



## ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation  
Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
4:30 - 6:00 p.m. at RCA Community Park

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/81481368876?pwd=ZlI4S0tlaXFJWit3aHN0RGN3QWc1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 814 8136 8876

Passcode: ERAC

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:34PM.

### II. ROLL CALL

Bill Jones, Marne Potter, Cathy Meyer, Jeff Ehman, Dave Parkhurst

Staff: Rebecca Swift, Steve Cotter, Joanna Sparks, Jake Wood, Haskell Smith

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 2022

No quorum. Tabling motion until December meeting.

### IV. AGENDA

#### A. Public Appearances

A-1 Public Comment Period

Congratulations to Angie Shelton on her recent marriage!

#### B. Old Business

B-1 Lower Cascades Celebration & Project Updates

Celebration at Lower Cascades for 100 years of management and recreation was on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. There were several speakers, including Mayor Hamilton. There was also a rubber duckie float and an official opening of the new boardwalk to the waterfall. The boardwalk is completely accessible. New limestone steps were also added along the creek to allow for increased access to the water and help slowdown water flowing through the park. The Cascades Green Waste proposal has been written off due to anticipated objections from the state related to the location being in a floodplain.

B-2 Waldron, Hill and Buskirk Park Project Update

The stage has been repaired and is open for use. The new playground equipment has been delivered and installation scheduled for early November.

#### C. New Business

C-1 Education Update

Nature Days season is well under way. If anyone is interested in spring dates, BPRD are recruiting volunteers for Group Leaders and Station Facilitators for Leonard Springs Nature Days and recruiting Station Facilitators for Griffy Lake Nature Days. Nature Days occur every Tuesday (Leonard Springs) and Thursday (Griffy Lake) from September through the first week of November. School buses arrive at 10:15 am and leave at 1:45 pm. Volunteer shifts are 9:45 am until 2 pm. So far, we've hosted over 500 MCCSC students at each program.

Over 1500 people attended Bug Fest on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> at Hilltop Gardens and Nature Center. Event Facilitators gave feedback on having more tables and spreading them out more next year. A follow-up meeting will occur next month to discuss planning for 2023. Bug Fest will continue to be scheduled during the fall. Event Coordinators are looking for more exhibitors and table topics for next year if anyone is interested in participating.

Small education programs are still happening. Harvest Fest is coming up on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at Will Detmer Park (Monroe County). The National Association for Interpretation - Region 4 Conference is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> at Brown County State Park (Abe Martin Lodge). Updates for interpretive signs at RCA Community Park are coming soon. BPRD staff continue to develop virtual tours or self-guided "Outings" for OuterSpatial. Upcoming topics include a tree tour around Bryan Park and a cemetery tour at Rose Hill. Heather Reynolds class is also working on developing a tour for Griffy Lake Nature Preserve that will involve QR codes located in the park. Weed Wrangles happen every week at Lower Cascades Park as well as First Saturday Weed Wrangles once a month at rotating locations. Next Weed Wrangle is on Oct 13<sup>th</sup> at Crestmont Park from noon until 2 pm and another on Oct 14<sup>th</sup> at Winslow Woods Park noon – 2pm. Outreach efforts for Urban Greenspaces has been extremely successful at involving park neighbors.

#### C-2 Griffy Lake Loop Trail – Dam Crossing Updates

This section of the Griffy Loop Trail Project will be funded by a Prow TIF account. The goal of this next phase is to be able to cross the dam safely and add trail access from the parking lot. Mader Design has been contracted to finalize the design plans and help secure additional permits required to develop on the dam. Hopefully by the end of 2025, the entire Griffy Loop Trail will be complete.

#### C-3 Deer Management Program Updates

The deer hunts are scheduled to occur on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. The program was only scheduled two weekends this year because of Thanksgiving weekend hikers and low turnout in previous years. The park will close at 11 pm on Friday and reopen 5 am on Monday when the hunts are scheduled. Bruce Wilds Security was contracted to patrol park boundaries and BPRD staff will be stationed in parking areas to inform visitors about the park closure. Hunters are volunteers who passed proficiency screenings conducted by White Buffalo Inc. Since Griffy is listed as a deer reduction zone, hunters do not have a limit and will be able to donate any deer meat they do not want to keep to a local community kitchen.

#### C-4 Griffy Lake Prescribed Burn Project Updates

Habitat Solutions was contracted to conduct a prescribed burn at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. The burn unit is located north of the Boathouse parking lot between the Hiking trail and Nature Trail. If conditions are right, the goal is conduct two burns this fall. Otherwise, the burn will be pushed to spring 2023. Next spring or fall, there will be another burn unit on the west end of the park near the dam. The goal of this project is to improve growing conditions for oak and hickory tree species by reducing the number of beech and maples tree species. Oak and hickory species support more wildlife, especially larvae insects. This year's burn is scheduled to occur between Oct 30<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Letters have gone out to nearby property owners and Bloomington Fire Department has been notified.

#### C-5 Bicentennial Bond Tree Planting Project

Haskell Smith is new Urban Forester for City of Bloomington. Fall tree planting started on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> and will continue into November. The goal is to plant 172 trees this fall. Utility conflicts and property owners have reduced the total number of available sites. Crestmont Park area should receive 5 to 10 trees. Bicentennial Bond is funding this project. Phase 2 of this project is focused on managing the trees in the downtown area of Bloomington. Phase 3 is similar to Phase 1, which aims to identify neighborhoods that need of more canopy cover and plant more native trees.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm.

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, December 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2022  
Switchyard Park– Pavilion**