon this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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Justin Vasel, Chair

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

*The views expressed here are solely those of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience, 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.*

Sponsor:  
Zach Ammerman

**RESOLUTION 2026-06**

**MINIMIZING LIGHT POLLUTION AND ATTAINING  
DARK SKY CERTIFICATION FOR BLOOMINGTON**

WHEREAS, gazing at the majesty of the stars is an ancient human birthright common to all cultures since time immemorial, a source of expansive awe and mystery, of myths and legends, of direction both spiritual and navigatory, of the humbling awareness of the vastness of the cosmos and the perspective of our small place in it, of connection to galaxies whose basic matter is our matter and of wonder at the question of what other beings may be looking at the same sky, of the knowledge that to look up is to look back across time and that some starlight reaching our eyes was emitted even before the birth of our species, of the passage of seasons and the marking of births, of humanity's deepest inquiries into the nature of the universe and of the quiet contemplation available to anyone who steps out and looks up; and

WHEREAS, the sacrilege of obscuring the stars by our own hubris is only a very recent wound, introduced by the excesses of civilization and sustained not by necessity but by estrangement from the divine; a sky that was whole for four billion years, across timescales unfathomable to the human mind, has been diminished to fragments in scarcely a century, so that for the first time in both the story of our planet and of our species, individuals are dying having been denied their right to ever see the Milky Way with their own eyes; and

WHEREAS, erasing the night sky pushes humanity further down the tragic path of disconnection from the eternal, of the deeply mistaken belief that we are not part of the natural world but above it, and of the profound spiritual impoverishment of our species; and

WHEREAS, light pollution causes profound ecological disruption, manipulating the rhythms of the natural, and contributing to increased insect mortality, bird disorientation, disrupted plant phenology, confused migration patterns, and suppressed melatonin production in humans; and

WHEREAS, Bloomington's location, surrounded by the last remaining largely intact ecosystems in the state, its proximity to Hoosier National Forest and several state forests, as well as dark sky corridors to the south and west, make reductions in light pollution here particularly meaningful; and

WHEREAS, light pollution is a manageable phenomenon that can be reduced by choice through political will and vision, and Bloomington is well-placed to attain certification as a Dark Sky community, having already made advancements that meet many of the existing criteria for such a designation; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association in 2016 adopted guidance (Report 2-A-16) recommending that outdoor lighting use a correlated color temperature of no greater than 3000 Kelvin, finding that high-CCT lighting is associated with adverse health effects including sleep disruption and melatonin suppression; and

WHEREAS, Bloomington's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) at Section 20.04.090 already requires full cutoff shielding, establishes light trespass limits at property lines, caps total lumen output adjacent to residential districts, mandates curfews for parking lots and recreational facilities, and prohibits lighting of conservation easements, meeting many but not all of the criteria<sup>1</sup> established by DarkSky International for community designation; and

WHEREAS, the presence in our city of Indiana University's Astronomy Department and the Kirkwood Observatory, as well as Bloomington's proximity to Hoosier National Forest, Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests, Brown County, Spring Mill, and McCormick's Creek State Parks, and some of the darkest remaining skies in Indiana makes the city a natural candidate to anchor a regional dark sky corridor, and Dark Sky Community certification would distinguish Bloomington as a leader in a growing national movement while supporting astrotourism and the regional outdoor recreation economy.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE, THAT**

**SECTION 1. Recommendations.**

The following actions are recommended to reduce light pollution and to advance Bloomington toward certification as a Dark Sky Community by DarkSky International:

- (a) That the Common Council amend Section 20.04.090 of the UDO to establish a maximum color temperature of 3000 Kelvin or lower for all new outdoor lighting installations and that any replacement of existing outdoor lighting fixtures shall comply with the same correlated color temperature standards, with a reduced maximum of 2700 Kelvin or lower for fixtures within 500 feet of any environmentally sensitive area protected under Section 20.04.030.
- (b) That the Common Council amend Section 20.04.090(e)(1) to extend the lumens-per-acre cap to all mixed-use and nonresidential properties, including those not adjacent to residential zoning districts, which are currently unregulated for total light output.

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<sup>1</sup> See full list of criteria here: <https://darksky.org/app/uploads/2018/07/IDSC-Guidelines-Jun2018.pdf>

- (c) That the Common Council amend Section 20.04.090 to establish a maximum light intrusion threshold of 0.1 footcandles at the boundary of any riparian buffer, wetland buffer, karst conservancy easement, or conservation easement established under Section 20.04.030, and to require photometric plans demonstrating compliance for development adjacent to such areas.
- (d) That the Common Council amend Section 20.04.090(e) to move the curfew time up to 10 pm for all categories that currently have an 11 pm curfew, and to establish a 10 pm curfew for all other categories that currently have no hard curfew. All categories shall allow lighting to stay illuminated after 10 pm until up to 30 minutes past the cessation of normal authorized activities if those activities take place after 10 pm.
- (e) That City of Bloomington Utilities conduct an inventory of all city-owned and utility-leased streetlights and public facility lighting, assessing each fixture for correlated color temperature, shielding type, and lumen output, and report findings to the Common Council with a proposed timeline and cost estimate for converting non-compliant fixtures to 3000K or lower, fully shielded alternatives, with the goal of reaching at least 70% compliance within two years (Dark Sky certification requires 67% compliance within 2 years), and 100% compliance within five.
- (f) That the City establish a sky quality baseline measurement program, in partnership with Indiana University's astronomy department or other qualified entity, to document existing nighttime sky brightness conditions at representative locations across the city.
- (g) That the City develop a public education and outreach program on light pollution and dark sky awareness, which may be coordinated with existing environmental education efforts and community partners, with a goal of at least three public outreach events annually (two are required for Dark Sky certification).
- (h) That the Planning and Transportation Department, upon substantial progress toward the actions described above, evaluate the city's readiness to apply for Dark Sky Community designation and report to the Common Council with a recommended timeline for application.
- (i) That the City initiate coordination with Monroe County government regarding compatible lighting standards for the shared planning jurisdiction and for county roads adjacent to city limits, particularly near Griffy Lake, the Clear Creek corridor, and the Lake Monroe watershed.
- (j) That the Common Council amend Section 20.04.090 to prohibit exterior uplighting of buildings and architectural features, with a narrow exception for structures designated as historic where the Historic Preservation Commission approves a lighting plan.

- (k) That the Common Council amend Section 20.04.090 to require that externally illuminated signs be extinguished or reduced by at least 60% during curfew hours, and that all new internally illuminated signs incorporate dimming capability.
- (l) That the Mayor formally request that Indiana University evaluate its campus outdoor lighting for consistency with DarkSky International standards, including correlated color temperature and shielding, and explore a voluntary commitment to align campus lighting practices with the city's standards.

## **SECTION 2. Transmittal**

Copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Mayor, to all members of the Common Council, to the Director of the Planning and Transportation, to the Director of Economic and Sustainable Development, to the Director of Public Works, to the Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development, to the Director of Parks and Recreation, to the Chair of the Environmental Commission, to the President of Indiana University, to all members of the Indiana University Board of Trustees, to all members of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, and to all members of the Monroe County Council. Additionally, it is requested that a courtesy copy be provided to the faculty of the Indiana University Department of Astronomy.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience upon this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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Justin Vasel, Chair

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

*The views expressed here are solely those of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience, 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.*

Sponsor:  
Matt Austin

**RESOLUTION 2026-04**

**OPPOSING THE USE OF GLYPHOSATE IN BLOOMINGTON'S PUBLIC SPACES  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES**

- WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington has committed to enhancing environmental sustainability, protecting public health, and promoting ecological resilience for its residents and future generations; and
- WHEREAS, glyphosate, a chemical herbicide commonly used in agriculture and urban landscaping, has been identified as a potential carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and is classified as "likely to be carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2A); and
- WHEREAS, numerous studies have linked the use of glyphosate to various adverse environmental effects, including soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and harm to pollinators, aquatic life, and other non-target organisms; and
- WHEREAS, the widespread use of glyphosate may lead to the development of herbicide-resistant weeds, necessitating even more toxic chemicals, which can create a cycle of environmental harm; and
- WHEREAS, alternative methods of pest and weed control, such as integrated pest management (IPM), organic landscaping practices, and the use of native plants, offer effective, sustainable, and safer solutions for maintaining healthy ecosystems and public spaces; and
- WHEREAS, neighboring municipalities and organizations around the country have successfully adopted policies to reduce or eliminate the use of glyphosate in public spaces, demonstrating the feasibility and effectiveness of such initiatives.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE, THAT:

**SECTION 1. Opposition to Glyphosate Use**

The Commission formally opposes the use of glyphosate in all public spaces, city-managed properties, and public right-of-ways within the City of Bloomington, and encourages the City Council and other relevant entities to adopt policies that prohibit or restrict the use of glyphosate.

**SECTION 2. Promotion of Alternatives**

The Commission recommends the implementation of sustainable, non-toxic alternatives to glyphosate, including but not limited to integrated pest management, organic landscaping, and the use of native plants that require fewer chemical inputs.

**SECTION 3. Public Education and Awareness**

The Commission encourages the City of Bloomington to educate residents, businesses, and landscapers about the risks associated with glyphosate and to promote safer, more sustainable landscaping practices through workshops, public outreach, and partnerships with local environmental organizations.

**SECTION 4. Ongoing Research and Review**

The Commission will continue to monitor new research and developments related to glyphosate and other herbicides, and will periodically review and update its recommendations to ensure that the City's practices align with the latest science on public health and environmental sustainability.

**SECTION 5. Transmittal**

The Chair is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Common Council, the Department of Public Works, and any other relevant stakeholders for their consideration and action.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience upon this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chair

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

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BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON  
**SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE**

**Resolution Amendment Form**

**Resolution #:** 2026-04  
**Amendment #:** 01  
**Submitted by:** Zach Ammerman  
**Date:** March 24, 2026

**Proposed Amendment:**

1. Section 1. Opposition to Glyphosate Use:
  - a. At the very beginning of the section at line 30, change the T in "The" to lowercase and add the following before it: "With the exception of its targeted, limited use for the removal of otherwise difficult-to-manage invasive and non-native plants," and at the end of the section on line 32, add: "for general weed control or any purpose other than managing invasive and non-native plants, and that only after alternatives have been explored and deemed insufficient for the species and site conditions in question." So that the section will now read as follows (changes highlighted):

- i. Section 1. Opposition to Glyphosate Use:

**With the exception of its targeted, limited use for the removal of otherwise difficult-to-manage and aggressive invasive plants,** the Commission formally opposes the use of glyphosate in all public spaces, city-managed properties, and public right-of-ways within the City of Bloomington, and encourages the City Council and other relevant entities to adopt policies that prohibit or restrict the use of glyphosate **for general weed control or any purpose other than managing invasive and non-native plants, and that only after alternatives have been explored and deemed insufficient for the species and site conditions in question.**



Monroe County  
Identify and Reduce  
Invasive Species

Date: 3/31/2026

To: City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

From: Ellen Jacquart, President of Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Resolution 2026-04, OPPOSING THE USE OF GLYPHOSATE IN BLOOMINGTON’S PUBLIC SPACES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES. Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) has worked in partnership with City of Bloomington on invasive plant control in natural areas for the last 17 years and we are strongly opposed to this resolution for reasons stated below.

**Text of Resolution 2026-04 and the MC-IRIS Response**

*WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington has committed to enhancing environmental sustainability, protecting public health, and promoting ecological resilience for its residents and future generations; and*

We applaud this commitment and are proud to have partnered with the City of Bloomington in support of this goal for nearly two decades.

*WHEREAS, glyphosate, a chemical herbicide commonly used in agriculture and urban landscaping, has been identified as a potential carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and is classified as "likely to be carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2A); and*

The danger a particular chemical poses can be assessed in two ways, through a hazard assessment or a risk assessment. The “potential carcinogen” classification by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is a hazard assessment rather than a risk assessment. The 2a classification means that the substance is capable of causing harm; it does not address whether the substance would cause harm under conditions of normal exposure. A review of other substances in the same 2a category (Table 1) – e.g. night shift work, red meat, and very hot beverages – makes it clear that this designation has to do with theoretical potential for harm, not actual risk. We don’t think that coffee shops should be banned from Bloomington just because very hot beverages are on this list any more than we think glyphosate should be excluded from use in Bloomington’s public spaces.

**Table 1. Hazard assessments by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (Invasive Species Council 2020).**

Group 1: Carcinogenic to humans	Group 2A: Probably carcinogenic to humans	Group 2B: Possibly carcinogenic to humans
Benzene	C rosoetes	Aloe vera, whole leaf extract
Coal, indoor emissions from house hold combustion of	Frying, emissions from hightemperature	Carpentry and joinery
Coal-tar pitch	Glyphosate	Gasoline
Engine exhaust, diesel	Hairdresser or barber (occupational exposure as a)	Magnetic fields, extremely low-frequency
Estrogen therapy, postmenopausal	Night shift work	Melamine
Ethanol in alcoholic beverages	Red meat (consumption of)	Pickled vegetables (traditional Asian)
Leather dust	Very hot beverages at above 65 °C (drinking)	
Nickel compounds		
Outdoor air pollution		
Painter (occupational exposure as a)		
Processed meat (consumption of)		
Salted fish, Chinese-style		
Solar radiation		
Welding fumes		
Wood dust		

*WHEREAS, numerous studies have linked the use of glyphosate to various adverse environmental effects, including soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and harm to pollinators, aquatic life, and other non-target organisms; and*

We would appreciate references to these claims so they can be evaluated. There is room for debate about some of the studies regarding glyphosate impacts. For instance, a surprising number of animal studies have used glyphosate levels greatly in excess of normal exposure, indeed, rates that exceed 1,000 mg/kg/day (EFSA 2015). For a 175 lb. person, that’s the equivalent of eating nearly 3 ounces of glyphosate a day, an outlandish exposure rate.

We believe it is important to assess and consider the potential impacts of different methods of invasive plant control by using integrated pest management (IPM). For instance, if one were to dig up an acre of Asian bush honeysuckle on a slope, the soil erosion would be extensive and hard to remediate. If instead the invasive shrubs were cut and the stumps painted with glyphosate, that erosion would not occur. Thus, the possibility that glyphosate can cause soil degradation (again, we would like references on this claim) have to be weighed against the significant soil loss that can occur using manual invasive plant control methods. IPM allows for that kind of comparison.

*WHEREAS, the widespread use of glyphosate may lead to the development of herbicide-resistant weeds, necessitating even more toxic chemicals, which can create a cycle of environmental harm; and*

As far as MC-IRIS is aware, glyphosate-resistant weeds are found only in agricultural settings where there is continued use of glyphosate in the same area year after year. In natural areas management, the very limited and targeted use of glyphosate on invasive plants keeps such resistance from developing.

We do agree – very strongly – that if glyphosate is removed from a manager’s toolbox for any reason it will result in “necessitating even more toxic chemicals”. If land managers are not allowed to use glyphosate for invasive plant control, they will be forced to use chemicals like picloram and imazapyr, which have twice the soil half-life as glyphosate. Glyphosate has

among the lowest soil mobility of all commonly used herbicides; most other herbicides are more mobile, meaning such chemicals will more readily move from the treated site and kill non-target plants and move into waterways. The toxicity of glyphosate is also lower than any other commonly used herbicide measured by LD50 (lethal dose for 50% of a population) (Tu et. al 2001). There is a reason that glyphosate is the most commonly used chemical for invasive plant control – it is because practitioners are unaware of a safer alternative for the applicator and the environment.

*WHEREAS, alternative methods of pest and weed control, such as integrated pest management (IPM), organic landscaping practices, and the use of native plants, offer effective, sustainable, and safer solutions for maintaining healthy ecosystems and public spaces; and*

Integrated pest management (IPM) is not an alternative method of pest and weed control. IPM is a science-based decision-making process that manages pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to minimize risks to human health, beneficial organisms, and the environment. Importantly, there are times when the IPM process determines that the best control method for a particular infestation is chemical.

Both MC-IRIS and City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department use IPM when determining the best control method for invasive plant species. Indeed, the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan was approved by the Board of Park Commissioners on December 16, 2017.

When, through IPM, it has been determined that the best approach involves a chemical application, the next question is which is the safest and most effective chemical to use. Based on all studies to date, glyphosate is the safest herbicide for the applicator and the environment. Eliminating this option would cause greater harm to applicator health and a much greater impact on the environment (see examples above).

Finally, we agree that the use of native plants is very important and should be encouraged. We believe it was an unfortunate decision to rip out established native plantings in downtown Bloomington, an issue we think deserves attention. However, while native plants can help reduce invasive plant infestations, they are not a magic bullet. A look at any of the natural areas in Monroe County makes clear that long established forests of native tree species are unable to keep Callery pear, Asian bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, or multiflora rose from invading the understory. There are also many native perennial plantings in the city that have been invaded by those same invasive species. We support more plantings of native plants in Bloomington, but IPM is still needed to address infestations.

*WHEREAS, neighboring municipalities and organizations around the country have successfully adopted policies to reduce or eliminate the use of glyphosate in public spaces, demonstrating the feasibility and effectiveness of such initiatives.*

We would like specific examples of this, especially as it relates to invasive species control. There are cases where municipalities in Florida, for instance, banned glyphosate and allowed more toxic chemicals like diquat and glufosinate. This is not an overall win for the applicator or the environment.

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE, THAT:*

*SECTION 1. Opposition to Glyphosate Use. The Commission formally opposes the use of glyphosate in all public spaces, city-managed properties, and public right-of-ways within the City of Bloomington, and encourages the City Council and other relevant entities to adopt policies that prohibit or restrict the use of glyphosate.*

Removing glyphosate as an option for managing invasive plants in the City of Bloomington's natural areas would result in the city needing to use more toxic chemicals that pose a greater danger to applicators and the environment. We absolutely oppose this well-intended but misguided statement.

*SECTION 2. Promotion of Alternatives. The Commission recommends the implementation of sustainable, non-toxic alternatives to glyphosate, including but not limited to integrated pest management, organic landscaping, and the use of native plants that require fewer chemical inputs.*

All pesticides are toxic by definition – they are compounds that will kill a pest. If an alternative is non-toxic, it won't kill pests and is not a pesticide. Salt, vinegar, and dishwashing soap are examples of toxic substances sometimes used by non-professionals to attempt to kill pests – they are generally ineffective against the target species and can cause harm to the environment.

Just because a chemical is organic does not make it safer to use than a formulated chemical. For instance, horticultural vinegar receives a 'Warning' safety signal word because of the potential for severe skin burns and eye damage, while glyphosate has a 'Caution' label, the lowest safety signal word assigned to pesticides.

As noted above, IPM includes consideration of chemical control, and we are pleased that the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department is committed to using IPM when addressing invasive plant control.

Again, the use of native plants is very important for many reasons and should be encouraged. However, while they can help reduce invasive plant infestations, there will still be invasive plants moving into such plantings that will need to be controlled.

*SECTION 3. Public Education and Awareness. The Commission encourages the City of Bloomington to educate residents, businesses, and landscapers about the risks associated with glyphosate and to promote safer, more sustainable landscaping practices through workshops, public outreach, and partnerships with local environmental organizations.*

We agree that education on the safe and effective use of herbicides would be a good step. MC-IRIS has provided free training on herbicides and invasive plant control since our start 17 years ago and we have partnered with City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department on some of those trainings. We also reimburse our members if they take Purdue University's pesticide applicator training, a great way for our volunteers to get an in-depth understanding of pesticides in general and their safe and effective use.

*SECTION 4. Ongoing Research and Review. The Commission will continue to monitor new research and developments related to glyphosate and other herbicides, and will periodically review and update its recommendations to ensure that the City's practices align with the latest science on public health and environmental sustainability.*

*SECTION 5. Transmittal. The Chair is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Common Council, the Department of Public Works, and any other relevant stakeholders for their consideration and action.*

MC-IRIS hopes that the Chair will send this opinion along with Resolution 2026-04 to the appropriate entities within the City. In summary, thank you for the opportunity to comment. MC-IRIS believes this resolution is unnecessary and would cause more environmental harm than it would prevent. We would be happy to further discuss our concerns about this resolution.

### **References**

European Food Safety Authority. 2015. Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment of the active substance glyphosate. EFSA J.13(11):4302. [[Google Scholar](#)]

Invasive Species Council. 2020. Glyphosate: A Chemical to Understand. Invasive Species Council, Fairfield, Victoria, Australia. ISBN: 978-0-6488809-1-2

Tu, M., C. Hurd, and J.M. Randall. April 2001. Weed Control Methods Handbook: Tools and Techniques for Use in Natural Areas. Accessed 3-25-2026 at <https://www.invasive.org/gist/handbook.html>

03/15/2026

To: City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability  
From: Phillip Oser / MC-IRIS  
Subject: Opposition to Resolution 2026-04 [USE OF GLYPHOSATE IN PUBLIC SPACES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES]

I am writing to formally express my opposition to resolution 2026-04 which seeks to prohibit or restrict the use of Glyphosate on City property. As an ecological restoration professional I have been contracted to control invasive plants and establish native plant communities in a wide variety of settings, ranging from State Dedicated Nature Preserves to city parks all across the state. Often, these contracts require the targeted use of herbicide to initially control invasive plants, with chemical inputs becoming less each successive year, in comparison to agricultural herbicide use that blanket sprays wheat, corn and soybean fields annually.

I was heavily involved in design and implementation of the Switchyard Park Restoration Plan as a consultant and project manager. Before restoration activities began the area was heavily degraded with more than 30 invasive plants that were inhibiting any native plant regeneration. Our plan, rooted in integrated pest management (IPM), sought to assist with the recovery of this damaged ecosystem by removing invasive species and reintroducing native plants. None of this would have been possible without the responsible use of Glyphosate and other herbicides commonly used in forestry settings.

Now, one acre of natural area at Switchyard park can be maintained for less than the cost of one acre of turf, which requires regular mowing, fertilization and broadcast herbicide applications. This highly bio-diverse and functional green space is an amazing example of what can be accomplished when we consider our role as stewards of the land that we use for recreation.

I urge the Commission to consider the damage this resolution would do to the City's natural areas by impeding staff and volunteers to effectively manage invasive plants. Please vote no on Resolution 2026-04.

Sincerely,

Phillip Oser

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip Oser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.



Jolie Perry &lt;jolie.perry@bloomington.in.gov&gt;

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**Cheering you on!**

1 message

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**Baron, Marcia** <mbaron@iu.edu>

Sun, Apr 5, 2026 at 2:25 AM

To: "sustain@bloomington.in.gov" &lt;sustain@bloomington.in.gov&gt;

Hello, I'm just sending a quick note to thank you heartily for what is reported here:

<https://www.ipm.org/news/2026-04-03/city-commission-considers-opposing-weed-killer-in-public-spaces>

I'm someone who greatly enjoys Bloomington's green spaces and have been quite troubled by the use of glyphosate. I think the focus on eradicating "invasive plants" is unfortunate; it's fine to weed them, but the use of glyphosate is far worse than having the invasive plants. (I'm not convinced that it is nearly as important as MC-IRIS claims, and I've long been bothered at the sway this group seems to have on Bloomington City practices.) From the article to which I linked, it seems the worry is that the use of less toxic options than glyphosate will not kill "pests" and I wonder what pests they think it so important for us to kill! That seems a different issue than invasive plants in any case!

Please tell how, without having to attend long meetings, I can help bring it about that your resolution succeeds.

And again, thanks for your work on this! I was very pleased indeed to see the proposal to halt the use of glyphosate in city parks and other public spaces!

Best,

Marcia Baron



## Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department response to Resolution 2026-04

TO: Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience  
FROM: Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Operations Division  
DATE: April 8, 2026  
SUBJECT: Comment on Resolution 2026-04

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the draft Resolution 2026-04, OPPOSING THE USE OF GLYPHOSATE IN BLOOMINGTON'S PUBLIC SPACES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES.

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) manages 2,342 acres of property, including 34 parks and eight facilities, along with 27 miles of natural surface and 36 miles of paved and/or multi-use trails, two cemeteries, and numerous urban greenspace areas (e.g. intentional landscapes, rights-of way areas, roundabouts, etc.). Prohibiting the use of glyphosate for the responsible management of invasive plants or otherwise undesirable vegetation (e.g. plants that are out of place, interfere with line of sight, or pose other risks, etc.) on such a large scale would be a detriment to our ability to effectively manage the greenspaces listed above, and to the overall health of all the natural resources we currently manage.

BPRD Operations Division echoes the thoughtful feedback provided by our community partner, Monroe County-Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS). Without the ability to use glyphosate, BPRD land managers would be restricted to alternative measures that are less effective and likely to involve higher budgetary expenses, increased fossil fuel inputs, more labor intensive management strategies, all of which would ultimately result in greater harm to our community and the environment.

Since 2017, BPRD has been operating under an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan to sustain the beauty, recreation potential, and ecological diversity of the City's Parks and Recreation assets in a safe and responsible manner. This plan takes into account the health and safety of the public and Department staff and the impact to the environment in an effort to reduce the use of pesticides in City parks. Through this plan, measures are already in place to ensure the safe and effective use of glyphosate in conjunction with other management practices for responsible stewardship of BPRD urban greenspace and natural areas. In addition, BPRD is updating and expanding the IPM plan for improved implementation across all Divisions of the Department.

For many natural resource practitioners and land managers, glyphosate is considered an essential cornerstone of IPM. Used strategically in combination with other vegetation management practices, glyphosate is an indispensable tool for highly effective and cost-efficient invasive species control and weed management that poses the least amount of

harm to people, animals, and the environment. Both non-organic and organic alternative chemical control options to glyphosate have the very real potential to be more costly, less effective, and/or more detrimental to people, animal, and natural resource health. Additionally, manual or mechanical control methods are often ineffective or impractical as standalone practices on a large scale. Such methods often involve the greater harm of extensive and repeated soil disturbance, which may cause soil erosion and water pollution through sedimentation, and destabilize native plant communities and wildlife habitat. In addition, the use of native plants in place of or without the use of glyphosate and other herbicides, is not realistic at a large scale, since chemical control involving glyphosate is often used in site preparation to successfully implement native plant restoration.

Examples of IPM considerations BPRD applies to ensure safe, effective, and targeted use of glyphosate and other chemical control methods, include:

- Certification and Training: Staff, contractors, and partner organizations responsible for pesticide applications on BPRD properties are required to hold a current Pesticide Applicator License through the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC). Staff are provided with ongoing training on pesticide safety (e.g. use of personal protective equipment, reading and interpreting product labels, application restrictions by site and in varying weather conditions), innovative pest control methods, protection of natural resources, and other best management practices.
- Adherence to Pesticide Labels: As per law, the label is followed closely to ensure appropriate use and application, and to limit harm to sensitive sites or the potential for off-target damage.
- Timing of Applications: Pesticide applications are scheduled by time of day or specific time of year, when treatments are most likely to be effective and/or off target damage is less likely to occur.
- Selectivity Options: BPRD chooses pesticide options that are less prone to drift and persistence in the environment whenever possible to minimize risk to people, animals, and natural resources.
- Targeted Applications: BPRD prioritizes targeted application techniques that pose the least risk of off-target damage and potential for pesticide movement off site, such as spot foliar application or cut stem/stump treatment.
- Set Thresholds: Pesticide use for strictly aesthetic purposes is reduced, and pest thresholds are set to allow for the minimum amount of chemical use to achieve management goals. Vegetation is monitored and selectively treated to limit blanket application of pesticides. When the presence of targeted vegetation is reduced, the amount of pesticide applied is also reduced.
- Buffer Zones: "No-spray" buffer zones are maintained wherever possible near sensitive sites.
- Public Notice: Consistent, comprehensive, and transparent documentation of pest management targets and control actions is available on the BPRD website.

- Public Outreach and Education: BPRD through its robust Weed Wrangle volunteer programs and direct, onsite communication provides education on safe, effective, and targeted control of invasive species on BPRD property.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback. While Bloomington Parks and Recreation remains committed to Integrated Pest Management practices and the careful, responsible use of all treatment methods, the proposed prohibition of glyphosate would significantly limit the Department's ability to effectively manage established invasive species and other undesirable vegetation across our parks and natural areas. This limitation would likely result in increased reliance on less effective and more costly alternatives, greater staff time devoted to manual and mechanical control methods with limited success, and a noticeable decline in the condition and appearance of public spaces. For these reasons, BPRD respectfully but firmly opposes the proposed ordinance and encourages consideration of a balanced approach that preserves both environmental stewardship and operational effectiveness.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Welz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mary Welz, Natural Resources Manager

To: City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience  
From: Caleb McCann, Director/Co-owner, Eco Logic LLC  
Date: 04/09/2026  
Subject: Response to Resolution 2026-04

On behalf of Eco Logic LLC, I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed Resolution 2026-04, which seeks to ban the use of glyphosate on city-managed properties. Eco Logic is a Bloomington-based small business dedicated to ecological restoration. We share the Commission's commitment to environmental sustainability and public health. However, a total ban on this tool would severely hinder our ability to manage invasive species for the city, which is critical in protecting local biodiversity, ecosystem services, and ecological resilience.

The impact on our operations and the local ecosystem would be substantial for the following reasons:

- **Compromised Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** One of the main strengths of IPM is having a wide variety of biological, chemical, cultural, and mechanical tools available so strategies for control are as effective, efficient, and safe as possible. Chemical control is a key component of IPM and Glyphosate is often the most effective and least toxic tool for controlling aggressive, non-native invasive species that threaten Bloomington's native habitats. It is often used as part of multi-year treatment plans, along with other herbicides and non-chemical controls, to prevent target species from developing herbicide resistance. Reducing the number of herbicides available increases the likelihood of resistance significantly.
- **Economic Impact:** Our business model relies on utilizing the best available tools to deliver high quality restoration results in the most efficient way possible. Efficiency is key due to finite funding availability for restoration efforts. Significant ecological restoration efforts without the use of chemical control would be nearly impossible. Herbicides are a highly efficient and effective tool. When used in concert with other control methods as part of a long-term IPM strategy, it allows us to deliver high quality and cost-effective ecological restoration. The elimination of glyphosate would necessitate the use of other herbicides which are more expensive and have higher risks. Glyphosate binds strongly to soil particles preventing soil mobility and allowing rapid decomposition. This provides greater flexibility in when and where we can use glyphosate. The alternative herbicides generally do not have these

advantages and would cause issues with restoration planning and implementation. These issues along with the higher purchase price of the alternative herbicides would severely impact the cost of restoration efforts, likely resulting in fewer restoration projects being funded.

- **Safety:** In accordance with Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) guidelines, Eco Logic maintains rigorous safety protocols, requiring all field staff to be trained and certified in proper herbicide application, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and adherence to strict chemical storage guidelines. However, some chemicals pose more challenges than others. For example, some herbicide concentrates can cause permanent eye damage before they are diluted for application. This does not pose a risk to the public but is a risk for our staff and requires additional PPE and training. Glyphosate does not pose the risk of acute injury.

Eco Logic has used glyphosate for over 26 years in native landscaping, green infrastructure, and natural areas to successfully control invasive species. When used in accordance with the product label and OISC guidelines as part of a larger IPM strategy it is key for successful and affordable ecological restoration. We appreciate and share the concerns for environmental sustainability and public safety. To address those concerns, we urge the Commission to consider a policy that focuses on ensuring herbicide applicators are trained and certified through OISC, rather than banning the use of glyphosate.

Sincerely,

Caleb McCann  
Business Director/Co-owner  
Eco Logic LLC

Sponsor:

Zach Ammerman

**RESOLUTION 2026-03**

**CONCERNING THE PEDESTRIANIZATION OF KIRKWOOD AVENUE AND  
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION**

WHEREAS, the Bloomington Municipal Code establishes the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience to "promote and advance sustainable policies and practices in Bloomington across environmental, social, and economic dimensions"; and

WHEREAS, The Bloomington Municipal Code empowers the Commission to "advise and make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council, city administration, and city boards and commissions on policies and programs that infuse the work of city government with an operating philosophy based on sustainability and community resilience"; and

WHEREAS, United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 ("Sustainable Cities and Communities") calls upon signatories to provide sustainable transport systems and universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible public spaces; and

WHEREAS, Kirkwood Avenue between the Indiana University Sample Gates and the Courthouse Square represents the most iconic and heavily trafficked pedestrian corridor in Bloomington; and

WHEREAS, the Bloomington Common Council unanimously passed Ordinance 2025-02<sup>1</sup> establishing a multi-year Kirkwood Outdoor Dining Program, with the stated intent of providing businesses certainty and a clear path toward a more pedestrian-oriented Kirkwood; and

WHEREAS, the administration's February 2026 proposal to suspend the seasonal street closure program drew criticism from multiple councilmembers and members of the public, who characterized it as violating the spirit of the ordinance and undermining years of progress toward pedestrianization; and

WHEREAS, when configured for automobile traffic, motor vehicles dominate the streetscape, relegating pedestrians to narrow sidewalks and excluding cyclists from a corridor that lacks dedicated cycling infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Church Street in Burlington, Vermont; Pearl Street in Boulder, Colorado; and the Main Street Downtown Mall in Charlottesville, Virginia, demonstrate that

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bloomington.in.gov/onboard/legislationFiles/5850>

permanent pedestrian corridors in analog university communities can thrive year-round economically while creating vibrant, sustainable public spaces; and

WHEREAS, research consistently demonstrates that business owners overestimate the proportion of customers arriving by automobile, underestimate the percentage of customers arriving by transit, biking, or walking, and that pedestrianized commercial districts often experience increased foot traffic and economic activity<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the current uncertainty regarding Kirkwood's status, oscillating between pedestrian and automobile setups, prevents businesses and the City from making long-term investments in streetscape improvements; and

WHEREAS, the administration's primary quantitative justification for suspending the program, an 8% decline in visitor traffic along the Kirkwood corridor, is derived from an AI analytics firm with no available methodology, falls barely outside the firm's own self-reported 5% margin of error for visit data, and does not account for confounding factors including broader national economic and political conditions, making it an extraordinarily thin evidentiary basis for abandoning a popular public program; and

WHEREAS, the administration has framed the Kirkwood program as a revenue question by comparing approximately \$80,000 in forgone parking meter revenue to approximately \$17,000 in outdoor dining permit fees, yet these figures combined represent a negligible fraction of the City's annual operating budget (the amount is equal to 0.0004% of the 2025 operating budget), and decisions about the use of public space should not hinge on such comparisons; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, in a February 18 interview with Indiana Public Media, stated that “only five” businesses along the corridor expressed support for the pedestrianization program, but according to the city’s published survey results, at least 20 businesses surveyed along the corridor expressed “strong support” of continuing the program, the largest category, with more than 50% indicating support of any degree, but that such decisions nonetheless should not be made based solely or largely on the opinions of individuals who happen to own businesses nearby, but rather primarily on the benefits of the program to the Bloomington community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the administration plans to unilaterally abandon the Kirkwood pedestrianization program starting in summer 2026, violating the spirit if not the letter of Council Ordinance 2025-02.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

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<sup>2</sup> von Schneidemesser, Dirk, and Jody Betzien. 2021. “Local Business Perception vs. Mobility Behavior of Shoppers” Findings, June 2021. <https://doi.org/10.32866/001c.24497>; and <https://ggwash.org/view/96602/survey-most-shopkeepers-shoppers-overestimate-car-use>

SECTION 1. The Commission finds that:

- (a) Street design and transportation infrastructure implicate environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability and fall within the Commission's statutory mandate.
- (b) Pedestrian-oriented street design promotes sustainable transportation, public health, social interaction, and economic vitality.
- (c) The years-long pattern of seasonal closures has established a community expectation that Kirkwood will function as a pedestrian space, and reversing this trajectory undermines both business planning and public trust.

SECTION 2. Recommendations

The Commission respectfully recommends that the Bloomington Common Council and City Administration:

- (a) At minimum, reverse the decision made by the administration and continue the seasonal closure of Kirkwood Avenue to vehicle traffic during summer months, consistent with the intent of Ordinance 2025-02.
- (b) Strongly consider taking measures in favor of the permanent, year-round closure of Kirkwood Avenue to motor vehicle traffic between at least the Sample Gates and the Courthouse Square, with provisions for emergency and limited service/delivery vehicle access, and without including provisions that would allow the city administration to unilaterally end the program without the consent of the council.
- (c) Study Church Street in Burlington, Vermont; Pearl Street in Boulder, Colorado; and the Main Street Downtown Mall in Charlottesville, Virginia, as models for successful permanent pedestrian corridors in comparable university communities.
- (d) Prioritize investment in permanent streetscape improvements, including planters, landscaping, shade structures, seating, and accessibility enhancements that would maximize the corridor's function as a public space.
- (e) Move administration of the Kirkwood pedestrianization program from the Department of Economic and Sustainable Development to the Department of Planning and Transportation.
- (f) Reframe the program from one of outdoor dining and economic development to one of public space and sustainable transportation.
- (g) Repeal Section 7 of Ordinance 2025-02, which gives discretion to the City Engineer to unilaterally and permanently suspend the program.
- (h) Cease framing the Kirkwood program in terms of parking revenue versus dining permit revenue and instead evaluate the program based solely on its contributions to

public health, sustainable transportation, quality of life, and Bloomington's identity as a walkable community.

### SECTION 3. Statement of Values

The Commission affirms that sustainable cities prioritize people over automobiles, especially in their most central public spaces, and that Bloomington's identity as a walkable, bikeable community should be reflected in the design of its most prominent and iconic pedestrian corridor.

### SECTION 4. Transmittal

The Chair is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to all members of the Bloomington Common Council, to the Mayor, to the Director of Planning and Transportation, to the Director of Economic and Sustainable Development, to the City Engineer, to the Chair of the Board of Public Works, and to the Chair of the Transportation Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience upon this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chair

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

*The views expressed here are solely those of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience, 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.*

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** All members of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

**From:** Zach Ammerman

**Date:** April 8, 2026

**Subject:** Amendments to Resolution 2026-03 Concerning the Pedestrianization of Kirkwood Avenue

## Introduction

I have introduced an amendment (four minor corrections, two substantive changes) to Resolution 2026-03 Concerning the Pedestrianization of Kirkwood Avenue and Sustainable Transportation.

The first four amendments are very minor, and simply replace two footnotes that were inadvertently deleted at some point during the resolution's submission. Both footnotes provide links to contextual articles and sources that back up clauses in the Preamble. I encourage you to read them, but they do not affect the main arguments or change the language of the resolution itself in any way.

The next two amendments are more substantive, and involve the important question of the accessibility of car-dominated vs. pedestrianized streets.

I'd like to lay out my rationale for the more substantive amendments below.

## Rationale for Substantive Amendments Dealing with Accessibility

Accessibility is a core component of any successful and inclusive public space, and should be approached with care, treated seriously, and not be deployed as a rhetorical device to defend the status quo of car-dominated street design. The issue is sometimes raised as a sincere concern in discussions of pedestrianization, but also at times wielded as a convenient argument for maintaining the status quo of car-dominated streets. In either case, the basic underlying premise that removing vehicles from a corridor somehow reduces accessibility does not withstand scrutiny, and in fact pedestrianization significantly improves accessibility when done correctly.

Pedestrianized streets are *more accessible* and *more equitable* than streets where cars dominate three-fourths or more of the right-of-way, confining pedestrians of all abilities to roughly one-fourth or less of the space left over for anyone not in a car. Framing accessibility as a question of vehicle proximity treats it as though it were synonymous with how close a car can park to a building's entrance, reducing the full spectrum of accessibility concerns (surface

quality, path width, freedom from vehicle conflict, wayfinding, seating, shade, etc.) to a single (largely irrelevant) variable. That narrow framing is more a defense of car dependency than a serious engagement with accessibility. It is furthermore an example of what transportation researchers have termed ‘[motonormativity bias](#)’,<sup>1</sup> the unconscious assumption that car access is the default and only legitimate form of mobility. Arguments based on that narrow framing should thus be tossed aside.

Evidence supports my argument. [One-third of Americans do not have a driver’s license](#), and the majority of involuntary nondrivers are disabled, elderly, lower income, or otherwise unable to drive. A [2015 Georgetown University study](#) focused on wheelchair users found that the pedestrian fatality rate for wheelchair users is 36% higher than for the general population. Elderly wheelchair users were found to have a 38% higher pedestrian fatality rate than the general population, and older male wheelchair users a shocking 75% higher fatality rate. Thus, **removing cars from a corridor does not create danger for wheelchair users; rather, the presence of cars is the danger.**

Meanwhile, a [comprehensive study in \*The Journal of Public Space\*](#) based on extensive interviews with people with disabilities found that accessibility issues in pedestrian areas stem not from the absence of vehicles, but rather that the primary challenge for those with disabilities in fully pedestrianized environments comes from negotiating intersections on cross streets where vehicles *are* present. Again, the presence of cars is cited as the main accessibility issue, not their absence. Otherwise that same study points to specific and manageable design issues (detectable curb edges and wayfinding), fully solvable problems for which the [Federal Highway Administration has published detailed guidance](#). And the U.S. Access Board’s [PROWAG guidelines](#) (2023), the first federal accessibility standard developed specifically for the pedestrian environment, focus entirely on the quality of the pedestrian space for accessibility improvements, and not the absence of cars itself. [The Board further stated in the PROWAG preamble that](#) *“equal access to pedestrian facilities is of particular importance because pedestrian travel is the principal means of independent transportation for many persons with disabilities.”* Pedestrianization and accessible street design are complementary goals, not competing ones.

The two substantive amendments I am proposing reflect this understanding: that accessible street design is a core component of inclusive public space, and that expanded pedestrian access created by pedestrianization improves mobility and access beyond what is achievable within car-dominated streets. In summary: **Well-designed pedestrian infrastructure is accessibility infrastructure.**

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<sup>1</sup><https://usa.streetsblog.org/2024/09/09/driving-is-a-public-health-threat-but-americans-are-too-car-brained-to-see-it>

I ask for your support in adopting the amendments I am proposing as well as the overall resolution in favor of a more equitable, accessible, sustainable, low-stress, and car-free Kirkwood.

**Zachary Ammerman**

### **Relevant Articles and Additional Reading:**

- [Do Car-Free Zones Hurt Disabled People? Experts Explain.](#) Julia Métraux, *Mother Jones*, January 2025.
- [Accessibility and Car-Free Zones.](#) *Planetizen*, January 2025.
- [When Driving Is Not an Option: Steering Away from Car Dependency.](#) Anna Zivarts, Island Press, 2024.
- [Car Dependency is a Public Health Threat – But Americans are Too ‘Car Brained’ To See It.](#) Kea Wilson, *Streetsblog USA*, September 9, 2024.
- [Windshield Bias, Car Brain, Motornormativity: Different Names, Same Obscured Public Health Hazard.](#) Tara Goddard, *Findings*, August 2024.
- [Disparities in road crash mortality among pedestrians using wheelchairs in the USA.](#) Kraemer & Benton, *BMJ Open* 5(11), 2015.
- [Pedestrians with Disabilities and Town and City Streets: From Shared to Inclusive Space?](#) Lawson et al., *The Journal of Public Space* 7(2), 2022.
- [Accessible Shared Streets: Notable Practices and Considerations for Accommodating Pedestrians with Vision Disabilities.](#) Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 2017.
- [Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines \(PROWAG\), Final Rule.](#) U.S. Access Board, 88 Fed. Reg. 53604, August 8, 2023.

BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON  
**SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE**

**Resolution Amendment Form**

**Resolution #:** 2026-03  
**Amendment #:** 01  
**Submitted by:** Zach Ammerman  
**Date:** March 24, 2026

**Proposed Amendment:**

1. Preamble

- a. At line 33, after the clause ending in “undermining years of progress toward pedestrianization; and” add a new WHEREAS clause as follows:

i. WHEREAS, accessible street design is a core component of inclusive public space; and pedestrianized streets, by making the full width of the public right-of-way available for pedestrian use, meaningfully improve mobility and access for people of all abilities beyond what is achievable within car-dominated street configurations, which confine pedestrians to narrow sidewalks regardless of their mobility needs; and accessibility is properly measured by the quality and extent of the pedestrian environment rather than by the proximity of automobile traffic to building entrances; and

- b. At line 66, add a footnote 3 and 4 at the following locations:

i. WHEREAS, the Mayor, in a February 18 interview with Indiana Public Media<sup>3</sup>, stated that “only five” businesses along the corridor expressed support for the pedestrianization program, but according to the city’s published survey results<sup>4</sup>, at least 20 businesses surveyed along the corridor expressed “strong support” of continuing the program, the largest category, with more than 50% indicating support of any degree, but that such decisions nonetheless should not be made based solely or largely on the opinions of individuals who happen to own businesses nearby, but rather primarily on the benefits of the program to the Bloomington community as a whole; and

- ii. And add these footnotes to the bottom of the page:

- 3 [Bloomington's Thomson on not closing Kirkwood. annexation. Flock](#)
- 4 [City of Bloomington Kirkwood Closure Business Feedback Survey Results](#)

2. Section 2. Recommendations

- a. At the end of (c), delete the period and add the following, so that it reads:

i. (c) Study Church Street in Burlington, Vermont; Pearl Street in Boulder, Colorado; and the Main Street Downtown Mall in Charlottesville, Virginia, as models for successful permanent pedestrian corridors in comparable university communities, with particular attention to how those cities have addressed accessibility in their pedestrianized designs and the degree to which the

expanded pedestrian realm has improved mobility and access for people with disabilities relative to conventional automobile-oriented street configurations.

1

2 Sponsor:

3 Zach Ammerman

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**RESOLUTION 2026-03**

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**CONCERNING THE PEDESTRIANIZATION OF KIRKWOOD AVENUE AND  
6 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION**

6

7 WHEREAS, the Bloomington Municipal Code establishes the Bloomington Commission on  
8 Sustainability and Resilience to "promote and advance sustainable policies and  
9 practices in Bloomington across environmental, social, and economic  
10 dimensions"; and

11 WHEREAS, The Bloomington Municipal Code empowers the Commission to "advise and  
12 make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council, city  
13 administration, and city boards and commissions on policies and programs that  
14 infuse the work of city government with an operating philosophy based on  
15 sustainability and community resilience"; and

16 WHEREAS, United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 ("Sustainable Cities and  
17 Communities") calls upon signatories to provide sustainable transport systems and  
18 universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible public spaces; and

19 WHEREAS, Kirkwood Avenue between the Indiana University Sample Gates and the  
20 Courthouse Square represents the most iconic and heavily trafficked pedestrian  
21 corridor in Bloomington; and

22 WHEREAS, the Bloomington Common Council unanimously passed Ordinance 2025-02<sup>1</sup>  
23 establishing a multi-year Kirkwood Outdoor Dining Program, with the stated  
24 intent of providing businesses certainty and a clear path toward a more  
25 pedestrian-oriented Kirkwood; and

26 WHEREAS, the administration's February 2026 proposal to suspend the seasonal street closure  
27 program drew criticism from multiple councilmembers and members of the  
28 public, who characterized it as violating the spirit of the ordinance and  
29 undermining years of progress toward pedestrianization; and

30 WHEREAS, when configured for automobile traffic, motor vehicles dominate the streetscape,  
31 relegating pedestrians to narrow sidewalks and excluding cyclists from a corridor  
32 that lacks dedicated cycling infrastructure; and

33 WHEREAS accessible street design is a core component of inclusive public space; and  
34 pedestrianized streets, by making the full width of the public right-of-way

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bloomington.in.gov/onboard/legislationFiles/5850>

35 available for pedestrian use, meaningfully improve mobility and access for people  
36 of all abilities beyond what is achievable within car-dominated street  
37 configurations, which confine pedestrians to narrow sidewalks regardless of their  
38 mobility needs; and accessibility is properly measured by the quality and extent of  
39 the pedestrian environment rather than by the proximity of automobile traffic to  
40 building entrances; and

41 WHEREAS, Church Street in Burlington, Vermont; Pearl Street in Boulder, Colorado; and the  
42 Main Street Downtown Mall in Charlottesville, Virginia, demonstrate that  
43 permanent pedestrian corridors in analog university communities can thrive  
44 year-round economically while creating vibrant, sustainable public spaces; and

45 WHEREAS, research consistently demonstrates that business owners overestimate the  
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50 WHEREAS, the current uncertainty regarding Kirkwood's status, oscillating between  
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53 WHEREAS, the administration's primary quantitative justification for suspending the program,  
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57 confounding factors including broader national economic and political conditions,  
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60 WHEREAS, the administration has framed the Kirkwood program as a revenue question by  
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64 equal to 0.0004% of the 2025 operating budget), and decisions about the use of  
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75 businesses nearby, but rather primarily on the benefits of the program to the  
76 Bloomington community as a whole; and

77 WHEREAS, the administration plans to unilaterally abandon the Kirkwood pedestrianization  
78 program starting in summer 2026, violating the spirit if not the letter of Council  
79 Ordinance 2025-02.

80 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON**  
81 **COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE, THAT:**

82 SECTION 1. The Commission finds that:

83 (a) Street design and transportation infrastructure implicate environmental, social, and  
84 economic dimensions of sustainability and fall within the Commission's statutory  
85 mandate.

86 (b) Pedestrian-oriented street design promotes sustainable transportation, public health,  
87 social interaction, and economic vitality.

88 (c) The years-long pattern of seasonal closures has established a community expectation  
89 that Kirkwood will function as a pedestrian space, and reversing this trajectory  
90 undermines both business planning and public trust.

91 SECTION 2. Recommendations

92 The Commission respectfully recommends that the Bloomington Common Council and  
93 City Administration:

94 (a) At minimum, reverse the decision made by the administration and continue the  
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97 (b) Strongly consider taking measures in favor of the permanent, year-round closure of  
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99 Courthouse Square, with provisions for emergency and limited service/delivery vehicle  
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101 unilaterally end the program without the consent of the council.

102 (c) Study Church Street in Burlington, Vermont; Pearl Street in Boulder, Colorado; and  
103 the Main Street Downtown Mall in Charlottesville, Virginia, as models for successful  
104 permanent pedestrian corridors in comparable university communities, with particular  
105 attention to how those cities have addressed accessibility in their pedestrianized designs  
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107 for people with disabilities relative to conventional automobile-oriented street  
108 configurations.

109 (d) Prioritize investment in permanent streetscape improvements, including planters,  
110 landscaping, shade structures, seating, and accessibility enhancements that would  
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112 (e) Move administration of the Kirkwood pedestrianization program from the Department  
113 of Economic and Sustainable Development to the Department of Planning and  
114 Transportation.

115 (f) Reframe the program from one of outdoor dining and economic development to one of  
116 public space and sustainable transportation.

117 (g) Repeal Section 7 of Ordinance 2025-02, which gives discretion to the City Engineer  
118 to unilaterally and permanently suspend the program.

119 (h) Cease framing the Kirkwood program in terms of parking revenue versus dining  
120 permit revenue and instead evaluate the program based solely on its contributions to  
121 public health, sustainable transportation, quality of life, and Bloomington's identity as a  
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### 123 SECTION 3. Statement of Values

124 The Commission affirms that sustainable cities prioritize people over automobiles,  
125 especially in their most central public spaces, and that Bloomington's identity as a  
126 walkable, bikeable community should be reflected in the design of its most prominent  
127 and iconic pedestrian corridor.

### 128 SECTION 4. Transmittal

129 The Chair is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to all members of the  
130 Bloomington Common Council, to the Mayor, to the Director of Planning and  
131 Transportation, to the Director of Economic and Sustainable Development, to the City  
132 Engineer, to the Chair of the Board of Public Works, and to the Chair of the  
133 Transportation Commission.

134 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience  
135 upon this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Chair

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and  
Resilience

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DRAFT