

2025 Sustainability Spooktacular Challenge

October 1 - 31, 2025

The City of Bloomington showed residents that climate change isn't so scary by taking action during the 2025 Sustainability Spooktacular! The Spooktacular engaged residents through both in-person events and an online challenge hosted on the Zero in Bloomington platform, for which participants had the opportunity to win gift baskets. From October 1–31, 2025, Bloomington residents scared off climate anxiety by planting trees, removing invasive plants, reducing food waste, and more!

Four in-person events were held in collaboration with some of our fantastic community partners as a part of the Spooktacular. These included:

- **A Weed Wrangle with the Parks and Recreation Department** on October 3rd, which had 11 participants. Participants removed invasive plants along the Rail Trail, supporting the native plant life key to Bloomington ecosystems.
- **A Work and Learn Day at the Bloomington Community Orchard** on October 11th, which had 10 participants. Participants learned about how the orchard works and how local food is a key element of a sustainable future. Then, volunteers engaged with this work firsthand through weeding, harvesting, pruning, and other orchard maintenance activities.
- **A “Using the Whole Plant” Cooking Class with Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard** on October 14th, which had 8 participants. Participants learned delicious ways to reduce their food waste and create a more sustainable home kitchen through innovative recipes utilizing peels, rinds, seeds, and other parts of plants that are often wasted.
- **A Near West Side Tree Planting followed by a Block Party at Butler Park with CanopyBloomington** on October 25th, which had 40 participants. Participants planted 50 trees in the Near West Side neighborhood, then celebrated their hard work with a block party at Butler Park featuring live music, food trucks, lawn games, and more.

At each event, one participant was randomly selected to take home a gift basket filled with goodies from local businesses to thank them for advancing sustainability in the community through their participation in these events. One participant in the online challenge, in which 6 participants logged 18 sustainable actions on Zero in Bloomington, was also randomly selected to win a gift basket. Climate change is

definitely spooky, but Bloomington residents showed that they're serious about beating that fright by taking action - thank you to all of our Sustainability Spooktacular partners and participants!

