



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Parks and Recreation

Per Executive Order by the Governor this meeting will be conducted electronically. The public may access this meeting at the following link:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/93739115029?pwd=QUZjNSsyRkYyNEQ0eWJIWEZOS015dz09>

AGENDA

Board of Park Commissioners
City of Bloomington
Special Meeting

Zoom

Thursday, February 18, 2021
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

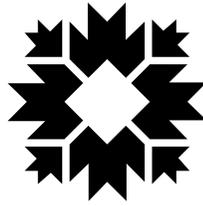
CALL TO ORDER ROLL CALL

A. OTHER BUSINESS

- A-1. The Board of Park Commissioners will hear an appeal of a proposed tree removals
Lower Cascades Park.

Statement on public meetings during public health emergency: As a result of Executive Orders issued by the Governor, the Council and its committees may adjust normal meeting procedures to adhere to guidance provided by state officials. These adjustments may include:

- allowing members of the Council or its committees to participate in meetings electronically;
- posting notices and agendas for meetings solely by electronic means;
- using electronic meeting platforms to allow for remote public attendance and participation (when possible);
- encouraging the public to watch meetings via Community Access Television Services broadcast or FB livestream, and encouraging remote submissions of public comment (via email, to mcdevitp@bloomington.in.gov or during FB livestream).



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Parks and Recreation

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: A-1
Date: 2/16/2021

Administrator
Review\Approval
PM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners
FROM: Erin Hatch, Urban Forester
DATE: February 18, 2021
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO APPEAL OF TREE REMOVALS AS PART OF THE CASCADES CREEK STABILIZATION PROJECT

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation staff recommends denial of Ms. Susan Glowacz's appeal and continuation of the Cascades Creek stabilization project tree removals as planned.

Background

Ms. Susan Glowacz is appealing the tree removals associated with the Cascades Creek Stabilization project. The Parks and Recreation staff recommends denial of the appeal and continuation of the project as planned. A total of 23 maturing to mature trees of various species are slated for removal via contract as part of the creek stabilization project. This project is geared to address major streambank erosion issues along Cascades Creek, including erosion undercutting the root systems of many of the existing trees. In order to address the erosion issues, the project would widen the western edge of the creek. This project has undergone modifications to accommodate tree preservation, reducing the number of trees potentially slated to removal to the current total. The project was redesigned to feature a narrow section reconstruction of the creek wall to allow retention of mature sycamores to the north. As part of the project, mitigation plantings are planned to replace the removed trees with a 5:1 mitigation ratio. This would plant 115 native trees to replace the 23 trees for removal.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Erin Hatch, Urban Forester
2021-January

From: **Suzan Glow** <sglevt@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Feb 10, 2021, 12:05 AM

Subject: Formal Appeal - Decision to Remove Trees Along Lower Cascades Trail & Creek

To: <parks@bloomington.in.gov>

Cc: Erin Hatch <erin.hatch@bloomington.in.gov>, Julie RAMEY

<rameyj@bloomington.in.gov>, Tim Street <tim.street@bloomington.in.gov>

Dear City of Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners and Kathleen Mills, Chair,

I hope this finds you well and keeping in good health.

I am writing to submit a formal appeal regarding a tree removal project at the Lower Cascades Park Trail, scheduled to begin within the next 30 days. (Please reference the photograph.) Given the winter season and the presence of two, small-scale signs, I am uncertain that the community has had sufficient opportunity to discuss this matter within the 7 days allotted for commentary.

I had contacted Ms. Erin Hatch on February 7th, 2021 regarding this matter and she graciously shared additional information. And then noted the process for submitting this formal approval.

I live in the Fritz Terrace neighborhood and was walking along the Lower Cascades Park Trail & Creek on February 7th, 2021, when I noticed a sign posted regarding tree removal to support an erosion project.

I am curious about the science and conversations that led to this decision. How has the surrounding community been informed about this project? Are there related documents online for the community to review? Have considerations been given to how an erosion project may move forward without calling for the removal of 14+ mature trees?

Ms. Hatch noted in her communication to me that:

"This project will have tree mitigation at a 5:1 replacement ratio, in line with requirements from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, meaning that the 23 trees that will be removed will be replaced with 115 native tree species."

While the 5:1 replacement ratio is very encouraging, I find that we don't often talk about the length of time required for the replacement trees to mature. This won't occur during the current stakeholders' lifetimes nor the animals that currently inhabit the Lower Cascades.

To my knowledge, trees are very beneficial in riparian/stream buffer zones as their roots systems help to hold soil in place and slow the flow of surface runoff. From an ecosystem perspective, these trees contribute to the reduction of CO₂ and to cooling in the summer months. The trees also provide habitat to the area's animals and insects, and add a treasured aesthetic quality to the trail.

Ms. Hatch also mentioned the planned installation of an accessible boardwalk. While I am supportive of this endeavor, I do wish to consider competing projects (erosion vs boardwalk installation) influencing the removal of trees. I encourage the exploration of options so that less trees may be removed while a boardwalk project is supported.

I welcome the opportunity to speak with you (virtually) at the next Board meeting in February. Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Cordially,

Susan Glowacz

Attachments area

February 12, 2021

Lower Cascades Trail and Creek – Proposed Tree Removal Related to Soil Erosion Control Project (Part A)

1 – **West bank**; trees not slated for removal; near Club House Drive parking lot



2 – **East bank**; tree not slated for removal; bordering Old State Rd 37



3 – **West bank**; trees not slated for removal; near north end of trail



4 – **West bank**; trees slated for removal; near north end of trail



5 – West bank; trees slated for removal



6 – West bank; trees slated for removal



7 & 8 – **West bank**; tree slated for removal; approximately 8 feet from creek bank



9 – **West bank**; trees slated for removal



10 – West bank; tree slated for removal



11 – West bank; trees slated for removal



Continued....

February 12, 2021

Lower Cascades Trail and Creek – Proposed Tree Removal Related to Soil Erosion Control Project (Part B)

Continued....

12 & 13 – **West bank**; conifer slated for removal, approximately 12 feet from creek bank



14 – **West bank**; trio of trees slated for removal*



**Tree on left is approximately 19 ft from creek bank; Middle tree is approximately 14 ft from creek bank*

15 – **West bank**; tree slated for removal



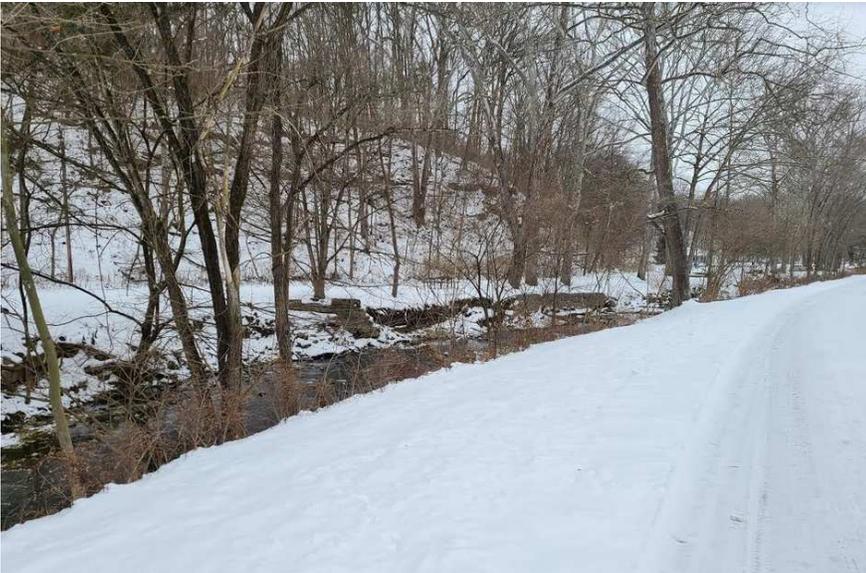
16 – **East bank**; trees not slated for removal, adjacent to Old State Rd 37



17 – **East bank**; trees not slated for removal



18 – **East bank**; trees not slated for removal, adjacent to Old State Rd 37



19 – East bank (foreground); trees not slated for removal



20 – East bank; tree not slated for removal



21 – East & West banks; trees not slated for removal on left / trees slated for removal on right, double red underline



East bank

West bank

February 2021

Potential Resources for Lower Cascades Stream Remediation Project

1 – Environmental Resilience Institute

[Local Governments: Who We Work With: Environmental Resilience Institute Part of the Prepared for Environmental Change Grand Challenge: Indiana University \(iu.edu\)](#)

Addressing local impacts

Though environmental change is a global phenomenon, it's actually felt at the local level, where communities must deal with the effects of heat, flooding, drought, and other challenges.

ERI partners with local governments to better understand how climate change is affecting towns, cities, and counties and to help local officials address these challenges by providing tailored tools, resources, and information.

Featured Resources



ERI Toolkit

ERIT is an interactive resource that connects local officials to information on climate change implications, funding opportunities, and case studies describing successful community projects.



Hoosier Resilience Index

HRI supplies local governments and residents in Indiana with community-specific data related to climate change vulnerabilities along with a framework to respond.



Webinar Series

The institute's webinar series covers a wide range of resilience topics to educate local officials, government staff, and residents on the risks their communities face and how to address them.



Our consulting services are tailored to provide high quality deliverables in site assessments, vegetation monitoring, invasive plant mapping and native plant design. Eco Logic also has the expertise in master planning as well as land acquisition and restoration planning to help our clients reach their conservation goals and meet their regulatory requirements.

Climate change will increasingly impact natural communities and urban greenspaces. Our unique knowledge of climate change, plant communities and sensitive organisms can provide you with insight on how to manage your properties for maximum diversity in a changing climate.

Consulting

Our team members' experience and level of knowledge ensures an objective and comprehensive perspective when working on any project. We can assess your trees or site and provide a plan, which allows you to move forward with confidence when trying to accomplish your goals. Whether it's tree health or risk assessments, pre or post construction management of trees or vegetation, site analysis, tree selection or tree preservation plans, we can assist you.