

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

Tuesday, June 9, 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](#)

CONTENTS

- 1. Agenda**
- 2. Minutes for Approval**
 - a. **May 12, 2026** — Regular Meeting
- 3. Resolution 2026-05:** concerning anticoagulant rodenticides and adhesive-based animal traps and their impact on the biodiversity crisis
 - a. **Supporting Memo**
 - b. **Resolution Language for Second Reading**
 - c. **Amendment 1**
 - d. **Letters of support**
 - i. Earth Care Bloomington
 - ii. Green Sanctuary Task Force, Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington
 - iii. Dr. Ellen Ketterson, IU Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biology

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, June 9, 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 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. May 12, 2026 – Regular Meeting
- 4. Public Comment** **6:05 PM**
3 minutes per person
- 5. Commissioner Reports** **6:15 PM**
 - a. **Acting Chair's Report**
Zach Ammerman
 - b. **Council Ex-Officio**
Dave Rollo
- 6. Discussions Not the Subject of Resolution** **6:30 PM**
 - a. **Upcoming Council AI Resolution**
Presenter: Dave Rollo
- 7. Resolutions for First Reading** **6:45 PM**
- 8. Resolutions for Second Reading** **6:45 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: Adoption of the resolution

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

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

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|--|-------------------|
| 9. Staff Liaison Report
Shawn Miya | 7:20 PM |
| 10. Member Announcements | 7:30 PM |
| 11. New Business | 7:30 PM |
| 12. Adjournment | by 7:30 PM |

MAY 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 6:02 pm
McCloskey Conference Room – City Hall

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Vasel called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

Roll Call:

Members

Commissioner	Presence	Notes
Tara Dunderdale	Present ▾	
Justin Vasel	Present ▾	
Rebecca Payne	Present ▾	
Christopher Miles	Virtual ▾	
Zachary Ammerman	Present ▾	
Quentin Gilly	Virtual ▾	<i>Commissioner Gilly arrived in person at 6:23 pm</i>
Alex Jorck	Present ▾	
Maria Aarstad	Present ▾	
—	Vacant ▾	
Diana Ogrodowski	Present ▾	
Ross Carlson	Present ▾	
—	Vacant ▾	
—	Vacant ▾	
Dave Rollo (<i>Council Ex Officio</i>)	Present ▾	

City Staff Present: Jolie Perry

2. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Brief discussion on moving the staff liaison report up in the agenda, decided against it
 - b. Commissioner Carlson **moved to approve**, Commissioner Dunderdale seconded
 - i. Approved 11-0

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Commissioner Dunderdale **moved to approve**, Ogrodowski seconded
 - i. Approved 11-0

4. Public Comment

- a. **Former Commissioner Matt Austin** asked to indefinitely postpone or vote against the resolution he sponsored on glyphosate at a previous meeting (Resolution 2026-04)
 - i. Also mentioned Wonderlab events summer blast off, starting bokashi and doing a training on bokashi in September

5. Commissioner Reports

- a. **Chair Report**
 - i. Chairperson Vasel introduced new Commissioner Rebecca Payne.
- b. **Council Ex Officio**
 - i. Council unanimously approved the Hopewell South development. Streetscapes and wider sidewalks were included in reasonable conditions. 35% of the units will be affordable, up from 15% initially proposed by administration.
 - ii. May 13 at 6:30 pm is a deliberation session of the council about snow on sidewalks. It has been a perpetual problem for pedestrians after snowstorms. Thinking of ways to make sure enforcement occurs.
 - iii. Rollo is working on an AI project. The county put a moratorium on data centers for one year which expires in July. He would like to encourage the county to make the moratorium permanent.
 - iv. Working on a “rhetorical” moratorium to encourage the state to take action against artificial general intelligence. May be coming at the June 10 Council meeting. Discussed the possibility of speaking about the resolution at our next meeting June 9.
 - v. Commissioner Dunderdale asked if there would be public comment at the deliberative session on snow removal. Rollo indicated there would be.
 - vi. Chairperson Vasel asked for more details about the resolution of the reasonable condition disagreement between the Council and the Mayor. Council has hired a lawyer who disagrees with the administration’s assessment that reasonable conditions are not allowed, the administration legal team still disagrees, but the Council hiring a lawyer has allowed the Council to move forward with them.

6. Discussions Not the Subject of a Resolution

- a. **O’Neill Capstone Presentation on SEUs**
 - i. Commissioner Dunderdale praised the quality of the presentation and the content. Brought up the idea of creating some sort of basic guide for other commissions who might want to use a similar capstone project.
 - ii. Commissioner Ammerman praised the quality of the presentation and the content but expressed some regret that they didn’t really answer the question of how to set up an SEU – stating it was not illegal or impossible, as their report suggested, but simply difficult. He liked the presentation, learned a lot from it, but would have liked more engagement on the actual question of the SEU.
 - iii. Commissioner Jorck liked the presentation and learned a lot. Said that his SPEA contacts told him the students really loved the project and they would be very

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

- excited about doing similar projects. Liked Dunderdale's idea of setting up a blueprint to send to other commissions to do similar projects.
- iv. Commissioner Gilly suggested we need more engagement with Duke.

b. Need for Additional Commission Meeting/Working Time

- i. Staff member Perry suggested working group time should be on a specific topic ideally. And also having some time to prioritize long-term planning is a good idea.
- ii. Commissioner Ammerman mentioned that the Commission only meets for an hour and a half per month, and has a quite strict enforcement of meeting end times, which he said combines to create a situation with insufficient time for the type of ambitious agenda we should strive for as a group. He said he would like to move to scheduling two meetings per month, suggesting perhaps alternating between two business meetings and then the next month a business meeting and a working meeting, but agnostic about the exact details. He said that the Commission could always schedule two meetings per month, hold at least one as required and cancel the second one if the Commission finds it's not needed that month. Commissioner Ammerman noted that the ordinance language referring to one meeting per month was somewhat ambiguous and, while not using the explicit 'minimum' wording found in some other commission ordinances, is more naturally read as establishing a floor rather than a ceiling, especially considering similar provisions for other commissions, and that this reading is consistent with the special meeting authority given to the Commission.
- iii. Commissioner Dunderdale said we need to make sure we have a sufficient quorum for any additional meetings before scheduling them. Also mentioned that Roberts Rules may slow us down but any change on that would have to go through Council as Roberts Rules are required to be used by statute.
- iv. Commissioner Miles brought up the topic of the purpose of the commission, what its purpose is. Whether it's for resolutions only or providing general advice and a venue for discussion for Commissioners on city policy and programs. He said he would support more efforts for general strategic planning and less for proposing resolutions.
- v. Commissioner Dunderdale's impression was that the city was not in good faith willing to work with us on planning additional meetings. That the city administration is not necessarily willing to give us the flexibility to work with us.
- vi. Ammerman said he agreed with Dunderdale's assessment, that the city administration was not acting as a good faith ally to city commissions on this topic.
- vii. Staff member Perry asked that any meetings held have a clear purpose, and noted concerns about staff time.
- viii. Chairperson Vassel suggested having a few targeted strategy sessions to dig into these questions in more detail and then moving from there.
- ix. Staff member Perry mentioned that the city would likely be doing training for commissioners in June, a few commissioners suggested perhaps doing the strategic meetings at some point soon after that.

7. Resolutions for First Reading

- a. **Resolution 2026-05: Concerning Anticoagulant Rodenticides and Adhesive-Based Animal Traps and Their Impact on the Biodiversity Crisis**
 - i. **Presenter:** Commissioner Ammerman
 - ii. **Action Item:** Advancement of the Resolution to Second Reading

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

1. Ammerman moved to advance to a second reading. Dunderdale seconded.
2. Ammerman briefly presented the main points of the resolution, and mentioned the memorandum in the meeting packet he had written laying out its rationale, asking members to please read it before the meeting in June.
3. Motion passes 11-0

8. Resolutions for Second Reading

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

- i. **Presenter:** Commissioner Ammerman
- ii. **Action Item:** Adoption of the Resolution
 1. Gilly **moved to consider the resolution for approval**, Jorck seconded.
 2. Ammerman outlined the main recommendations of the Resolution.
 3. Rollo mentioned that the Council is considering a resolution to do something along the lines of what the resolution is promoting. Mentioned that the Council and Mayor are in dispute about the status of whether the Council or the Mayor has control over city streets, and that in the past the Council has always been able to have control over street decisions.
 4. Commissioner Jorck expressed support for the resolution. He has visited several successful pedestrian streets in analog cities and has seen their success.
 5. Commissioner Dunderdale expressed some thoughts on accessibility, but that accessibility is outside of the scope of just pedestrianization and is more about the lack of enforcement of existing accessibility rules in all contexts.
 6. Commissioner Payne expressed support for the resolution.
 7. Ammerman **moved to amend** for accessibility concerns as submitted in written format, Dunderdale seconded.
 - a. Amendment passed 11-0
 8. Jorck **moved to amend** lines 50-52 to strengthen the language on permanent streetscape improvements. Ammerman seconded.
 - a. Amendment passed 11-0
 9. Jorck **moved to amend** to add language just before the last Whereas clause to state that the Kirkwood pedestrian program could serve as an example for Indiana University. Ammerman seconded.
 - a. Amendment passed 11-0
 10. Commissioner Aarstad pointed out that Kirkwood has recently been designated by the Board of Public Works as an official festival footprint corridor.
 11. Ammerman **moved to amend** to add a Whereas clause reflecting Aarstad's comment, Jorck seconded
 - a. Amended passed 11-0
- iii. Rollo **moved to extend the meeting to 7:45 pm**, Dunderdale seconded
 - a. Motion passed 11-0

b. **Resolution passed 11-0**

- c. Rollo **moved to allow Ammerman to present** the resolution to the Council at an upcoming meeting discussing Kirkwood, Ogrodowski seconded.

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

- i. Motion passed 11-0
- d. **Resolution 2026-04: Against the Use of Glyphosate in Bloomington's Public Spaces and Environmental Practices**
 - i. **Presenter:** NA (initially introduced for second reading and discussed in depth at April meeting, discussion postponed until May meeting, Former Commissioner Matt Austin, who had introduced, it has since left the Commission)
 - ii. **Action Item:** Adoption of the Resolution
 1. Chairperson Vasel explained procedure
 2. Jorck moved to consider the resolution, Ogrodowski seconded
 3. Commissioner Ross expressed that he does have concern about glyphosate and some of the herbicides no matter what happens with the resolution
 4. Ammerman moved to **postpone indefinitely**, Carlson seconded.
 - a. Ammerman said he thought the discussion was great but that the current form of the resolution was not one that he could support. He also stated that he thinks concerns about pesticide use are very valid and that he shares some of them, but that the current form of the resolution was not one he could support.
 - b. **Motion to postpone indefinitely approved 11-0**

9. Staff Liaison Report

- a. Training for staff liaisons and then commissioners are expected in May and June, respectively.
- b. Accessibility compliance (WCAG 2.2) has been postponed a year but the city's goal is still to follow the compliance rules before the rule requiring compliance comes into force.

10. Member Announcements

- a. Commissioner Dunderdale noted that there was a scheduled one-night pedestrianization of Kirkwood Avenue on May 13.
- b. Commissioner Ogrodowski noted that Hoosier Action is hosting several events open to the community on housing practices and advocacy in the city.
- c. Commissioner Miles noted that there is a similar event outside of Friendly Beasts and Seminary Point, throwing a block party with music in favor of protecting that property from being lost to development.
- d. Councilmember Rollo noted that he appreciated the memorandum on chicken poultry flock sizes. He also noted that the final considerations for the Jack Hopkins social funding is May 26, awarding \$500,000. He noted there was nearly \$700,000 in requests.

11. New Business

- a. None

Meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Vasel at 7:41 pm

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

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.

DRAFT

BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

Resolution Amendment Form

Resolution #: 2026-05
Amendment #: 01
Submitted by: Zach Ammerman
Date: May 28, 2026

Proposed Amendment:

Additions Deletions

1. Preamble

- a. In the WHEREAS clause beginning "scientific research has documented very high rates of exposure," in line 46 (slightly more than half way down the paragraph), strike the following comma and words: ", including in 81% of eagles".
- b. **Summary and Rationale:** *This deletes a line that I had intended to remove earlier as it introduces ambiguity and confusion. The full phrasing in the un-amended version as introduced reads "a national study of bald and golden eagles found anticoagulant residues in 82% of individuals tested, including in 81% of eagles." It was actually 82% of all individual birds of the two eagle species tested, and 81% of bald eagles alone, but that secondary information isn't that important and the phrasing in the version as submitted accidentally omitted "bald," making it sound contradictory and creating ambiguity. It's better to just delete it.*

2. Section 3. Transmittal

- a. Break up the paragraph into two at the last sentence (so that the new second paragraph now starts with: "Additionally, a courtesy copy...") and add preceding bullets (a), (b), etc. to each paragraph
- b. At the beginning of Section 3 at the start of the new paragraph (a), strike the words "Copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted..." and replace them with "The Chair shall transmit copies of this Resolution, or shall delegate such task to the Vice Chair or Secretary, within ten (10) business days of the date of passage..."
- c. Add a new paragraph "(c) The staff liaison is requested to post a copy of the resolution on the Commission website within ten (10) business days of passage."
- d. Add a new paragraph "(d) The Commission further authorizes the resolution sponsor to speak before the Common Council on behalf of the Commission in order to communicate the recommendations of this resolution as adopted."
- e. **Summary and Rationale:** *Adds a specific timeline of ten business days for transmitting the document to the various stakeholders identified in the resolution, specifies that the Chair may delegate the transmittal of the resolution to the Vice Chair or Secretary, formally requests that the staff liaison post the resolution on the BCOSR*

website within ten business days as well, and authorizes the resolution sponsor to present the recommendations of the resolution to the Council (thus avoiding the need for a potential second motion to this effect).

Statement of Support of Resolution 2026-05 from Earth Care Bloomington

[Earth Care Bloomington](#) supports Resolution 2026-05 concerning anticoagulant rodenticides and adhesive-based animal traps.

As members representing the environmental committees from eight local faith communities, we find that the evidence, as documented in the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability resolution 2026-05, makes it clear that anticoagulant rodenticides poison far beyond their intended targets, poisoning living beings throughout the food chain to harm raptors, foxes, owls, and countless other species that share our landscape, persisting in the environment for weeks or longer. Glue traps cause needless suffering to any animal unlucky enough to encounter them, and humane and effective alternatives exist for both anticoagulant rodenticides and glue traps.

Bloomington sits amid some of Indiana's most beautiful and intact ecosystems, so we owe it to the wildlife and communities around us to stop using products that undermine the predators that nature provides for rodent control. We urge the Commission to pass this resolution and encourage the Mayor and City Council to act on its recommendations.

Sincerely,

Molly O'Donnell

Convenor of [Earth Care Bloomington](#)

on behalf of the Earth Care Executive Committee

**Statement of Support of Resolution 2026-05 from the Green Sanctuary Task Force,
Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington**

The Green Sanctuary Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington supports the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability Resolution 2026-05 concerning anticoagulant rodenticides and adhesive-based animal traps.

As a Green Sanctuary congregation, we are called to honor the interdependent web of all existence. The evidence is clear that anticoagulant rodenticides poison far beyond their intended targets, poisoning living beings throughout the food chain to harm raptors, foxes, owls, and countless other species that share our landscape, persisting in the environment for weeks or longer. Glue traps cause needless suffering to any animal unlucky enough to encounter them, and humane and effective alternatives exist for both anticoagulant rodenticides and glue traps.

Bloomington sits amid some of Indiana's most beautiful and intact ecosystems, so we owe it to the wildlife and communities around us to stop using products that undermine the predators that nature provides for rodent control. We urge the Commission to pass this resolution and encourage the Mayor and City Council to act on its recommendations.

Sincerely,

Molly O'Donnell and Marcia Veldman

Co-chairs of the [Green Sanctuary Task Force](#)

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington

2120 N. Fee Lane

Bloomington, IN 47408

**Email from Professor Ellen Ketterson in support of BCOSR Resolution
2026-05**

Date: May 28, 2026

Subject: In favor of banning Anticoagulant rodenticides and adhesive based traps

I am writing in support of the resolution 2026-05 to ban anticoagulant rodenticides and adhesive based traps in the city of Bloomington.

I write as an ornithologist and educator with deep knowledge of the loss of biodiversity and the negative consequences of this loss for human populations.

Controlling rodents in this way ripples through the environment harming the birds of prey that eat poisoned rodents.

Birds of prey, hawks and owls, are declining sharply in abundance and these forms of pest control are one of the reasons for their decline.

The resolution is carefully worded and accurate and I am strongly in favor of its passage.

Thank you,

Ellen Ketterson

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biology

ketterso@iu.edu

<https://ketterson.lab.iu.edu>

Midwest Center for Biodiversity

<https://biodiversity.indiana.edu/about/newsletter/spring-2025/index.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/KentFarmBandingStation>