



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**

January 16, 2025, 6:00 PM  
Hooker Meeting Room #245  
Hybrid Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting here:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/8657231124?pwd=mPqboSiD0AhVwKSgkuW2aO7NHixihO.1&omn=81563021562>

Meeting ID: 865 723 1124

Passcode: COBPT

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

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
Carrie Albright			
Nadia Cain			
Matt Caldie			
Shannon Gayk			
Mike Litwin			
Adam Martinez			
Mitchell Owens			
David Parkhurst			
Karena Tankersley			

Rachael Johnson,  
City Liaison  
Fiona Kilgore,  
Graduate Fellow

3. Approval of November 2024 minutes\*

Yes

No

Abstain

Carrie Albright  
Nadia Cain  
Matt Caldie  
Shannon Gayk  
Mike Litwin  
Adam Martinez  
Mitchell Owens  
David Parkhurst  
Karenn Tankersley

4. Public comment

Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

5. Staff Update

- a. Monroe County Environmental Commission
- b. 2025 Calendar

6. Old Business

- a. Working group updates
  - i. Water Quality
  - ii. Special Projects
  - iii. Biodiversity
    - 1. Bee City USA
    - 2. Habitat Connectivity Map
    - 3. Presentation

7. New Business

- a. 2024 Annual Report (Carrie Albright)
- b. Eco-Heroes (Rachael Johnson, group)

8. Reports from:

- a. Tree Commission (TC)
- b. Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC)
- c. Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM)
- d. Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)
- e. Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)

9. Commissioner announcements

10. Social Media

- a. February Posts

11. Upcoming Meeting

- a. February 20, 2025, 6:00 pm, Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

12. Adjournment:

*\* Item to be voted on*

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.



## 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.

# NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING MINUTES

November 21, 2024, 6:00 PM  
Hooker Meeting Room #245  
Hybrid Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting here:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/8657231124?pwd=mPqboSiD0AhVwKSgkuW2aO7NHixihO.1&omn=81563021562>

Meeting ID: 865 723 1124

Passcode: COBPT

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: 6:12 pm
2. Introductions and Roll Call

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
Carrie Albright	X		
Nadia Cain		X	
Matt Caldie	X		
Shannon Gayk	X		
Mike Litwin	X		
Adam Martinez	X		
Mitchell Owens	X		
David Parkhurst	X		
<del>Gabby Robles</del>		X	
Karenn Tankersley	X		



Rachael Johnson, City Liaison	X
Fiona Kilgore, Graduate Fellow	X

Note: Gabby sent a resignation notice to the commission shortly before the meeting.

### 3. Approval of October 2024 minutes\*

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Carrie Albright	X		
Nadia Cain			X
Matt Caldie	X		
Shannon Gayk	X		
Mike Litwin	X		
Adam Martinez	X		
Mitchell Owens	X		
David Parkhurst	X		
<del>Gabby Robles</del>			
Karenna Tankersley	X		

David moved to vote; Matt seconded. All present voted yes.

### 4. Public comment

Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

No public comment.

### 5. Old Business

- a. Working group updates
  - i. Water Quality
  - ii. Biodiversity
  - iii. Special Projects

Water Quality Working Group

- Nothing to report

Biodiversity Working Group

- Nothing to report

Special Projects

- Nothing to report

### 6. New Business

a. 2025 Meeting Schedule (Rachael Johnson)

Rachael discussed the 2025 monthly meeting schedule, including a few rescheduled meetings due to national and University holidays.

b. Annual Planning Meeting (Carrie Albright)

- i. 2025 goals
- ii. 3 – 5 year goals
- iii. 2025 active working groups
  - I. Determine presentation dates

Carrie laid out three columns corresponding to the three categories above. EC members chimed in as desired to share ideas.

i. 2025 goals included

- Implementing an onboarding process for new commission members
- Establishing water quality contacts for data and priority setting
- Getting through the next steps on the UDO stream buffer rule, particularly pushing for an inventory of streams that would require special consideration
- Establishing social media accounts for the EC and generating content ideas
- Establishing an avenue for the public to bring environmental concerns to the EC's attention
- Gathering information on light pollution in the city, and exploring possibility of pursuing Dark Sky Place Certification in the future
  - Establishing a working group to take on this task
- Completing Bee City USA Certification process
  - Working with IU Bloomington as they pursue Bee Campus Certification
- Collaborating with the Clean Team to support IDEM clean community programming
- Finding projects for the ECPC to work on in collaboration with the Planning Department
- Updating the EC website with a wide range of environment-related resources
- Hosting a 2025 EcoHeroes contest

ii. 3-5 year goals paralleled many of the 2025 goals, and included

- Publishing a Water Quality Working Group report based on collected data
- Building a social media presence
  - Providing information about commissioners and commissioner projects
- Completing a stream inventory regarding the UDO stream buffer rule
- Developing educational workshop opportunities for EC members and/or the public
- Implementing light pollution reduction initiatives
- Pursuing city certifications as relevant to EC
- Receiving updates and communications about progress for the city Climate Action Plan

iii. Active working group and liaison activities in 2025 will be

- Light Pollution (new)
  - Adam, and Matt showed interest
  - Light pollution and Dark Sky Place Certification research

- Water Quality (continuing)
    - Mitchell, and David showed interest
    - Stream buffer rule progress
    - Water quality data analysis and report
  - Biodiversity (continuing)
    - Shannon, Carrie, Dave, and Matt showed interest
      - Karennia will share information before leaving
    - Habitat Connectivity Plan update and relaunch
    - Bee City USA + native pollinator/plant projects
    - External resources for website
  - Special Projects
    - Carrie, and Mitchell showed interest
    - Administrative support for certifications and other projects as needed
  - Liaison Activities
    - Onboarding new EC members
    - Social media
    - Elected positions, especially treasurer
- I. Presentation schedule for working groups in 2025
- Jan. – Biodiversity
  - Feb. – EC 101 meeting (no working group presentation)
  - Mar. – Special projects
  - Apr. – Water Quality
  - May – Light Pollution
  - Jun. – Biodiversity
  - Jul. – Special projects
  - Aug. – Water Quality
  - Sep. – Light Pollution
  - Oct. – Biodiversity
  - Nov. – Annual planning meeting (no working group presentations)
  - Dec. – Light Pollution

## 7. Reports from:

- a. Tree Commission (TC)
- b. Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC)
- c. Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM)
- d. Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)
- e. Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)

David mentioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Street is likely to close down, or be reduced to one lane in the near future, which he found out during the TC meeting.

No other reports.

## 8. Commissioner announcements

N/A

9. Upcoming Meeting

- a. December 19, 2024, 6:00 pm, Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting; Matt seconded.

10. Adjournment: 8:00 pm

*\* Item to be voted on*

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# 2025 Bloomington Environmental Commission Schedule

January 16

Biodiversity  
Presentation

February 20

Environmental  
Commission 101

March 27

Officer Elections  
Special Projects  
Presentation  
rescheduled due to IU  
Spring Break

April 17

Water Quality  
Presentation

May 15

Light Pollution  
Presentation

June 26

Biodiversity  
Presentation  
rescheduled due to  
Juneteenth holiday

July 17

Special Projects  
Presentation

August 21

Water Quality  
Presentation

September 18

Light Pollution  
Presentation

October 16

Biodiversity  
Presentation

November 20

Annual Planning  
Meeting

December 18

Light Pollution  
Presentation



## Additional Resources:

### National Wildlife Federation:

[www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants](http://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants)

### Native Plant Finder:

[nativeplantfinder.nwf.org](http://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org)

### Indiana Plant Atlas:

<https://indiana.plantatlas.usf.edu/>

### Indiana Native Plant Society:

[indiananativeplants.org](http://indiananativeplants.org)

### Tips to Protect Pollinator Habitat:

<https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/POL-5/POL-5.html>

### Native Plant Resource List:

[www.hecweb.org/2024/04/02/native-plant-resources-list/](http://www.hecweb.org/2024/04/02/native-plant-resources-list/)

### Identify and Reduce Invasive Species:

[www.mc-iris.org/](http://www.mc-iris.org/)

### More Environmental Commission Fact Sheets:

[bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment/landscaping](http://bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment/landscaping)

**This brochure was created and distributed by the Bloomington Environmental Commission**

[www.bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment)

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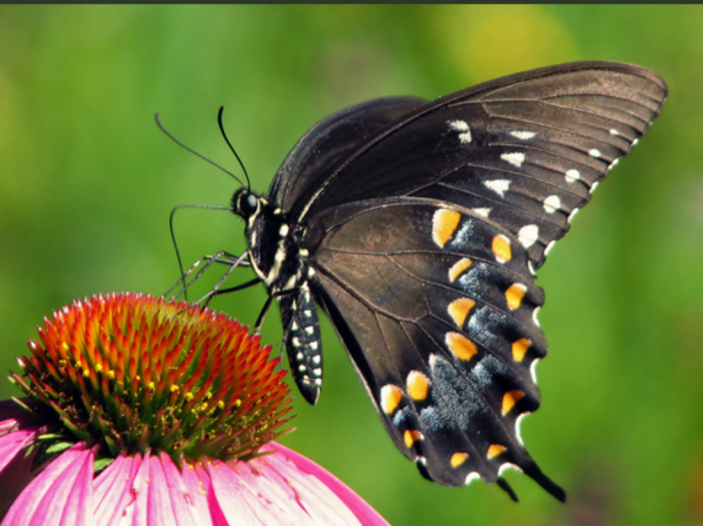
# Natural Landscaping

A beautiful, healthy, and economical alternative for your yard.



"Butterflies used to reproduce on the native plants that grew in our yards before the plants were bulldozed and replaced with lawn. To Have butterflies in our future, we need to replace those lost host plants, no if's, and's or but's. If we do not, butterfly populations will continue to decline with every new house that is built"

-Doug Tallamy.





Natural Landscaping promotes a harmonious relationship between nature and communities.



Recreates local ecosystems in yards and gardens, mirroring nature's functionality.



Favors native plants over invasive species to support stable ecosystems.



Emphasizes benefits such as rain and stormwater filtration, wildlife habitats, and ground cover.



Creates vibrant spaces with a splash of color each season.

## ***What are native plants?***

Native plants are species that have historically grown in a specific geography and climate. They are adapted to the local environment, having “co-evolved” with the native insects and animals that make up our ecosystem. Therefore, native plants are best suited to support our specific location, providing ideal resources for native species.

## ***Why use native plants?***

- Once established, they require little to no maintenance.
- Promote biodiversity by providing food and shelter for local wildlife.
- Reduce erosion, water runoff, and flooding.
- Improve air quality by removing carbon from the air.

## ***Which native plants?***

Location is an important consideration when planning a planting. The amount of sun or shade a site gets, how wet or dry it is, and even the acidity of the soil contribute to the planting's success. Some plants are tolerant of many conditions, while others are more particular. A little research up front should help your native planting thrive.

## ***Types of native plants:***

Native flora come in many varieties, so you can find something for any project.

- Trees
- Shrubs
- Flowers
- Grasses & Sedges
- Vines
- Ferns
- **and more!**

## ***Where can I buy them?***

May's Greenhouse  
Bloomington Valley Nursery  
Abell Nursery  
Linnea's Greenhouse  
Eco Logic  
U.S. Perennials

## ***Let's make it happen!***

Every individual with land can make a measurable difference by planting native plants. Even adding one native tree can go a long way toward supporting wildlife. The greater the number of unique native species you provide, the greater the impact you'll make. Additionally, removing invasive species and protecting your plantings from deer are critical to the success of your natural landscaping. Thank you for taking action. Good luck!