

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

Tuesday, May 12, 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 Zoom¹](#)

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¹ <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, May 12, 2026, 6:00pm

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

[This meeting may also be accessed by Zoom¹](#)

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

Rebecca Payne, 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

Diana Ogrodowski, 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. April 14, 2026 – Regular Meeting
- 4. Public Comment** **6:05 PM**
3 minutes per person
- 5. Commissioner Reports** **6:15 PM**
 - a. **Chair's Report**
Justin Vasel
 - b. **Council Ex-Officio**
Dave Rollo
- 6. Discussions Not the Subject of Resolution** **6:30 PM**
 - a. **O'Neill Capstone Presentation on SEUs**
 - b. **Need for Additional Commission Meeting/Working Time**
- 7. Resolutions for First Reading** **6:50 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
- 8. Resolutions for Second Reading** **6:55 PM**

¹ <https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84327085962?pwd=nal8LVmKZSoinPUHbXuw3h7oqMyi5g.1>

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

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

Presenter: Zach Ammerman

- i. Action Item: Adoption of the resolution

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

- 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

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APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:01 pm
 McCloskey Conference Room – City hall

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Vasel called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm
2. **Roll Call:**
Members

Commissioner	Presence	Notes
Tara Dunderdale	Present	
Justin Vasel	Present	
Matt Austin	Present	
Christopher Miles	Present	
Zach Ammerman	Present	
Quentin Gilly	Virtual	<i>Joined in person at 6:18 pm</i>
Alex Jorck	Present	
Maria Aarstad	Present	
Chenghuai Xu	Not Present	
Diana Ogrodowski	Virtual	<i>Commissioner Ogrodowski left the meeting at some point before adjournment</i>
Ross Carlson	Present	
—	Vacant	
—	Vacant	
Dave Rollo (<i>Council Ex Officio</i>)	Virtual	

City Staff Present: Shawn Miya and Jolie Perry

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3. **Approval of Agenda**

ACTION: Chairperson Vasel moved to move the staff liaison report to after reports from commissioners and move the resolutions for second reading to before the resolutions for first reading, and to move Resolution 2026-04 before Resolution 2026-03. Commissioner Ammerman seconded. Motion Passed with a Roll Call vote of 11-0-0.

4. **Approval of Minutes: March 10, 2026**

ACTION: Commissioner Ammerman moved to approve, Commissioner Austin seconded. Motion moved with a roll call vote of 11-0-0

5. **Public Comment**

A. Public Comment from Ellee Spier - regarding a neighborhood grant. She received a 1099-D but did not receive income from the grant just for supply. Shared that the process for neighborhood grants is really difficult and organizations are giving up before completing applications.

6. **Reports from Commissioners**

A. Chair's Report – Justin Vasel

- a. No changes to seats, new slate of officers elected in March.
- b. O'Neill School capstone project on sustainable energy utilities - Tuesday April 28, 2026 at 5:30-6:30 pm in Council Chambers
- c. Resolution 2026-02 Automated License Plate Reader Technology transmitted to all parties listed except county Sheriff - Chairperson Vasel could not find contact information for that office.
 - i. Common Council Resolution 2026-04 asked for a written information packet which might be on the April 22, 2026, meeting but the agenda has not yet been released.
- d. Chairperson Vasel asked for a volunteer to write draft legislative language for the chicken flock resolution (add number) - Commissioner Ammerman volunteered, Commissioner Dunderdale offered to share resources for the municipal code.
- e. Strategic planning and the annual report are both in process. Upcoming work in developing a commissioners handbook and onboarding materials. We are in need of a bylaws update as municipal code governing BCOSR has changed.
- f. Relevant to BCOSR mission and interest are the Hopewell South PUD.
- g. Chairperson Vasel shared a link to the Mayor's state of the city.
- h. Bloomington transit is considering merging some lines and increasing micro transit.

B. General Reminders:

- a. Earth Day - we will have a table. Commissioner Dunderdale thanked city staff Jolie Perry for her support in getting materials. Commissioner Dunderdale confirmed she will be there in the morning and Commissioner Ammerman will get the supplies at the end of the day.

C. Waste Management Working Group Matt Austin

- a. There is a grant available - open to both residents and organizations in Monroe County - up to \$5,000. Deadline is May 15.
- b. Local company is working on 3D printing homes.

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D. Council Ex-Officio Dave Rollo -

- a. Deliberation session tomorrow April 15, 6:30-9:30, the topic is Hopewell PUD discussion. The petitioner is the RDC. Joint session with RDC with a presentation from the consultant. Information on the council website for meeting announcements and packets.
- b. Councilmember Rollo gave a presentation to the common council on generative AI several 3 years ago and offered to give a presentation to BCOS on the topic.
- c. Reasonable conditions for Hopewell relate to streetscape, transportation, sidewalk, and affordability of the units.
 - i. Commissioner Ammerman asked if Council hired an attorney to address the dispute with the administration over the reasonable conditions. The attorney affirmed the council's right to bring reasonable conditions.

7. Staff liaison report

- A.** Earth Day will be April 18, 2026 12-3:30.
- B.** Canopy Bloomington installed trees as part of a cool corridor grant along Miller Drive and ESD installed a bus shelter.
- C.** Bloomington Energy Works is coming to a close, the projects included in the proposal value approximately \$61 million. Donovan energy is still completing some energy audits, including MCCSC BHSS. Volunteers have knocked on close to 6500 doors.
- D.** Commissioner Jorck asked about an update on the BEW final report at the end of the project.
- E.** Commissioner Ammerman asked about the status of the city's climate change greenhouse gas inventory. Staff Liaison Shawn Miya indicated that it was in progress and mostly complete, but needed to be made accessible. ClimateNav will be giving a presentation on the inventory to the City Council once it's finalized.

8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion

- 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 Department of Parks and Recreation)

Action Item: Adoption of the resolution

Note: Commissioner Ogradowski left the meeting at some point during discussion.

- a. Chairperson Vasel provided a procedural update on the process.
- b. Commissioner Ammerman briefly noted for the record that his husband works for Parks and Rec and one part of his job includes applying glyphosate. He stated that he saw no way to financially benefit from the resolution and so did not intend to recuse himself, but would do so if any Commissioners objected. No one did.
- c. Subject Matter experts joined.

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- i. **Ellen Jacquart** (President, MC-IRIS) Former botanist at the Nature Conservancy and President of Monroe County-IRIS, works in partnership with Bloomington Parks and Recreation.
- ii. **Mary Welz** (Natural Resources Manager, Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department)-
- iii. Commissioner Jorck asked for examples of what types of situations the city uses glyphosate.
 1. *Welz specified she can only speak for Parks and Rec and Natural Resource Management within Operations. Using glyphosate for not selective control - over half of the use is for cut stump applications on woody vegetation. Low volume high concentration, stumps are cut, pesticide is applied with a dye and there are signs added and it is posted on the website. Foliar application of bush honeysuckle, low concentration, high volume. Also used for surface restoration.*
- iv. Commissioner Ammerman asked Mart Welz what specifically would change in her day-to-day work if there was a city ban on glyphosate with an exception for aggressive invasive plants.
 1. *Welz: There would be no change for her work with invasive plants but there might be impacts beyond her jurisdiction. Jacquart: shared an issue that there could be slip and fall accidents in the city. Commissioner Jorck asked if our city does this type of application on sidewalks, experts did not know.*
- v. Commissioner Miles asked for the definition of foliar spraying for the record.
 1. *Welz: About half of the city's use of this is the woody stem application.*
- vi. Commissioner Miles asked about the use of the foliar method for habitat restoration.
- vii. Commissioner Aarsta asked questions about the IPM annual review process.
 1. *Welz has only been with the department for one year but has been reviewing in advance of an update. Asked if there have been questions from the public in the past year. Not in the past year but it may have happened in the past.*
- viii. There have not been any public records requests for glyphosate in the past year.
- ix. Commissioner Dunderdale asked about dye usage and signage and communication of the volume of any pesticides by the city.
- x. Commissioner Austin asked about executive order from the Trump Administration protecting the national supply of glyphosate for national defense purposes, compelling Monsanto to continue producing it
 1. *Jacquart: Glyphosate is the most studied herbicide in the world.*
- xi. Commissioner Gilly asked about knock-on effects of imbalancing microbiomes with use of herbicides.
- xii. Commissioner Carlson asked for clarification about the application and what other departments might be using and for what.
- xiii. Councilmember Rollo asked about the 2015 report that said 16 gallons of glyphosate by the city - 7 of which for natural resource management.

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- xiv. Chairperson Vasel asked the experts to speak to the invasive plant issue in Bloomington and for parks to talk about the impact on the Natural Resources office.
 - 1. *It is comparable to other urban areas. We are seeing a lot of progress. Parks Natural Resources would be impacted significantly by the limitation of this tool.*
 - xv. Commissioner Jorck asked about training and feedback for city staff applying pesticides.
 - 1. *City staff are not required by law to be certified but are. Contractors are required to be certified pesticide applicators. There are regular staff retraining.*
 - xvi. Commissioner Miles asked about the impact of limiting how much or how glyphosate is applied would it make a difference operationally. Is there an impact on fauna of the application of glyphosate?
 - d. **Commissioner Jorck moved to consider for adoption**, seconded by Commissioner Miles.
 - e. **Commissioner Dunderdale moved to postpone Resolution 2026-04 to the May meeting**. Seconded by Commissioner Carlson.
 - f. **Commissioner Jorck moved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes**. Seconded by Commissioner Gilly seconded. Passed by roll-call-vote of 10-0-0.
 - g. **Motion to postpone to May regular meeting**.
 - i. Commissioner Ammerman noted that the commission meets only once per month but has increasingly ambitious agendas, which he said was a good thing that we should encourage, but that overly strict, to-the-minute adherence to meeting end times hinders our ability to get that agenda accomplished. He asked for generally more flexibility on meeting end times, and made the case for voting on the glyphosate issue that night so as not to allow the issue to dominate more than one meeting.
 - h. **Motion to postpone passed by roll call vote 7-1-2**, Ammerman against, Austin and Vasel abstaining.
9. **Motion to adjourn from Chairperson Vasel**. Commissioner Dunderdale seconded. Motion passed by roll call vote of 9-1-0, Ammerman against.

Adjourned at 7:42 pm. Our next meeting is April 28 (special meeting).

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Zach Ammerman

Date: May 5, 2026

Subject: Introduction to Resolution 2026-05 Concerning Anticoagulant Rodenticides and Adhesive-Based Animal Traps and Their Impact on the Biodiversity Crisis

Introduction

The human-created biodiversity crisis is devastating non-human life across the planet, with extinction rates estimated at 1,000 to 10,000 times the rate of the last great extinction event which wiped out the non-avian dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Resolution 2026-05 asks the Commission to recommend banning or restricting the use of anticoagulant rodenticides and adhesive-based (glue) traps in Bloomington, two practices that are cruelly and indiscriminately harmful to non-human life, causing enormous suffering to our animal neighbors and kin. In the context of this human-caused devastation, it is critical that cities like ours completely rethink their relationship to wildlife, abandoning destructive practices and adopting biophilic, life-embracing policies instead. This resolution would be one meaningful step in that direction.

This resolution may appear superficially similar to a preceding question before the Commission concerning glyphosate, but the two cases are fundamentally different under the surface, and in fact opposing the first and supporting the second are entirely consistent positions. Glyphosate is a targeted herbicide that, when used according to label instructions in limited quantities, poses low ecological risk and remains an important tool for managing invasive plant species, which is obviously a very important conservation priority. Anticoagulant rodenticides, by contrast, are inherently indiscriminate: they do not stay with their target. Once ingested, they circulate through the food web for weeks, poisoning predators, scavengers, and even species with no connection to rodents whatsoever. The question before the Commission is not whether to ban pesticides as a category, but whether to recommend ending the use of two specific types of products whose documented, widespread, and indiscriminate harm to non-target wildlife is not a side effect of misuse, but essential to how they function. I would argue that voting to ban rodenticides and glue traps here and voting against banning glyphosate for invasive plants are two entirely coherent positions, as they both involve fighting in favor of biodiversity – fighting invasive species through allowing the continued use of glyphosate in that struggle, and fighting to protect wildlife through banning rodenticides, which kill wild animals indiscriminately.

Anticoagulant Rodenticides

In addition to a large amount of anecdotal evidence coming from wildlife rehabilitation organizations, a substantial and growing body of scientific evidence firmly documents the large scale of harm caused by both anticoagulant rodenticides and adhesive-based traps. Anticoagulant rodenticides are deeply

destructive to local wildlife, with their effects ricocheting widely and indiscriminately as they circulate for weeks in the food web, killing or injuring dozens of documented species of other wildlife in the process, including species quite distant in the food chain from mice and rats.

National and international studies have found anticoagulant residues in 74–96% of raptors tested across multiple species, 82% of bald and golden eagles nationwide, 95% of California mountain lions, and 98% of urban coyotes in Southern California. A 2024 global review identified anticoagulant exposure across eight families of mammalian carnivores in 19 countries, with exposure-related mortality documented in roughly one-third of species studied. Perhaps most alarmingly, a 16-year study on Kiawah Island, South Carolina, published in February of this year, demonstrated definitively that anticoagulant rodenticides can drive population-level decline (up to and including local extinction) in a carnivore, with the bobcats' annual survival falling from 94% to 39% and the population collapsing from more than 30 to fewer than 10 individuals. Luckily for that particular population, local measures were taken to eliminate the use of these chemicals, as the researchers predicted local extinction of the bobcat population due to anticoagulant rodenticides within five to seven years of rat poison introduction without those measures.

Recent research has also shown that contamination extends beyond predator-prey pathways to the base of the food web, with second-generation compounds detected in 80% of reptiles and 40% of insectivorous birds. Really think about the preceding sentence: Two large families of animals who are nowhere near the food chain to rodents and who only consume insects were found to be contaminated by rodent poison up to 80% of the time. Anticoagulant rodenticides have also been found in high concentrations in squirrels, white-tailed deer, chipmunks, and other species who either rarely or never consume rodents. We appear to be widely poisoning large swathes of the animal world in an attempt to control a rodent population that can be effectively managed with prevention and natural alternatives (see below). These compounds have been compared in the scientific literature to DDT and PCBs, chemicals long banned from commercial use (with good reason), on the basis that they meet the same regulatory criteria for persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic substances — yet these remain in use.

Adhesive-Based Traps

The best word I can think of to describe adhesive-based (glue) traps is “barbaric.” They are inhumane and inherently indiscriminate, causing prolonged suffering to animals who become trapped in them. I considered attaching some photos of animals who had been trapped in glue traps to this memorandum to demonstrate their horrible impact, but ultimately opted against it due to the extremely graphic nature of the photos. Glue traps are simply horrific. There is absolutely no justification whatsoever for their use. Glue traps represent the very worst of human hubris and indifference to our non-human kin and absolutely, unequivocally should be banned. Full stop.

A systematic welfare assessment rated glue traps among the most harmful control methods, and the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission, whose recommendation led to Scotland's ban, concluded that even with optimal use, significant and unavoidable animal welfare concerns remain. Glue traps have additionally been banned entirely in most of the constituent countries of the UK, Norway, the

Netherlands, Germany, Iceland, New Zealand, several states of India, and the Australian state of Victoria, among others.

Alternatives

Effective alternatives to both glue traps and anticoagulant rodenticides exist: Studies estimate that a single barn owl family can remove as many as 4,000 rodents per year, and nest box programs can reduce rodenticide use by 45–80%. Restoring and supporting natural predation can be vastly more effective than these poisons, which have horrific side effects. Thus, welcoming life into the city rather than poisoning helps to manage rodent populations. And by far the most effective method for handling rodent presence is *better waste management*. Rats are present because food is present and available, so limit the food access and the problem becomes manageable. Sealed, spring-loaded or locking dumpster lids; sealed sewer entry points and promptly repaired grates; making sure trash is bagged before going into the bin; frequent and efficient trash removal — these are all viable waste management alternatives, among many others. As a classic example of a commensal species, rats have been and will continue to be present in virtually every human settlement (outside of perhaps Antarctica and the high Arctic) since the dawn of agriculture. They are living beings caught in a situation we have created ourselves (by providing food access in the first place), and the goal should be coexistence through better design, not just finding a cleaner way to kill them.

A key problem is that both anticoagulant rodenticides and glue traps create strong negative feedback loops: They might initially reduce the population but then spread unintended consequences throughout the ecosystem, with the largest negative impact falling on the very species who naturally manage the rodent population on their own. That then creates a need to use more rodenticides to have the same effect, killing off even more wildlife, and on and on. This would be like using chemotherapy to treat a bacterial infection. Yes, it might kill what you're after, but it also destroys the body's own ability to fight the problem, leaving you more dependent on the poison than you were before.

Conclusion

Through Resolution 2026-05, I am asking the Commission to do something straightforward: recommend that the City stop using products that are indiscriminately poisoning wildlife and causing needless suffering, and encourage the Common Council and Mayor to extend those protections citywide. Bloomington sits at the heart of some of Indiana's last remaining largely intact ecosystems, home to bald eagles, bobcats, barn owls, and dozens of other species that are directly harmed by these products. Effective, humane alternatives exist and are already in use in jurisdictions across the country and around the world.

I respectfully ask my fellow commissioners for their support in passing this resolution.

Recommended Reading

1. Keating, M.P. (2024). *Rat poison is moving up through food chains, threatening carnivores around the world*. *The Conversation*, August 12, 2024.
<https://theconversation.com/rat-poison-is-moving-up-through-food-chains-threatening-carnivores-around-the-world-232471>
2. *Bringing bobcats back from the brink*. *The Wildlife Society*, April 2026.
<https://wildlife.org/bringing-bobcats-back-from-the-brink/>
3. Keating, M.P., et al. (2026). *Anticoagulant Rodenticides Contribute to a Decline in an Urban Carnivore*. *Animal Conservation* (early view).
<https://zslpublications.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/acv.70061>
4. Niedringhaus, K.D., et al. (2021). *Anticoagulant rodenticide exposure and toxicosis in bald eagles and golden eagles in the United States*. *Science of the Total Environment*, 793, 148359.
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8026043/>
5. Elliott, J.E., et al. (2016). *Paying the Pipers: Mitigating the Impact of Anticoagulant Rodenticides on Predators and Scavengers*. *BioScience*, 66(5), 401–407.
<https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/66/5/401/2468643>
6. Scottish Animal Welfare Commission (2021). *Report on the use of rodent glue traps in Scotland*. Scottish Government.
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-animal-welfare-commission-report-use-rodent-glue-traps-scotland/pages/6/>
7. Johnson, M.D. & St. George, D. (2020). *Estimating the Number of Rodents Removed by Barn Owls Nesting in Boxes on Winegrape Vineyards*. *Journal of Wildlife Management*.
<https://www.humboldt.edu/sites/default/files/wildlife/2025-03/johnsonstgeorge2020.pdf>

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 1970¹ and the extinction rate skyrocketing to 1,000 to 10,000 times² 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 Earth³; 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, anticoagulant contamination is not limited to predator-prey pathways: a 2025 study detected second-generation compounds in approximately 80% of reptiles and 40% of insectivorous birds tested, species that do not consume rodents but are likely exposed through contaminated invertebrates, demonstrating that these compounds are infiltrating the base of the food web⁴; and
- WHEREAS, second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides are particularly hazardous because they persist in animal tissues for approximately four weeks or longer, dramatically

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

² [Estimating the normal background rate of species extinction](#)

³ [Vertebrate biodiversity losses point to a sixth mass extinction](#)

⁴ Martín Cruz et al., 2025, <https://www.mdpi.com/2305-6304/13/6/505>

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 2008⁵; 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% of red-tailed hawks tested⁶, 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 compound⁷, and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation documented poisoning across species including raptors, gray squirrels, raccoons, white-tailed deer, red foxes, skunks, and opossums⁸; a national study of bald and golden eagles found anticoagulant residues in 82% of individuals tested, including in 81% of eagles⁹; a 30-year analysis of Canadian raptors found at least one second-generation compound in 74% of individuals, reaching 96% in barred owls¹⁰; and a 2024 global review documented anticoagulant exposure across eight families of mammalian carnivores in 19 countries, with exposure-related mortality claimed in roughly one-third of species studied¹¹; 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, anticoagulant rodenticides have been shown to cause not only individual mortality but population-level declines in predators: on Kiawah Island, South Carolina, a 16-year study of GPS-collared bobcats documented annual survival dropping from 94% to 39% following the initial detection of anticoagulant rodenticides in the population, with the bobcat population declining from over 30 to fewer than 10 individuals in two years¹²; and a 2024 California statewide survey detected second-generation anticoagulant compounds in 95% of mountain lions tested, despite existing regulatory efforts¹³; and

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/rodenticides/restrictions-rodenticide-products>

⁶ <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2022/07/rodenticide-poisoning-widespread-among-nys-red-tailed-hawks>

⁷ <https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.22696>

⁸ <https://jwd.kglmeridian.com/downloadpdf/view/journals/jwdi/35/2/article-p187.xml>

⁹ Niedringhaus et al., 2021, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8026043/>

¹⁰ Elliott et al., 2022, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9540899/>

¹¹ Keating et al., 2024, <https://zslpublications.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/acv.12947>

¹² Keating et al., 2026, <https://zslpublications.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/acv.70061>

¹³ [Center for Biological Diversity](#), 2025

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 California¹⁴ (all first- and second-generation compounds banned, effective 2025), South Carolina¹⁵ (second-generation restrictions, 2025, extended indefinitely), and Connecticut¹⁶ (second-generation compounds classified as restricted-use, 2026), with legislation pending in Massachusetts¹⁷, New York¹⁸, and Rhode Island¹⁹; and the EPA finalized its Biological Evaluation for eleven rodenticides in November 2024²⁰, with an amended Proposed Interim Decision anticipated in 2026; and

WHEREAS, second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides meet the regulatory criteria for persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals, which is the same classification that led to the removal of DDT and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from commerce, and have consistently failed ecological risk assessments, yet remain in use due to demand for rodent control²¹; and

WHEREAS, adhesive-based traps have been banned or restricted in England²², Scotland, Wales²³, 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. airports²⁴; and

WHEREAS, a systematic welfare assessment rated glue traps among the highest-impact control methods across all categories of suffering²⁵; and the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission concluded that even with optimal use, including frequent checking and effective dispatch, glue traps pose significant and unavoidable animal welfare concerns²⁶; and

¹⁴ <https://responsiblerodenticides.org/california-issues/>

¹⁵ <https://news.clemson.edu/pesticide-regulators-extend-restrictions-on-certain-rodenticides/>

¹⁶ <https://www.jteaton.com/rodenticide-state-restrictions/>

¹⁷ <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S644.Html>

¹⁸ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S7532/amendment/A>

¹⁹ [Rodenticides kill more than rodents. Providence lawmaker sponsors bill to ban their use.](https://www.providencejournal.com/news/local/providence-lawmaker-sponsors-bill-to-ban-their-use)

²⁰ <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-rodenticide-strategy-including-final-biological-evaluation-effects-11>

²¹ Elliott et al., 2016, <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/66/5/401/2468643>

²² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/26>

²³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckgx9pkq7w0o>

²⁴ <https://www.peta.org/issues/wildlife/wildlife-factsheets/glue-traps/>

²⁵ Meerburg et al., 2024, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10937213/>

²⁶ [Scottish Animal Welfare Commission](https://www.scottishanimalwelfare.com/), 2021

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)²⁷; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 15-16-5-71²⁸ 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.

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.

²⁷ <https://iga.in.gov/laws/2025/ic/titles/15#15-16-5-25>

²⁸ <https://iga.in.gov/laws/2025/ic/titles/15#15-16-5-71>

- (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.

Justin Vasel, Chair

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and
Resilience

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DRAFT

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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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 2025-02¹ 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

¹ <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 activity²; 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:

² 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

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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](#)’,¹ 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.**

¹<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 Media³, stated that “only five” businesses along the corridor expressed support for the pedestrianization program, but according to the city’s published survey results⁴, 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:

1. ³ [Bloomington's Thomson on not closing Kirkwood. annexation. Flock](#)

2. 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

4

RESOLUTION 2026-03

5

**CONCERNING THE PEDESTRIANIZATION OF KIRKWOOD AVENUE AND
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 2025-02¹
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

¹ <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
46 proportion of customers arriving by automobile, underestimate the percentage of
47 customers arriving by transit, biking, or walking, and that pedestrianized
48 commercial districts often experience increased foot traffic and economic
49 activity²; and

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

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

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

66 WHEREAS, the Mayor, in a February 18 interview with Indiana Public Media³, stated that
67 “only five” businesses along the corridor expressed support for the
68 pedestrianization program, but according to the city’s published survey results⁴, at
69 least 20 businesses surveyed along the corridor expressed “strong support” of
70 continuing the program, the largest category, with more than 50% indicating
71 support of any degree, but that such decisions nonetheless should not be made
72 based solely or largely on the opinions of individuals who happen to own

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

³ [Bloomington's Thomson on not closing Kirkwood, annexation, Flock](#)

⁴ [City of Bloomington Kirkwood Closure Business Feedback Survey Results](#)

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
95 seasonal closure of Kirkwood Avenue to vehicle traffic during summer months,
96 consistent with the intent of Ordinance 2025-02.

97 (b) Strongly consider taking measures in favor of the permanent, year-round closure of
98 Kirkwood Avenue to motor vehicle traffic between at least the Sample Gates and the
99 Courthouse Square, with provisions for emergency and limited service/delivery vehicle
100 access, and without including provisions that would allow the city administration to
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
106 and the degree to which the expanded pedestrian realm has improved mobility and access
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
111 maximize the corridor's function as a public space.

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
122 walkable community.

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.

136

137

138

139

_____, Chair

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and
Resilience

140 *The views expressed here are solely those of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience, as approved in their public meetings,*
141 *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*
142 *policy statements on behalf of the Executive Branch of the City of Bloomington.*

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM

Recommendations to Amend Bloomington’s Municipal Code and Unified Development Ordinance in Alignment with [BCOSR Resolution 2025-01: To Adopt a Scalable Poultry Flock Size-Model](#)

From: Zach Ammerman, Vice Chair

To: All Members of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience and all members of the Bloomington Common Council

Date: April 15, 2026

BACKGROUND

The Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience on Aug. 12, 2025, unanimously passed Resolution 2025-01 To Adopt a Scalable Poultry Flock Size-Model, sponsored by Jami Scholl and Council ex-officio Dave Rollo, with the goal of allowing scalable backyard chicken flocks based on the size of the property where the chickens would be held. The current citywide limit is five chickens, regardless of property size, and additionally limits the owner to only maintaining one flock citywide.

The resolution as passed contained only broad recommendations and no changes to specific sections of the city code. During BCOSR’s April 14, 2026, meeting, in order to help move the resolution closer to becoming a city law, BCOSR Chair Justin Vasel assigned me the duty of making specific recommendations for changes to Bloomington’s Municipal Code (BMC) and Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) on behalf of the Commission, with the goal of helping the Council by finding the specific changes that would need to be made in each.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order for the recommendations made in BCOSR Resolution 2025-01 to become city law, I respectfully recommend that the following changes be made to the Bloomington Municipal Code:

Bloomington Municipal Code

[BMC § 7.01.010 – Definition of “Chicken Flock”](#)

1. **(a):** Replace “no more than five hens” with “no more hens than permitted under § 7.21.028(c)” (a new subsection to be added below)
2. Repeal **(c):** Dead reference to an obsolete section of the UDO
3. **(d)** Replace the outdated zone list with “any zoning district in which chicken flocks are listed as a permitted accessory use in the Unified Development Ordinance”

[BMC § 7.21.028 – Obtaining a permit for chicken flocks](#)

1. New subsection **(c)**: Insert the following language and table, as recommended by BCOSR Resolution 2025-01:

Chicken flocks are authorized on a scalable model based on lot size as follows:

Lot size	Chicken Flock Limit
≤5,000 square feet	Up to 5 hens
5,001-10,000 square feet	Up to 8 hens
10,001-20,000 square feet	Up to 12 hens
>20,000 square feet (or agriculturally-zoned lots)	Up to 20 hens, or as approved through site plan

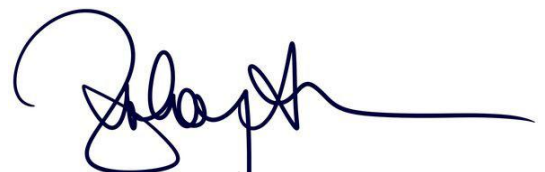
I would further recommend that the departments most appropriate for approving more than 20 hens on the largest lot sizes would be Animal Care and Control in conjunction with the Department of Planning and Transportation.

2. New subsection **(a)(1)(E)**: Add a requirement that the application include documentation of the lot area.

Unified Development Ordinance

I see no changes needed to the UDO, most of which refer back to the BMC subsections above. [Chicken flocks are already permitted accessory uses in all residential and mixed-use zones](#), including mobile home parks (RMH), and there does not appear to be a city definition or zone for agri-village.

Respectfully,



Zachary Ammerman
Vice Chair,
Bloomington Commission on
Sustainability and Resilience