



**Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan Environmental Quality and Natural Systems
Working Group Meeting Two Notes
3 April 2018
City Hall
6 pm – 8 pm**

Topic: Identify challenges regarding biodiversity, ecosystems, and pest management and propose solutions.

Facilitator: Stephanie Richards

Computer notes: Steven Chybowski

Number of participants: 14 (Kriste Lindberg, Tom McGlusson Jr., Mike McAfee, Elizabeth Tompkins, Kathy Gutowsky, Amanda Figolah, Steve Cotter, Vicky Meretsky, Linda Thompson, Stephanie Richards, Autumn Salamack, Steven Chybowski, Daphney Richemond, Farhana Khan)



Tonight's Agenda

- 6:00 pm – 6:05 pm: Review of Detailed Process
- 6:05 pm – 6:10 pm: Review of Draft Definition of Sustainable Community
- 6:10 pm – 6:20 pm: Review of Draft Vision Statement for Sustainability Action Plan
- 6:20 pm – 6:40 pm: Presentation on Ecosystem and Biodiversity Protection (Farhana Khan)
- 6:40 pm – 7:00 pm: Root Challenges of Ecosystem and Biodiversity Protection
- 7:00 pm – 7:45 pm: Breakout Groups (3) – Actions, Metrics, Partner Organizations
- 7:45 pm – 7:55 pm: Summary of Group Findings
- 7:55 pm – 8:00 pm: Wrap-up, Feedback, Election of Working Group Leaders

Summary of Topics discussed

- Review sustainable community definition and vision statement
- Background presentation of the current situation of Bloomington biodiversity and ecosystems
- Identify challenges the community faces with biodiversity, ecosystems, and pest management
- Discussion of challenges and solutions for deer management
- Discussion of challenges and solutions in invasive species management
- Discussion of challenges and solutions regarding biodiversity in Bloomington

Detailed Notes

Overview of the Meetings and Process

- First, we would like to introduce Autumn Salamack – Assistant Director of Sustainability
- The meetings of the working groups will continue through the first of May
- Working group ideas will then go on to the advisory board
- By early July, we will have a draft SAP which will be sent to the advisory board as well as the working groups for comment and review
- The working group should elect 2 members to collect comments and feedback of the SAP draft
- In our first EQNS meeting, we decided the most important issues are biodiversity and ecosystem management, waste minimization and waste management, and storm water management
- Are we looking at residential wildlife as opposed to migrant wildlife?
- Resident wildlife will be our focus

Defining our Terms



GNARLY TREE
SUSTAINABILITY
INSTITUTE

Draft Sustainable Community Definition

A sustainable community works together to manage its natural, social, and economic resources to ensure a healthy and just environment for existing and future generations everywhere.

- Have we defined the term “just environment” in the sustainable community definition?
- Environments are neither just nor unjust
- Keep the 3E idea together in sustainability
- Not all the environments that we are managing are natural



Draft Vision Statement

By 2030, the City of Bloomington will distinguish itself as the most sustainable community in Indiana. We will work collaboratively with the area's academia, nonprofits, and businesses to enhance our natural capital; build a diverse and growing economy; and ensure a healthy and equitable standard of living for all residents while enhancing the capacity of other Indiana cities and towns to do the same.

- In our vision statement, by stating that we will be the best, we are saying that we will track metrics of all cities in Indiana to measure our success
- Change it to “we will be a sustainable leader”
- “Inspire other cities/towns to do the same”

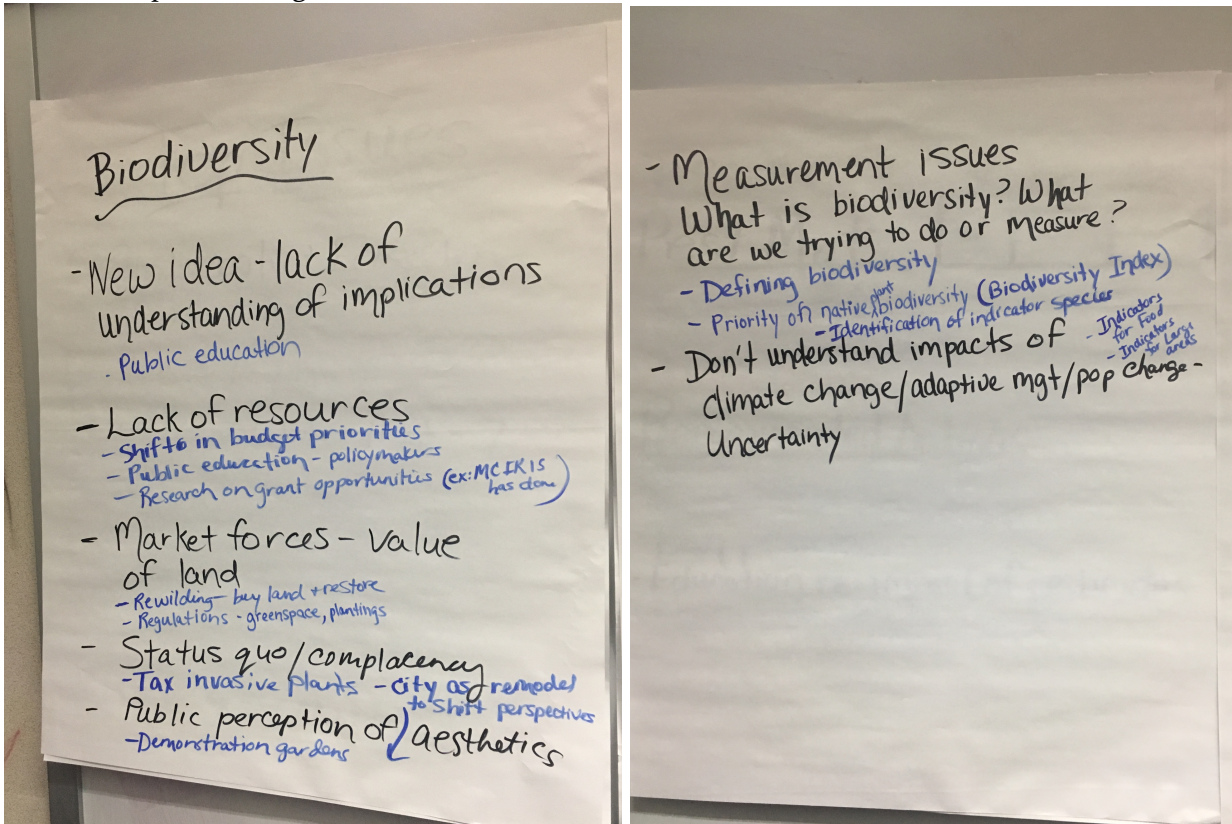
Presentation on Biodiversity and Ecosystems

- Is the Griffy reservoir a drinking source? It is a backup drinking water source
- Check the number on the amount of small mammal species in Bloomington in the background presentation – there is concern that the number of species is too high
- How does our plan correlate with the STAR and ISO measurements?
- We can innovate beyond what those systems recommend as we will have unique challenges
- Equity in access to this type of process – Bloomington could innovate by bringing more people into sustainable development

If we Think it is Important to Protect Biodiversity, why isn't it Happening?

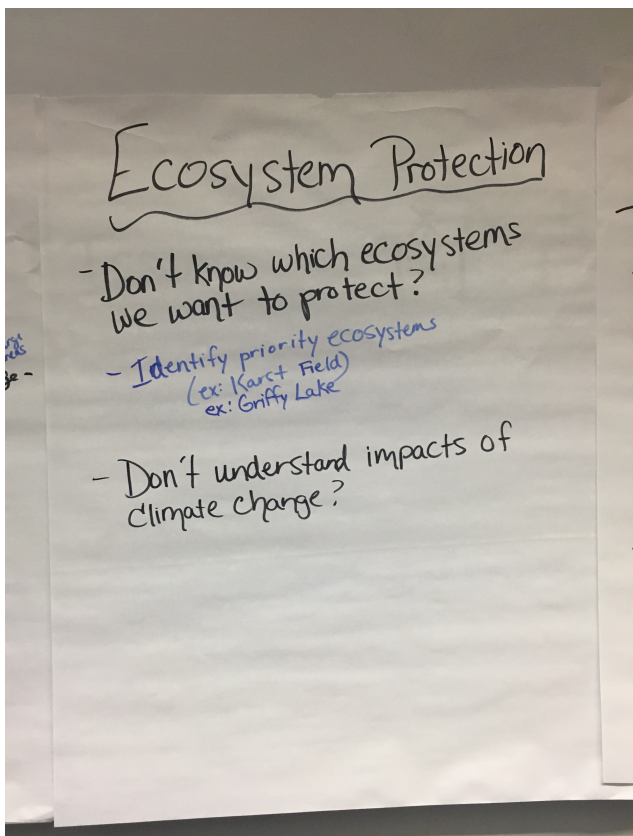
- It is a new idea – lack of understanding and education
- *Possible Solution: Public Education*
- Lack of resources – lack of staff to take it on
- *Possible Solution: Shift in budget priorities*
- *Possible Solution: Educating lawmakers about the importance of biodiversity*
- *Possible Solution: Research into grant opportunities*
- Market forces – Bloomington land is valuable, so it is being developed
- *Possible Solution: Movement or rewilding – buy land and restore it*
- *Possible Solution: Ordinances*
- One of the challenges MCCSC and everyone faces is a perception regarding neatness and visual attractiveness
- *Possible Solution: Tax invasive plants*
- *Possible Solution: City as a role model*
- *Possible Solution: Demonstration gardens*
- We haven't defined what biodiversity we are talking about and the baseline we are starting from
- How will we measure without a baseline?

- Possible Solution: We define biodiversity
- Possible Solution: Increasing native biodiversity
- Possible Solution: Use a biodiversity index to assess it
- Possible Solution: Indicator species would be easier to identify
- A city has other goals beyond protecting biodiversity
- How does climate change affect native species?
- Adaptive management



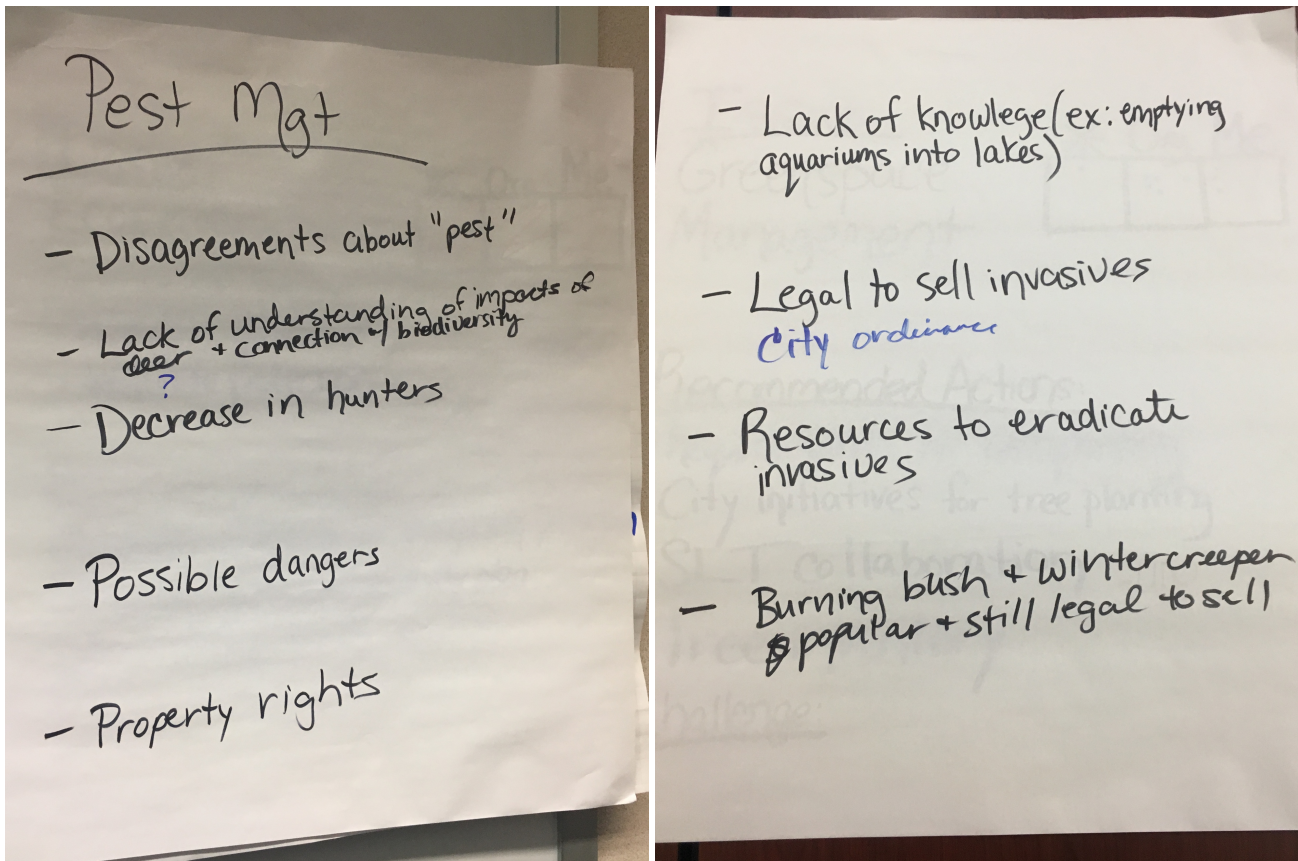
What Challenges stand in our way for Ecosystem Protections?

- Our lakes are not natural, they are drowning native ecosystems, do we want to embrace them?
- We concluded that there is a lot of overlap between ecosystems and biodiversity, but ecosystems contain nonliving things as well



Why isn't Pest Management Happening?

- Public perception
- Reduction in hunters
- Possible dangers
- Property rights
- Lack of knowledge and public education
- Legal to sell invasives
- *Possible Solution: City ordinances*
- People power necessary to control invasives
- Funding to control invasives
- Invasive plants are attractive and popular
- *Possible Solution: Education – people do not understand how deer have a negative impact on ecosystems, also plenty of people don't care because they value the cute animals more than the ecosystem as a whole*



- Are there any historic species inventories for Bloomington?
- Do we want to support our greenhouses with native species?
- Will the City support local nurseries?
- Heather Reynolds – recommended for her knowledge about invasive species
- Engage MC-IRIS members
- Ellen Jacquart- recommended from MC-IRIS

Breakout Groups:

Invasive Species

Actions:

- Tax invasive species
- Use technology to track invasives such as drones
- Encourage use of the App for reporting and mapping species +training sessions of the app
- Require invasive species code with those remodeling their properties
- Prioritize species
- Identify tools and limitations for eradication and control efforts
- Support MC – IRIS in identifying new invasive species
- Invasive species inventory and mapping
- Backyard habitat-like program to control invasive species on private property and incentivize good behavior
- Nuisance law to control invasive species – like a neighbor being liable for flooding a neighbor's property
- Water species: draw down and freeze
- Buy native species from local nurseries

Partners:

- MC-IRIS