



## AGENDA

City of Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners  
Special Meeting: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 4:30pm – 5:30pm

City Hall Council Chambers

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 Kim Clapp, Office Manager at [clappk@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:clappk@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.

### CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

#### A. BUSINESS

A1. Review/Approval of Resolution 23-02 - Policy #13220 “Use of Structures on Park Properties”

### ADJOURNMENT

*Face masks are optional but recommended for indoor spaces.*

*This meeting may also be accessed electronically via Zoom, allowing for remote public attendance and participation. The public attending electronically is encouraged to send remote submissions of public comment (via email, to [mcdevitp@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:mcdevitp@bloomington.in.gov)).*

The meeting may accessed at the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/82012564742?pwd=VklsTVpDU29rSzBZTGtmWjZDZXVLUt09>

Meeting ID: 820 1256 4742

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## STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: A-1  
Date: 8-14-2023

Administrator  
Review\Approval  
PM

**TO:** Board of Park Commissioners  
**FROM:** Paula McDevitt, Administrator  
**DATE:** August 16, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION 23-02 "USE OF STRUCTURES ON PARK PROPERTIES"

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 23-02 – "Use of Structures on Park Properties"

### **Background**

The parks, properties, and facilities under the authority of the Board of Park Commissioners and Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department are intended for the recreational use and enjoyment for all people in the community. The Department is responsible for maintaining parks, facilities, trails and program spaces throughout the park system.

Individuals have erected and occupied camping structures and makeshift enclosures at Park locations, prohibiting the use and enjoyment of these spaces by the whole community. These structures are often used in violation of the Special Use Policy (overnight 11pm – 5am). Camping structures and makeshift enclosures have become a serious public health risk and safety issue due to vandalism, illegal activity, and the accumulation of abandoned property and garbage.

The Parks and Recreation Department operates under policies approved by the Board of Park Commissioners. The Board of Park Commissioners have the authority to set policies to support the mission and goals of the Department. Pursuant to Indiana statute 36-10-4-9 "The board has exclusive control of all property within the district used for park purposes," and the Board may "make rules not in conflict with statutes or the ordinances of the city for the management of the property under its control."

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula McDevitt".

Paula McDevitt, Administrator

## RESOLUTION 23-02

### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON ADOPTING POLICY #13220 ENTITLED “USE OF STRUCTURES ON PARK PROPERTIES”

#### BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

#### City of Bloomington, Indiana

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Indiana Code 36-10-4-9, the Board of Park Commissioners (“Board”) may promulgate rules governing the property under its control;

**WHEREAS**, the parks, properties, and facilities under the Board’s authority are intended for the recreational use and enjoyment of all residents of the City of Bloomington;

**WHEREAS**, the use of tents, makeshift enclosed structures, and other similar enclosures present certain health and safety concerns, including but not limited to abandoned property, illegal activity, and the accumulation of waste;

**WHEREAS**, while the Board desires to limit the use of fully enclosed structures on its property, the Board does not wish to prohibit the use of shade structures, as shade structures provide relief to park users from exposure to the sun, rain, snow, and other elements without shielding activities occurring beneath shade structures from public view; and

**WHEREAS**, Parks and Facilities Policy #13220, entitled “Use of Structures on Park Properties,” addresses the concerns presented by enclosures while still permitting the appropriate use of shade structures;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Park Commissioners that:

- (1) The Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners adopts Policy #13220, “Use of Structures on Park Properties.”
- (2) Said Policy #13220 shall be fully enforceable by the Bloomington Police Department in accordance with Indiana Code 36-10-4-9(c)(4).
- (3) Policy #13220 shall be in full force and effect on and from August 23, 2023 by the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Bloomington.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a special session of the Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners on this 16th day of August, 2023 by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

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Kathleen Mills, President  
Board of Park Commissioners



# **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

## **Parks and Recreation**

### **Parks and Facilities**

#### **Policy #13220**

**Created: August 2023**

**POLICY RE: Use of Structures on Park Properties**

#### **Intent of the Policy**

The parks, properties, and facilities under the authority of the Bloomington Department of Parks and Recreation are intended for the recreational use and enjoyment of all residents of the City of Bloomington. The use of tents, makeshift enclosed structures, or other similar enclosures presents public health and safety concerns related to abandoned property, illegal activity, and accumulation of garbage. Tents, makeshift enclosed structures, or other similar enclosures are often used in violation of the Special Use Policy (overnight 11pm – 5am).

This Policy, however, is not intended to preclude the use of tents or similar enclosures that are authorized by the Department’s Special Use Permit or in association with a Bloomington Parks and Recreation event, program, or tournament. Nor is this Policy intended to prohibit unenclosed shade structures. Unenclosed shade structures provide relief to park users from exposure to the sun, rain, snow, and other elements but do not shield activities occurring beneath the shade structure from public view.

#### **Requirement**

No person shall erect, occupy, or otherwise utilize a tent, makeshift enclosed structure, or other similar enclosure on any property under the authority of the Bloomington Department of Parks and Recreation, except as this Policy allows.

#### **Exceptions**

Tents and similar enclosures are permissible in the following circumstances:

1. Where an applicant has received approval for a tent or similar structure pursuant to Park and Facility Special Use Policy #13040.

2. Where an event has been approved to take place upon property under the authority of the Bloomington Department of Parks and Recreation and the use of a tent or similar enclosure is authorized in association with the event.

### **Shade Structures**

This Policy does not prohibit the use of shade structures. Shade structures are unenclosed structures designed to provide park users relief from exposure to the sun, rain, snow, and other elements.

In order for a structure to be considered a permissible shade structure, it must be designed without walls so that activity occurring beneath the shade structure is visible at all times.

1. If a shade structure is located in an area so that activity beneath the shade structure is fully or partially obstructed from public view; or
2. If obstructions or other materials are placed around a shade structure so as to fully or partially obstruct activity beneath the shade structure from public view;

then the shade structure is no longer permissible, and the structure is instead considered an impermissible tent, makeshift enclosed structure, or similar enclosure.

### **Enforcement**

Police officers are empowered under state law to enforce rules established by the Board of Park Commissioners under Indiana Code 36-10-4-9(c), and the Board may ask that officers be detailed to execute the Board's rules. Under this authority, the Board instructs the Director of Parks and Recreation to work with the Police Chief to ensure that this Policy is enforced.

Violations of this Policy may also trigger Administration Policy 2050, "Suspension from Use of Parks Facilities." Administration Policy 2050 authorizes the Parks Department to temporarily suspend a user from entering upon any Park facility owned or operated by the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department based on the user's conduct at Park facilities.

When an unlawful tent, makeshift enclosed structure, or similar enclosure is not removed upon request, it shall be collected by the Department and stored in a secure place for at least thirty (30) days. Any items inside the tent, makeshift enclosed structure, or similar enclosure shall also be stored for at least thirty (30) days. However, the Department will not store items that are:

- (1) Wet or damp;
- (2) Soiled with human or animal bodily fluids, feces, chemicals, or other contaminants;
- (3) Perishable (e.g. food); or
- (4) Represent a health or safety hazard.

The owner(s) of items removed and stored may contact [insert] to retrieve them.



City of Bloomington  
Community and Family Resources Department  
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P.O. Box 100  
Bloomington IN 47402  
(812)349-3430 (phone); (812)349-3483 (fax)  
[cfrd@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:cfrd@bloomington.in.gov)  
<http://bloomington.in.gov/cfrd>

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 26, 2023  
**TO:** Paula McDevitt and  
Bloomington Parks and Recreation Board  
**FROM:** Beverly Calender-Anderson, CFRD  
**RE:** Shelter for Unhoused Residents

The Community and Family Resources Department has responsibility for working with area service providers serving unhoused residents as well as those in danger of becoming unhoused. We have developed a very good working relationship with the agency directors and their staff through administrative level meetings and direct service provided on the street. The purpose of this memo is to provide information on how the City provides support to the issue of homelessness in our community.

### **I. Meetings:**

Weekly Shelter Directors meeting – This meeting began during the Covid pandemic to provide a way for agencies to keep open communication, collaborate and share resources during the pandemic, It continued because agency directors found benefit in touching base to monitor available shelter beds, track trends and movement of people and coordinate information. The meeting includes:

- Beacon, Inc
- Bloomington Police Department (occasionally)
- Centerstone
- City of Bloomington CFRD
- Heading Home (convener)
- HealthNet
- IU Health Bloomington Hospital
- Middle Way House
- Monroe County Government
- Monroe County Health Department
- New Hope for Families
- Wheeler Mission

The CFRD Director and Mayor Hamilton are on the Heading Home Advisory Committee. Heading Home is a community-wide collaboration working to strengthen housing security and decrease homelessness in the region – including Monroe, Morgan, Lawrence, Owen, Greene and Martin counties. Other Advisory Committee members include: Community Foundation of Bloomington Monroe County, Bloomington Township Trustee, Perry Township Trustee, Monroe County Government, South Central Housing Network, United Way of Central Indiana and Heading Home staff.

The After Hours Ambassador (AHA) is a visible presence for the City during the evening. The After Hours Ambassador helps to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for downtown residents, visitors, shoppers, businesses, cultural organizations and others. One responsibility of the AHA is to provide information and resources for people who are unhoused. Sometimes that includes a bottle of water on a hot day, or escorting someone to the Stride Center who is in need of services. The AHA maintains relationships with many of the community's unhoused residents, nonprofit agency staff, Bloomington Police Department and downtown business owners and managers, The AHA attends the following meeting to keep open lines of communication with downtown businesses and those agencies serving unhoused residents.

- Weekly Downtown Resource Officer meeting. This meeting involves:
  - Downtown Resource Officers
  - Stride
  - Wheeler
  - Beacon
  - HealthNet
  - BPD Social Workers
  - Centerstone
  
- Downtown Bloomington, Inc.
- Kirkwood Business Owners
- Brick and Mortar – downtown business with physical storefront locations

## II. Funding:

CFRD also administers the following grants

**Downtown Outreach Grant** – The City of Bloomington Downtown Outreach (DTO) grants strive to fund projects that will improve the human condition of Bloomington residents who are unhoused or who are at risk of homelessness. The City's Community and Family Resources Department is responsible for the distribution and administration of this fund. Because of funding received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, additional funding was made available specifically for reunification and job readiness activities. Traditionally there is \$250,000 allocated for the Downtown Outreach Grant, however in 2023 the total for grants awarded was **\$320,660**.

- All Options - \$ 8,000



- Amythest House - \$14,000
- Beacon - \$41,952
- Centerstone - \$59,549
- Change for Sober Living - \$4,800
- HealthNet - \$58,572
- Indiana Recovery Alliance - \$11,250
- Monroe County Human Association - \$14,350
- New Hope for Families - \$30,000
- New Leaf/New Life – 8,000
- Robin and Trisha’s House - \$4,200
- Sojourn House - \$21,862
- Wheeler Mission - \$52,125

Violence Reduction Grant – New in 2023, the Violence Reduction Grants invest in community-based efforts to prevent, intervene and reduce violence in Bloomington. The total amount allocated for the Violence Reduction Grants was **\$125,000** and organizations were able to apply for a maximum of \$25,000 each.

The Information and Technology Services administers **Digital Equity Grants** annually, in the amount of **\$50,000**. Though not specifically designated for agencies serving the unhoused, many of the applicant agencies serve low and no income individuals and use this funding to provide technology support to those individuals which enables access to medical and employment resources among others.

Heading Home of South Central Indiana – The City of Bloomington provided **\$1.2 million** to launch the Heading Home initiative plus a commitment to an additional **\$1.5 million** to help sustain the work for the long term.

### III. Shelter Beds

- A Friend’s Place (operated by Beacon, Inc.) – 40 beds – Monroe County residents get priority
- Hotels for Homeless – will provide hotel rooms for unhoused individuals and families. Number of rooms depends on their funding.
- Middle Way House – specifically for domestic violence survivors
- New Hope for Families – 11 living spaces – how many are housed depends on size and make-up of families they’re serving. They also have funding for hotel stays if the shelter is full.
- Wheeler Mission – 90 for males and 35 for females. The policy for winter months is low barrier October-April