



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL
City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation
Regular Meeting

Olcott Park Young Pavilion
Wednesday, June 10, 2026
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

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I. CALL TO ORDER at 4:33 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

Adam Fudickar, Bill Jones, Cathy Meyer, David Parkurst, Marne Potter, Angie Shelton
Staff: Heidi Shoemaker, Mary Welz, Taylor Brown

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 2026

IV. AGENDA

A. Appearances

A-1 Public Comment Period
No public comment

B. Old Business

B-1 Environmental Resources Advisory Council Policies
Shoemaker reported the Park Board approved the ERAC policy changes created during the June meeting with one exception. The Council does not have the ability to change the definition of quorum. Quorum is defined as half of the available seats. The quorum for ERAC is 5 members present even if there are vacancies.

C. New Business

C-1 Review of Environmental Resources Advisory Council Applicants

There was discussion about the recent creation of a specialty seat focusing on water resource management. A motion was made to move Bill Jones into the water resource management seat (S-3) and approved by the council. Shoemaker will take this recommendation to the next Park Board meeting.

The council also reviewed the application submitted by Sarah Brinkmann to join ERAC. The council motioned and approved recommending Sarah Brinkmann to the Park Board for approval.

C-2 Leonard Springs Nature Preserve Designation

Welz informed the council that she has been meeting with the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife and Nature Preserves to designate a portion of Leonard Springs as an Indiana State Dedicated Nature Preserve. Nature Preserves have additional protection for perpetuity and additional support in property management may be available from the State. Requests for collecting and research permits would also need approval from DNR for this property if it does receive designation. This dedication would not include the gravel drive, shelter, and restroom area and would not impact the continuation of Leonard Springs Nature Days to take place.

C-3 5-year Master Plan for the Parks Department

Shoemaker shared that after months of gathering data, the parks department has finalized its 5-year master plan. This plan includes 4 main goals that are 1) Meaningful Community Impact, 2) Invest in What We Have, 3) Financial Sustainability, and 4) A Strong, Connected Staff. Underneath these goals are actions and some of the actions the Operations and natural resources team will be focusing on include balancing recreation and protection of plants and wildlife habitats, maintaining the certifications in Bird Town, Bee City, and Tree City, and making updates to Wapehani Mountain Bike Park. A public version of the master plan will be available as soon as it meets accessibility requirements.

C-4 Education Update

In April and May, the Natural Resources education team has reached 1,526 participants and generated \$1,274.00 in revenue. Large, free events like Earth Day and Summer Launch Party as well as free programs at Afterschool Nature Club, Naturalist at the Market, and a creek cleanup are the reason attendance is higher than the revenue. Shoemaker shared one of the revenue generating programs was a birdfeeder making program that had 22 people make bird feeders and this will be included in the Bird Town application. Additionally, after a lull in registration, Hike & Seek had sold out the program that took place earlier that morning. The program was a success where participants compared different plant seeds, saw a groundhog, played in the waterfall, found a crayfish exoskeleton, and more. BPRD also partnered with US Fish and Wildlife to host a 2-day pollinator workshop where 17 people attended the first day. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and the second day had to take place virtually. Nature Play Day took place at Lower Cascades last Saturday and was able to maintain attendance, but did not experience the growth staff was hopeful for. The next, larger free program is Night Sky Viewing at Ferguson Dog Park. Shoemaker will work on some social media

posts so participants know it will take place in a large open grassy area at the dog park and not inside the fence where the dogs run around. Summer Nature Club has kicked off and grant reports are being submitted for Griffy Lake Nature Days and Leonard Springs Nature Days. Meyers shared that she is presenting at one of the 3 nights of the Sassafras Audubon Society's Book Club nights.

C-5 Project Updates

In Swift's absence, Welz presented project updates. Construction continues on the Powerline Trail project, including installation of a new pedestrian crossing at Rogers Street featuring a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) to improve safety and accessibility. The temporary Rogers Street closure associated with this work is expected to open today, with the roadway reopening in time for the Strawberry Shortcake Festival on June 11.

As a part of the Powerline Trail project, LandWorx Engineering was hired to design stormwater detention plans for RCA Park and is working with Parks staff as well as CBU to ensure the project satisfies water quality and detention expectations. Staff hope to put this project out to bid in fall 2026. This project will help mitigate floods and improve stormwater management.

The Rogers Crossing project is now complete, providing an improved trail connection and enhancing safety and accessibility along the Rail Trail corridor. The County is working with INDOT to correct some of the new sidewalk ramps along S Rogers and Fullerton. There will be ~5 day closure around this trail crossing sometime this summer due to these repairs. Dates are TBD but roads will remain open.

The Buskirk-Chumley Theater HVAC Installation Project is moving forward with bids recently received from HFI. Staff are currently reviewing the submitted bid as part of the next steps toward HVAC system upgrades and improved facility performance ahead of a larger solar installation project. The HVAC install is estimated to take place in February 2027 and requires BABA (Build America, Buy America) certified materials. The City of Bloomington received funding through the Indiana Office of Energy Development's Empowering Energy Partnerships in Indiana Communities (EPIC) grant. The grant supports energy upgrades at the historic Buskirk-Chumley Theater, enhancing sustainability and climate resilience. The \$2.5 million statewide EPIC program was designed to fund comprehensive, community-based energy solutions.

C-6 August Meeting Agenda Items

The Council has requested updates about invasive plant removal projects in the City. The council also asked if the dates would be set for deer management at Griffy by that time and Welz let the council know White Buffalo is not available this year and we are pursuing new deer management service providers. The Council also asked for an update on the glyphosate use in the City and Welz shared the proposal was withdrawn that would ban glyphosate use within the City.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, August 12, 2026

Upper Cascades Park, Lion's Den Shelter