



Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan Environmental Quality and Natural Systems Working Group Meeting Three Notes (Part 2)

17 April 2018

City Hall

6 pm – 8 pm

Breakout Groups:

Waste Reduction

Actions:

- Education
- Business certification program
- Group purchase green products
- Incentive program – tax benefits or recognition for providing plastic bags

Partners:

- Chamber of Commerce
- MCCSC
- Industry groups

Metrics:

- Percent of waste
- Number of businesses reached
- Number of participants in programs
- Pounds weighed/dollars paid

Waste Reduction Goals + Actions

• Education: sectoral guidebooks
public education
Hoosier to Hoosier
lifecycle costs

• Business Certification Program:

Group Purchase Green Products

• Incentive Programs: tax benefits, plastic bags
financial & recognition

• Tracking Waste - weighing/charging

Metrics

% waste
of businesses reached
of participants
\$ amount incentives
pounds weighed/\$ paid

Partners

Chamber of Commerce
Industry Groups
Local businesses

Waste Management

Actions:

- Education - public schools
- Encourage competition (list of resources for waste options and providers)
- Analyze waste stream

Partners:

- Private companies
- Businesses
- Schools
- Nonprofits

Metrics:

- Number of participants in programs
- Number of programs

Waste Management Goals + Actions

EDUCATION (Public Schools: recycle programs)

Gen. Public: outreach
set example

ENCOURAGE COMPETITION (list of resources for citizens + bus.)

ANALYZE WASTE STREAM: Final disposal vs. recycle (count, cit.)

Metrics

participants in programs

programs + outreach activities

disposal options + alternatives

Amounts of waste going to final disposal

Amounts of waste to landfills

Partners

Private companies

Businesses

Schools

Non profit

Biodiversity and Ecosystems Protection

- Potential metrics for ecosystem and biodiversity – the various indexes used for wildlife
- Additional metrics for deer management – urban agriculture losses, Lyme disease incidents, number of attacks on pets and people, and the browse line
- Potential metric: the number of homes that are Backyard Habitats
- Bloomington is a community-wide habitat partner
- Monarch weigh stations – Parks and neighborhoods have them
- New Action: Get the “Got Aquarium?” campaign to get a flyer out every semester to help prevent the dumping of aquariums
- A lot of environmental indicators came from 2003, is there a plan to do something more recent?
- Goal: make a specific plan to update or locate more recent information
- Use GIS to map and update land and natural systems in the city
- The Habitat Connectivity Plan did a partial update of that information
- We can use canopy cover as a metric
- We can look into incentivizing the use of native species instead of just penalizing the use of invasive species
- MC-IRIS did a fund for incentivizing natives
- Indiana invasive species council is working on invasive ban, but it has been stuck in the legislative process
- Ellen Jacquart has been working on the invasive species ban
- “Bitcoin for invasives”
- MC-IRIS hosts SNAYL day which offers invasive plant education

- Grow green, grow native INPAWS – try to convince the sale of natives and to convince to not sell non-natives
- Environmental science classes at Bloomington South can be a partner
- The Bloomington South partnership could involve placing 90 kids with projects – kids could work on infographics and volunteer projects – transportation is an issue
- The Garlic mustard challenge could be a metric as well which involves six weeks to pull garlic mustard and measure the amount pulled by the number of bags filled
- We can encourage more people to put habitat in their yards
- Allowing or encouraging higher lawns could help add habitat
- There is no limit on fences on the front yard
- Backyard fence can be 8 feet
- Educate the public on illicit discharges
- There needs to be an effective way to report people cleaning paintbrushes and dumping in storm drains
- The education would have to go through channels in the City
- UReport could be utilized, but must be easy to access on the website
- Conduct more inventories to see what's still in the city
- Stream inventory
- Hoosier river watch and adopt a river stream
- Bird lists
- Butterfly counts and lists
- SPEA fellows to compile the inventories and lists as well as citizen scientists
- Graduate project for ornithology class – biology department – bird inventories
- Cave inventories are special habitats that should be inventoried
- Hoosier Society
- Indiana karst Conservancy
- National Sporological society
- Bernie Fishers Urban forestry class can partner with projects
- We can conduct a Bio-blitz – a way to get a list quickly, very brief snapshot in time – the drawback is that it only captures the seasonal organisms
- SPEA Terrestrial Habitat Evaluation class taught by Professor Primack could help with a tree list, shrub list
- The SPEA Urban Forestry class is working on a tree survey
- Native habitat in the city, sample/demonstration gardens hosted by the City
- Use GIS or a map so people can find different native species
- Green spots – website could be improved and worked on
- App to tag native species you've seen – make it fun – engage serve IT and informatics
- IU Corps – figuring out how to best channel IU resources
- Action item: connecting IU with our goals and metrics – formalizing the list
- Is there flexibility as to where trees and shrubs go?
- Prioritize areas to get two birds with one stone
- Could utilize connectivity plan to prioritize areas
- Purchase riparian corridors – utility easements – connecting parks
- Goal: purchase properties to connect greenways and corridors
- “Bringing Nature Home” book
- Neighborhood eat ways – planting fruit at the edge of your property – incorporate pollinators
- Parks does benchmarking of greenspace per capita looking at other cities
- Void for protecting small natural parcels in town – Sycamore will not generally take small parcels in the City, unless there is a very specific purpose

Actions:

- Aquarium flyer out every semester

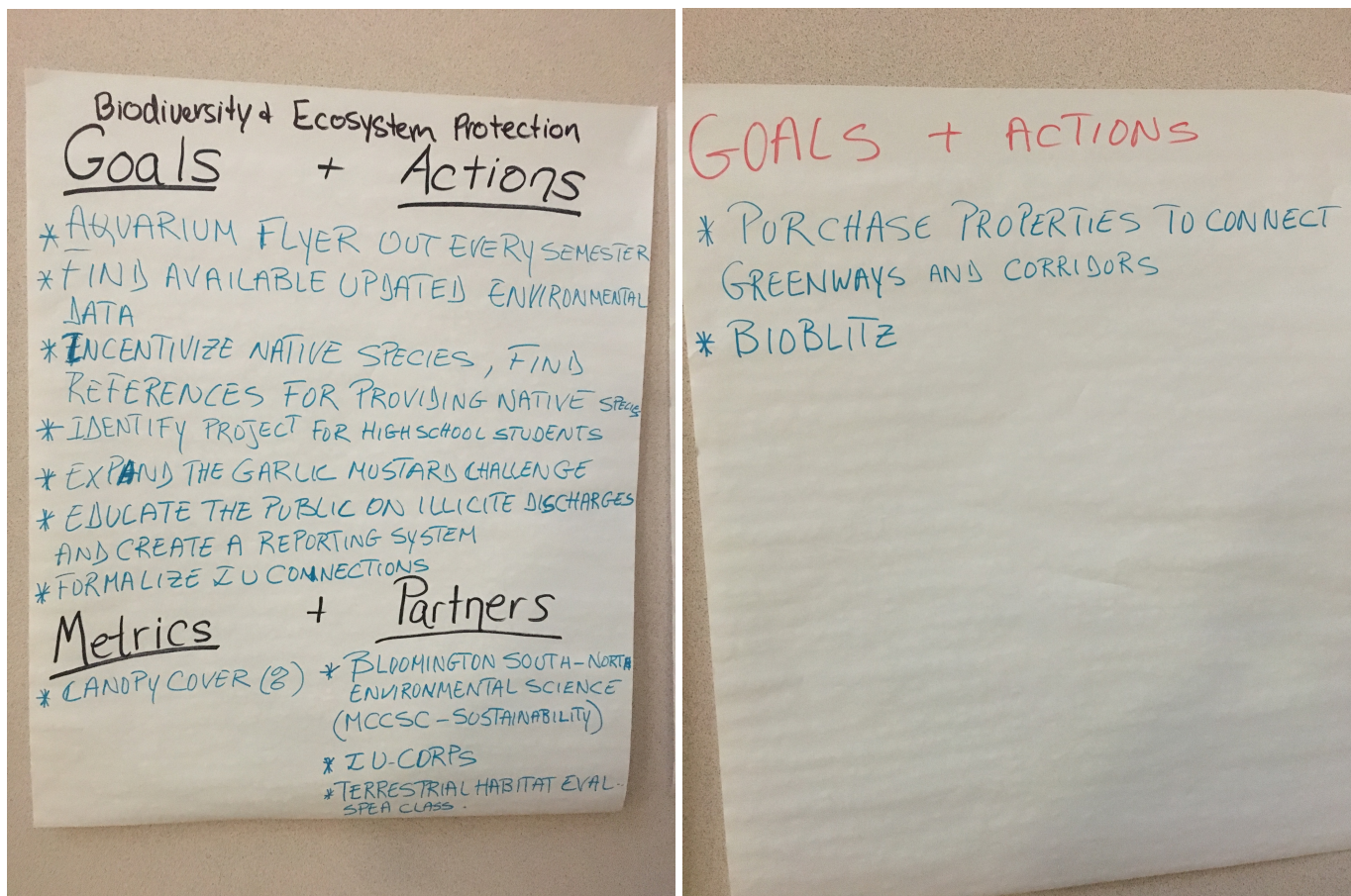
- Find updated environmental data
- Incentivize native species, provide a reference list for where to find native species
- Identify projects for high school students
- Expand the garlic mustard challenge
- Educate the public on illicit discharges and create a reporting system
- Formalize IU connections
- Purchase properties to connect greenways and corridors
- Bio-blitz

Partners:

- Bloomington high school environmental classes
- MCCSC sustainability club
- IU - Corps
- Terrestrial Habitat Evaluation SPEA class

Metrics:

- Percentage of canopy cover



Wrap up/Comments about the Process:

- Next meeting, we will vote on our priority areas
- In that meeting, we will cover storm water management