

City of Bloomington, Indiana Common Council

Departmental Budget Hearings Night 3

Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
Council Chambers (Room 115), City Hall
401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, IN 47404

The meeting may also be accessed [remotely via Zoom](#).¹

- 1. Parks & Recreation Department**
- 2. Economic & Sustainable Development Department**
- 3. Public Works Administration**
- 4. Animal Care and Control - Public Works**
- 5. Facilities Maintenance Division - Public Works**
- 6. Fleet Maintenance Division - Public Works**
- 7. Sanitation - Public Works**
- 8. Adjournment**

Bloomington City Council meetings can be watched on the following websites:

- [Community Action Television Services \(CATS\)](#)²
- [City's YouTube Channel](#)³

[Materials for this meeting](#)⁴ are available on Council's website.

The City is committed to providing equal access to information. If you encounter difficulties accessing material in this packet, please contact the Bloomington Common Council Office at council@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3409 and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page with which you are having problems.

¹<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84369708101?pwd=WpcM4uPab9Z7FEmBRccbtkaFmyobPz.1> Meeting ID: 843 6970 8101 Passcode: 603452

² <https://catstv.net/>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/@citybloomington>

⁴ <https://bloomington.in.gov/council/meetings/2026>

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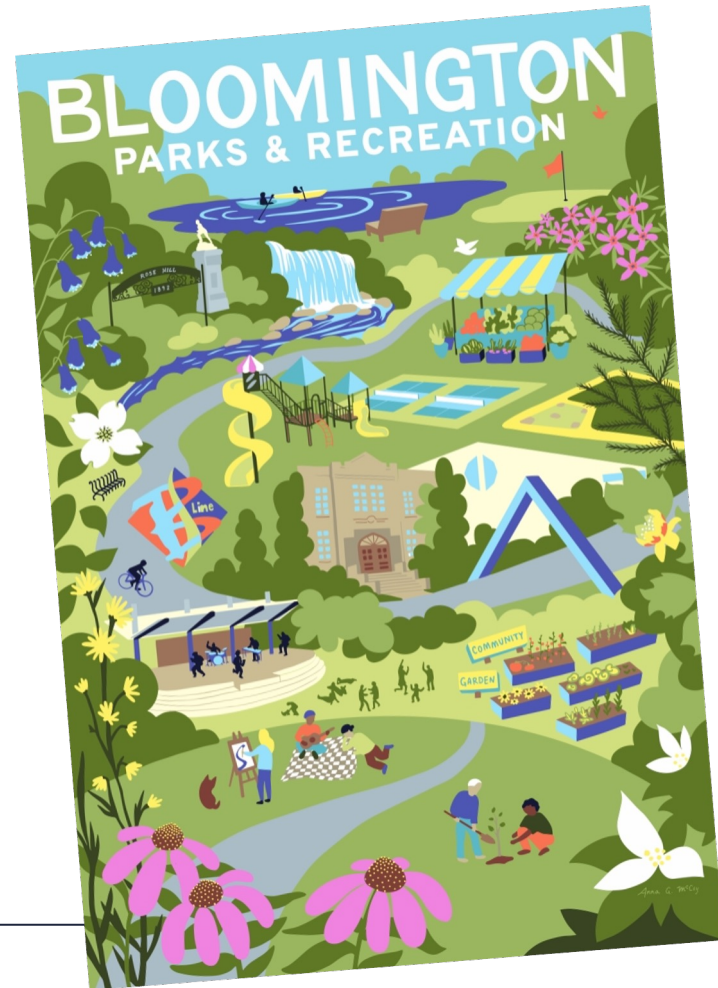
2027 BUDGET HEARINGS

PARKS & RECREATION

Tim Street, Director

AUGUST 24, 2026

*Parks and Recreation
makes Bloomington a
**resilient, healthier,
and more connected**
place to live and play.*



MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES 2026–2030

- Meaningful Community Impact
- Invest in What We Have
- Financial Sustainability
- A Strong, Connected Staff



OVERVIEW

- 64 FT staff and 87 permanent part-time employees
- Budget change from 2026: +\$568,993 (4%)
- Key budget needs and issues for 2027:
 - Maintain level of service
 - Plan and invest in capital needs
 - Implement priorities and actions from master plan

2026 HIGHLIGHTS



photos by Anna Powell Denton

- Granfalloon partnership with IU Arts & Humanities

2026 HIGHLIGHTS



Photo by Jeff McCord

- Natural resources management

2026 HIGHLIGHTS



- Maintaining active sports and recreation programming

2026 HIGHLIGHTS



- Community events, incl. 4th of July Parade, Youth Day at the Market

2026 HIGHLIGHTS



- Banneker repair grants, summer camps

2026 HIGHLIGHTS

- \$40k via Tree Assistance Program
- INDOT/Pete Ellis trees
- Powerline Trail construction
- Switchyard Pavilion lights
- EPIC grant for Buskirk-Chumley



2027 PRIORITIES & GOALS

- Maintain and enhance community impact
- Invest in critical capital needs
- Update website, registration, and communication systems
- Update reporting on core performance metrics

MAINTAIN/ENHANCE COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Aligns with first Master Plan priority
- Reabsorbed security costs from ARPA; \$250k (30%+ cut from 2026 levels)
- Focus on quality.
- Find partners and collaborators.

ASSETS

PUBLIC SAFETY

HOMELESSNESS

INVEST IN CRITICAL CAPITAL NEEDS

- Aging facilities have been on our radar.
- Two critical leaks this year at ice arena and Mills Pool
- Sept. meeting to review priorities for bond; utilize community engagement
- \$245k in GF covers backflow repairs, equipment, dump truck, and roofing.

ASSETS

CLIMATE

WEBSITE, REGISTRATION, COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

- Master Plan identified needs in this area.
- Modernize and improve reach and user experience across platforms.
- \$30k annually earmarked for registration software
- ~\$110k annually goes to printing and mailing 3x/annual program guide.

ASSETS

UPDATE CORE PERFORMANCE METRICS

- Different systems of goals used recently.
- Identify core success and evaluative metrics and create dashboard.
- Use metrics to transparently report on community impact.

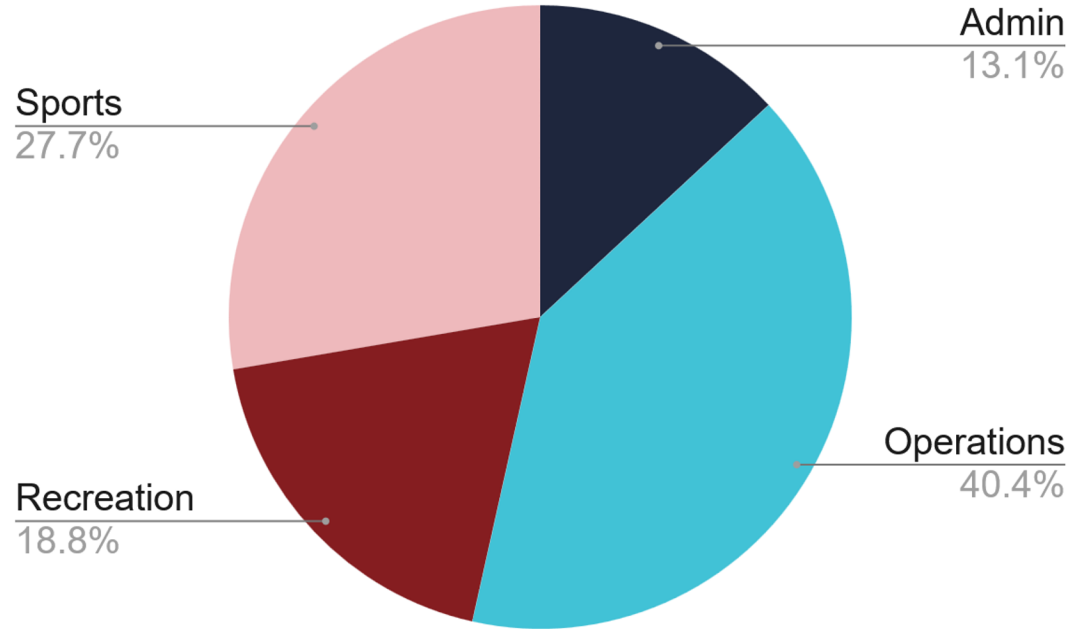
KEY 2027 PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

- 2027 programs and initiatives are largely the same, with lens on how we focus on and maintain quality (over quantity).
- Will invest further in resiliency with electrification funding (\$100k)
- Reevaluating Health & Wellness area and IU-SPH partnership
- Winslow stormwater design partnership with CBU

PARKS 2027 BUDGET

CATEGORY	2026	2027	CHANGE
<i>100 - Personnel</i>	\$8,688,197	\$8,921,684	3%
<i>200 - Supplies</i>	\$864,490	\$901,477	4%
<i>300 - Services</i>	\$3,344,858	\$3,658,377	9%
<i>400 - Capital</i>	\$260,000	\$245,000	-6%
TOTAL	\$13,157,545	\$13,726,538	4%

PARKS 2027 BUDGET



CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Extreme weather
- Homelessness, vandalism, & bad behavior
- Leaks and challenges at ice arena and Mills Pool
- Rising costs affecting everyone



CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities abound for collaboration – like Juneteenth and Granfalloo.
- Work with partners like MCCSC, IU.
- Strengthen focus on community needs assessment + engagement from master planning process.
- Strengthen data-led decision making.



CONCLUSION



Thank you
for your
consideration!

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2027 BUDGET HEARINGS

**ECONOMIC &
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

Jane Kupersmith, Director

AUGUST 24, 2026

OVERVIEW

- 10 FT staff (one grant funded position, one vacant position)
- Budget change from 2026: + \$114,712
- Key budget needs and issues for 2027:
 - Continuing to pursue goals for GHG reduction
 - Entrepreneurship and Trades District
 - Maintenance and management of public art assets and facilities

2026 HIGHLIGHTS—Economic Development

- Started 5-year Downtown Action Plan implementation
- DT Action partnership between business owners, Visit Bloomington, and multiple City departments
- Shared vision across policy; design; tourism; and economic vitality
- Activation Coordinator hosting and promoting 13 micro events



*100 individuals
attended the ZingTrain
business culture
workshop at the
Bloomington
Convention Center
facilitated by ESD.
Photo credit: Greater
Bloomington Chamber
of Commerce.*

2026 HIGHLIGHTS—Sustainability

- Ongoing Climate Action Plan and GHG reduction implementation
- \$480,000 supported residents, businesses, nonprofits, and the City
- Supports the shared Climate priority
- Protects against rising energy costs while reducing environmental footprint
- Also launched Bloomington Energy Works with \$250,000 grant and installed 6 bus stop shelters –arts collab



*In 2026, solar arrays
have been installed
at Walnut Builders,
The Language
Conservancy,
Mother Hubbard's
Cupboard, and New
Hope for Families.
Photo Credit: Jolie
Perry.*

2026 HIGHLIGHTS—Arts

- Supported current arts assets—the Waldron, Constellation, public art
- Helps organizations focus on programming and engagement
- Fosters a vibrant community for residents and visitors
- Helps organizations focus on programming and engagement
- Supports priorities of third spaces, asset management, economic development



Jon Racek's public art installation entitled "Undulate" has been fabricated and will be installed at Hopewell Commons this fall. This project is funded by the RDC and supported by Engineering and ESD staff. Photo credit: Jon Racek.

2027 EC DEV PRIORITIES & GOALS

- Major projects support redevelopment and housing production.
- Opportunity Zone (OZ) implementation, if designated
- Strategic Sites initiative with EDC
- Foster private investment in highly distressed census tracts and foster job creation.
- These programs require staff time and no program-specific funding.

2027 EC DEV PRIORITIES & GOALS

Ec Dev includes small business development and major projects.

- Mitigating impacts of unhoused population—\$160,000
- Entrepreneurship program support through the Mill—\$175,000
- Downtown Action Plan implementation—\$20,000
- Supports priorities of asset management, homelessness, and economic development

2027 CLIMATE PRIORITIES & GOALS

ESD is focused on the key Climate Action Plan goal of reducing GHG emissions 25% below 2018 emissions by 2030.

- Expand energy efficiency and solar capacity across the organization and community.
- Promote sustainable transportation.
- Promote climate resilience.
- Relates to priorities of climate, transportation, asset management

2027 ARTS PRIORITIES & GOALS

Arts priorities focus on grantmaking, storytelling, and asset management.

- Maintenance of city art assets; establishing public art policies and procedures
- Supports priorities of maintaining or enhancing City assets; creation of third spaces, Economic Development
- City requests funding support for the Buskirk-Chumley and the Waldron Arts Center.

2027 ARTS PRIORITIES & GOALS

- Advancing creative practice through three grantmaking programs
- Arts projects, professional development, and operations
- Three program structure since 2023; this year's request is flat over 2025.
- Major investments in placemaking in the Trades District and in Bloomington as regional arts hub
- ESD staff supports implementation of READI and CCC grants totalling \$19 million in outside funding.

KEY 2027 PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

- City building efficiency and fleet electrification—\$415,000
- LED lighting upgrades or HVAC improvements at 9 facilities in 2026
- Purchase of electric trucks, replacement batteries for equipment, and electric golf carts
- Drives down operating costs for City departments; clean, quiet equipment improves the experience of the community; reduces GHG emissions. Data on GHG reductions will be available in 2027.

KEY 2027 PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

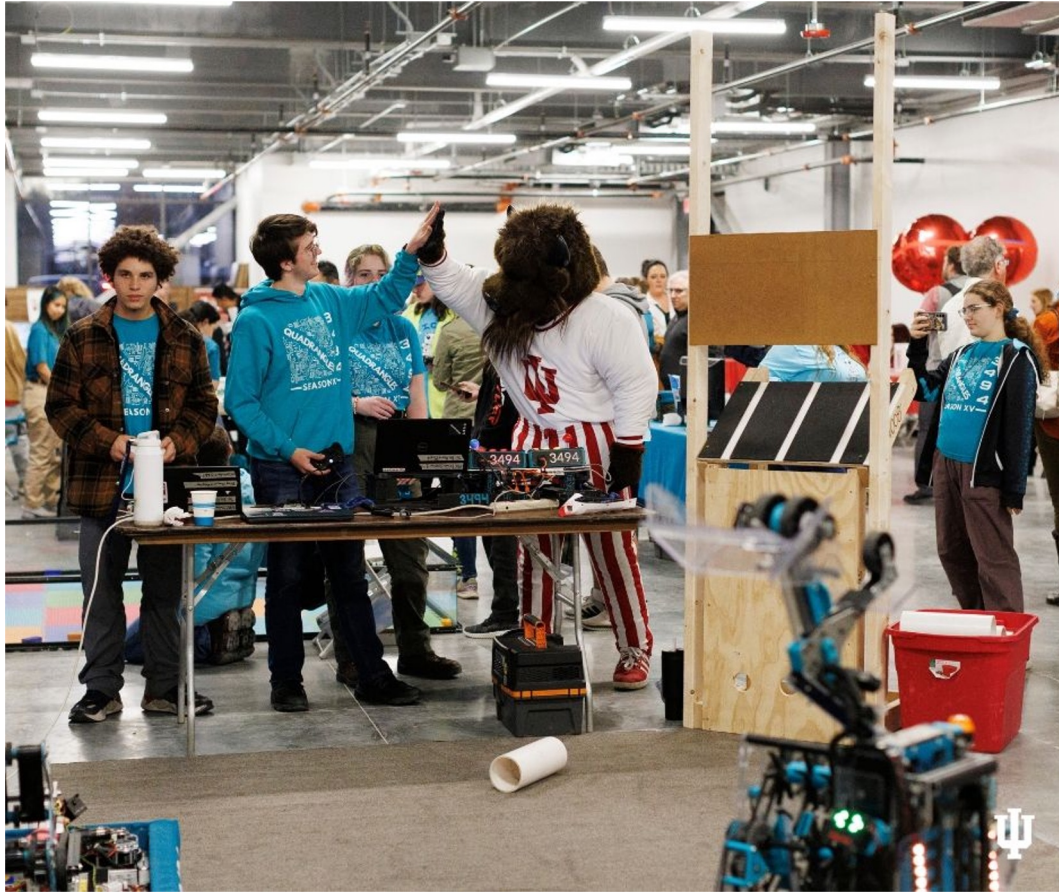
- BAC grants and operational support—\$245,883
- In 2026, the 46 artists and groups were funded for projects. Artistic Advancement and Operational support funded 65 others in 2025.
- Grants issued and grants received contribute toward professional development and project opportunities for artists.



Family Night Out on Kirkwood Avenue in May 2026 activated the library block with music, arts activities, and vendors. Banner updates and public art projects have also been completed. Photo credit: Lisa Wilson.

KEY 2027 PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

- Trades District is a hub for entrepreneurship, ec. dev., and now art.
- Funding supports entrepreneurship growth at the Mill—\$174,000.
- RDC funding supports infrastructure in the district and management of the Forge.
- \$19 million in grants support placemaking, public art, real estate development, housing, workforce attraction.



The 2025 Trades District Block Party welcomed community and celebrated innovation. The Quadrangles Robotics team showcased their robots inside the Forge. Next block party: Sat., Sept. 26, 5-8 p.m. Photo Credit: IU.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Staff turnover and budget limitations creating operational constraints
- ESD working on process efficiency in contracting and grant admin
- Leveraging community partnerships to advance shared goals
- We thank our boards and commissions for their participation:
BAC, BUEA, EDC, BCOSR.

CONCLUSION

- We propose a targeted budget to drive quality of place, sustainability, and business development.

Thank you for your consideration!

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2027 BUDGET HEARINGS

PUBLIC WORKS: ADMINISTRATION

Adam Wason, Public Works Director

AUGUST 24, 2026



Administrative Staff

OVERVIEW

- 9 FT staff members (moving 2 Downtown Specialists)
- Budget change from 2026: -\$101,650 (-3%)
- Street and sidewalk maintenance/repair investments
- Future DPW Operations Center
- Strategic planning and workforce development

2026 HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosted a very active Downtown in 2026 (IU national champions!)
- Purchasing EVs for vehicle replacements
- High-priority pedestrian network
- Infrastructure condition assessment project

APWA Accreditation!

- **Bloomington only the 2nd agency in the state**
- **Meet and exceed national standards**
- **We do it again in 2030**



2027 PRIORITIES & GOALS

Future Department of Public Works Operations Center

- Most current DPW facilities no longer efficient
- New facility to serve today's Bloomington
- Public service delivery, efficiency, and protecting investments
- Our peer communities have modern facilities

2027 PRIORITIES & GOALS

Future Department of Public Works Operations Center

- Architectural designs and phasing options
- 50-year building
- Identify potential funding sources
- New state regulations and limitations

KEY 2027 PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

- Street and sidewalk maintenance and repair investments
- Increases of \$138,000 for streets and \$53,000 for sidewalks in the 2027 budget
- Transportation network key for local economy and sense of place
- Links to the 2019 City Transportation Plan

Street and Sidewalks Repairs

- **\$3.96 million**
total requested
for streets
- **\$1.15 million**
total requested
for sidewalks
- **Constrained**
state funding
environment



Strategic Planning Efforts

- Long-term outlook and priorities
- Workforce development and alignment
- APWA re-accreditation requirement



Downtown Maintenance & Stewardship

- Clean, safe, and vibrant downtown
- Dedicated DPW staff
- 5-Year Strategic Action Plan (Downtown Bloomington, Inc.)



Downtown Specialists help keep the streets clean

Downtown Maintenance & Stewardship

- Brighten Bloomington partnership with Centerstone
- Clean-up and maintenance crews available 7 days a week
- Support and enable over 20 downtown special events
- Includes hallmark Bloomington community gatherings

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- New DPW Operations center needed
- Continue maintaining critical transportation infrastructure
- Downtown-focused events and “Public Works Plus”
- Long-term strategic view of the department
- Navigating new state financial landscape

CONCLUSION



Thank you for your consideration!

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2027 BUDGET HEARINGS

PUBLIC WORKS: ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

Adam Wason, Director of Public Works

Virgil Sauder, Director of Animal Care & Control

AUGUST 24, 2026

OVERVIEW

- 20 FT staff
- Budget change from 2026: + \$130,805
- Key budget needs and issues for 2027:
 - Small increase for personnel costs
 - Continued capital improvements for animal welfare

2026 HIGHLIGHTS

- Cared for 1,736 animals through June of this year
- Responded to 964 calls for Animal Control Assistance
- 4,700 volunteer hours

2026 Animal Shelter Operations

- **93% Live Release Rate**
- Return to Owner Rates
 - 47% Dogs
 - 8% Cats



Shelter dog on an outing with a volunteer

2027 PRIORITIES & GOALS

- Maintain live release rate of 93% or higher
- Provide prompt investigation of all aggressive and sick animals
- Increase volunteer hours by 5%
- Direct outreach to those experiencing homelessness

2027 PRIORITIES & GOALS

- Prompt investigations of all welfare and public safety cases
- Coordinate with service providers to assist with individuals experiencing homelessness with pets



Animal Control Officers

2027 PRIORITIES & GOALS

- Maintain high standards of animal sheltering
- Maintain live release rate of 93% or higher



Dog undergoing treatment

2027 PRIORITIES & GOALS

- Continue to grow volunteer and foster programs



Foster Family with an Adoptable Dog

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Monroe County interlocal agreement for shelter services
- Support from individuals in the wider community
- Heavy wear on facilities and grounds
- Excellent relationships with our community partners

CONCLUSION



Thank you for your consideration!

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2027 BUDGET HEARINGS

PUBLIC WORKS: FACILITIES

Adam Wason, Public Works Director
JD Boruff, Facilities Director

AUGUST 24, 2026

OVERVIEW

- 4 FT staff
- Budget change from 2026: -\$526,640
- Key budget needs and issues for 2027:
 - Replacing critical systems at City Hall
 - Maintaining safety and structural/mechanical integrity of facilities
 - Improve energy efficiency and sustainability

2026 HIGHLIGHTS

- Fire Department Training & Logistics Center
- High-priority network snow removal and response
- Repairs to City Hall plaza fountain
- Showers West assessment and rehab
- Reorganized City Hall department space to meet staff needs

2027 PRIORITIES & GOALS

Safety

- Safe functioning of our facilities
- Employee safety and promoting a healthy environment

Building Integrity & Sustainability

- Maintaining structural and mechanical integrity of facilities
- Energy efficiency and sustainability



Aesthetics

- Continued focus on appearance of City Hall



2026 City Hall repainting project

KEY 2027 PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

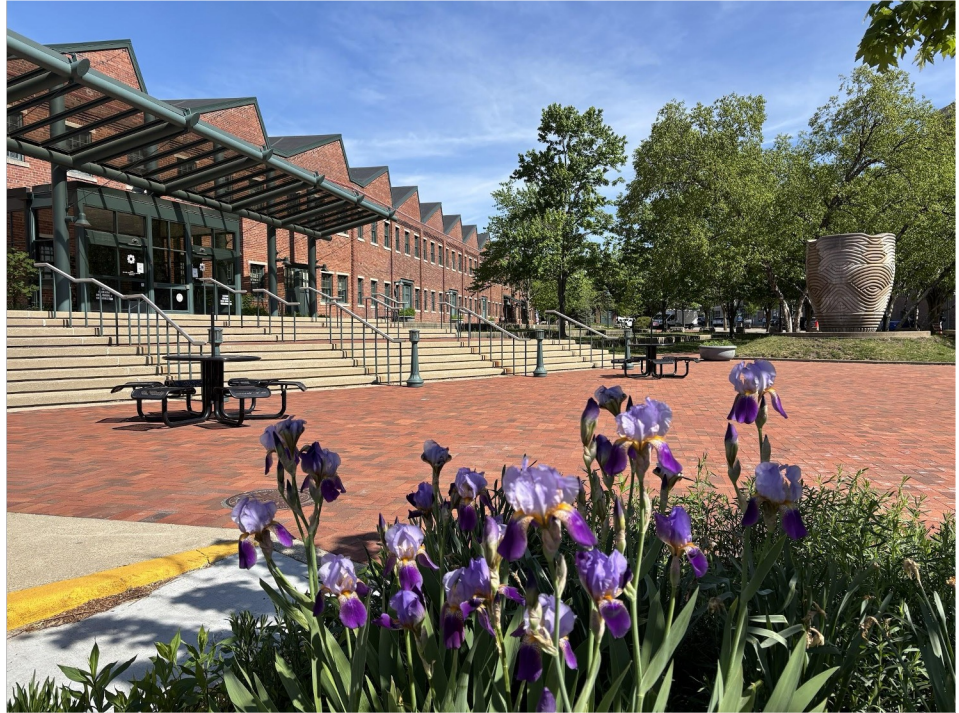
- Snow response: high-priority network
- \$69,000 spent in 2025-26, with \$47,000 for January 25 response alone



Photo by Jeremy Hogan/The Bloomingtonian

Maintenance Mode

- Focus on maintaining what we have
- Decrease in non-capital spending



CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Aging systems
- Ever-growing list of assets to maintain
- Facilities Director spread thin

CONCLUSION

- Essential capital repairs while maintaining our existing assets

Thank you for your
consideration!



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2027 BUDGET HEARINGS

PUBLIC WORKS: FLEET

Adam Wason, Public Works Director

Cory Snider, Fleet Director

AUGUST 24, 2026



The Fleet Garage has 8 dedicated bays and 2 large truck/equipment drive-through bays.

OVERVIEW

- 12 FT employees (4 non-union, 8 union)
- Budget change from 2026: + \$365,582
- Key budget needs and issues for 2027:
 - Larger facility for a growing City fleet
 - Increased fuel prices and volatile fuel markets
 - Increase in cost for parts/supplies and outside labor

2026 HIGHLIGHTS

- Added Service and Capital Coordinator position
- Upgraded to a new fleet tracking and scheduling system
- Fully staffed with qualified automotive technicians
- Added a 24/7 on-call Fleet Technician 365 days a year
- Increased the number of fully electric vehicles in the city fleet

Waste Reduction and Efficiency

- **\$130,000+ of surplus assets sold in the last year**
- **Reduction of City insurance cost**

Removal of surplus City assets



24/7 On-Call Technicians

- Reduced downtime of City operations
- Faster response times
- Less time stranded on the road in unsafe conditions



Emergency Fleet call-out during a snowstorm

2027 PRIORITIES & GOALS

- Focus on PM program to maximize efficiency and reduce cost.
- Maintain all current City vehicles and assets in a safe, timely and reliable manner.
- Reduce idle time on City vehicles to cut down on fuel consumption and unnecessary emissions.

2027 PRIORITIES & GOALS

- Implementation of new Cloud-based fuel tracking system
- Allows real-time fuel monitoring
- Shows current fuel inventory from any computer
- Software data integration tracks mileage for scheduled maintenance — more accurate and on-time vehicle maintenance scheduling

KEY 2027 PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

- Expanded preventative maintenance program
- Emergency vehicle specialized training
- Adhere to the Climate Action Plan for EV asset replacement
- Replacement of aging or obsolete City assets

6-Month Inspection Program

- **Assets seen on minimum 6-month rotation**
 - **Less downtime**
 - **46% reduction in past-due services from 2025–2026**
- City assets being inspected at a higher rate vs past years
 - Results in less major breakdowns and safer vehicles on our streets

Reduce Fuel Consumption

- Reduce unnecessary trips
- No unnecessary idling
- Conserve fuel and reduce emissions



A truck idling

CHALLENGES for 2027

- Fuel market instability
- Aging fleet of vehicles and equipment





Thank you for your consideration!

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2027 BUDGET HEARINGS

PUBLIC WORKS: SANITATION

Adam Wason, Public Works Director

Lazarus Sears, Sanitation Director

AUGUST 24, 2026



OVERVIEW

- 22 FT staff and 1 permanent PT
- Budget change from 2026: +\$59,235
- Key budget needs and issues for 2027
 - Create an In-House Route Management Software System
 - 2027 Sanitation Rates - capturing service costs
 - Increase the Recycling Diversion rate

2026 HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed a needed staff break room
- New truck entered service - increased reliability
- Yard waste diverted from landfill (517 tons YTD)
- Safer work environment - reduced accidents and injuries

- 2 school visits to discuss recycling education
- 3 HAND neighborhood cleanups
- Rental property owner and student outreach

Community Outreach



2027 PRIORITIES & GOALS

- Increase the recycling diversion rate in 2027 to 30%
- Improve from current 28%
- Public outreach and education
- Climate Action Plan



Neighbors help to sort trash and recycling

2027 PRIORITIES & GOALS

- Creating new in-house software solutions
- Routing and account management
- Eliminating 3rd party vendors - local control
- Saves funds and increases reliability
- Efficiency gains and climate impact reductions

KEY 2027 PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

- Improve Sanitation self-sufficiency in 2027.
- We collect more than just trash and recycling.
- Neighborhood and downtown cleanups
- Community and IU outreach

Workplace Safety

- Reduced total injuries
- 2025: 18 total injuries
- 2026 YTD: 2 total injuries



CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Cost of providing sanitation services
- Eliminating General Fund financial support
- Exploring new potential 2027 rate structures
- HAZCOM, Material Handling and LTAP training with Risk and Safety

Collection Totals

Year	Trash (tons)	Recycle (tons)	Number of Appliance/Large Items
2023	7,924	2,315	395/3,070
2024	7,956	2,192	199/1,932
2025	7,915	2,126	184/1484
2026 YTD	3,862	1,044	145/1,291
TOTAL	27,657	7,677	923/7,777

CONCLUSION



Thank you for your consideration!