



City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION NOTICE and REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

July 20, 2023, 6:00 PM  
Hooker Meeting Room # 245  
Hybrid meeting

Join Zoom Meeting here:

[https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/6359441221?  
pwd=bXRYTnNJV2xMbTRLeE00QW9XWnRjOT09](https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/6359441221?pwd=bXRYTnNJV2xMbTRLeE00QW9XWnRjOT09)

or on Community Access Television Service (CATS),

<https://catstv.net/government.php>.

Auxiliary aids are available upon request with adequate notice.

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation:

2. Introductions and Roll Call:

In person

Absent

Zoom

Carrie Albright

Matt Caldie

Don Eggert

Shannon Gayk

Mike Litwin

Kristen Mann

Megan Murphy

Mitchell Owens

David Parkhurst

Karena Tankersley

Conner Wright

Linda Thompson

3. Approval of May 18, 2023 minutes:\*                      Yes                      No

Abstain

Carrie Albright  
Matt Caldie  
Don Eggert  
Shannon Gayk  
Mike Litwin  
Kristen Mann  
Megan Murphy  
Mitchell Owens  
David Parkhurst  
Karena Tankersley  
Conner Wright

4. Public comment: Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

5. Old business: Vote on sending email regarding UDO changes\*

6. New business:

A. Introduction to EC position on the environmental impacts of changes to road/trail through Lower Cascades Park

B. Discussion about activating the water quality working group

7. Reports from: Tree Commission (TC), Monroe County Environmental Commission (MCEC), Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS), Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC), Metropolitan Planning Organizing-Citizens Advisory Council (MPOCAC), Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM), & Monroe County-Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS).

8. Commissioner announcements:

9. Adjournment:

\* Item to be voted on

Next EC meeting: August 17, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

-The City is committed to providing equal access to information. However, despite our efforts, at times, portions of our board and commission packets are not accessible for some individuals. If you encounter difficulties accessing material in this packet, please contact Melissa Hirtzel at [hirtzelm@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:hirtzelm@bloomington.in.gov) and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page you are having problems with.

-As a quorum of the Commission or its committees may be present, this gathering constitutes a meeting under the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. § 5-14-1.5). For that reason, this statement provides notice that this meeting will occur and is open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.

-The Bloomington Environmental Commission (EC) wishes to acknowledge and honor the indigenous communities native to this region, and recognize that the City of Bloomington, Indiana was built on indigenous homelands and resources.

## E mail regarding riparian buffer protection\*

This email formalizes the Bloomington Environmental Commission's (EC) request for amendments to the UDO's riparian buffer standards, as discussed at a meeting on May 31, 2023 between Jackie Scanlan of Planning staff and Mike Litwin of the EC,. The EC recommends the following changes to the stream buffer standards:

1. For all streams of significant size and/or quality, the starting point for the buffer should be located at the top-of-bank, as opposed to the current middle-of stream location in the existing UDO standards. This change should be implemented as soon as possible for East Fork Jackson Creek downstream from the College Mall, Jackson Creek downstream from Moores Pike, Clear Creek downstream from Wilson Street, Griffy Creek, Beanblossom Creek (if within the City jurisdiction), and Cascades Creek downstream from SR 45/46 Bypass.

A stream survey will be necessary to determine what other streams in Bloomington merit this amendment. The EC will coordinate with the Planning and Transportation Department to determine how this can be accomplished. Some possibilities include using the EC budget to hire a consultant to conduct the stream survey, or allowing the EC Planning Committee (ECPC) to do so with assistance from Department staff. The City GIS system and aerial photos would be useful for this purpose.

2. All new developments in natural or semi-natural areas with natural streams should be required to allow for a site inspection by the ECPC, to evaluate the streams for possible inclusion in the buffer standards discussed above.