



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL
City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation
Regular Meeting

Sycamore Shelter
Wednesday, June 11, 2025
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

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I. CALL TO ORDER at 4:39 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL –

Marne Potter, Adam Fudickar, Denise Gardiner, Dave Parkhurst, Bill Jones
Staff: Heidi Shoemaker, Rebecca Swift, Joanna Sparks, Brandon Olson, Erica Nadolski, Mary Welz

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 2025

IV. AGENDA

A. Appearances

A-1 Public Comment Period
No Public Comment.

B. Old Business

B-1 Bird Town Support

Gardiner sent a letter of support to Shoemaker. Shoemaker shared there is now some confusion between the Indiana Audubon website and the Bird City website regarding fees for renewal, requirements for renewal, and the number of items to submit for renewal. Gardiner instructed Shoemaker to follow the Indiana Audubon Bird Town application. Shoemaker said the letter of support looked ok and she will follow up by completing the Audubon Bird Town application.

B-2 Deer Research Paper

After the April meeting, Shoemaker reached out to George Parker at Purdue to ask for guidance on tracking deer health during the Griffy deer herd

reductions. Parker sent the journal article, “Nutritional condition and fertility of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) from areas with contrasting histories of hunting” by Swihart et. al. and it was shared with the Council prior to the June meeting. The floor was opened for discussion on if there is any additional information the City should be trying to collect from the deer reductions. Fudickar mentioned the study seemed unrelated since it did not discuss plant communities and their health. Shoemaker mentioned that when information is shared with the public, they do not see an improvement to plant communities as an improvement to deer health and the question was posed if we should be collecting our own deer data to track their health as well. Fudickar stated in that case, this study supports deer reductions in its findings that with decreased density of deer there is increased health and we can use that information to support deer hunting as a management tool in general without the need to conduct our own health studies. The Council determined that no further steps needed to be taken by the City at this time.

B-3 Griffy Interpretive Sign

The draft interpretive sign about wildlife seen and Griffy Lake and the ways humans use the park was sent to the BPD’s graphic designed and a new rough draft has been returned. Shoemaker will share this draft electronically to members for comment.

B-4 OuterSpatial Bird Tour

The floor was open for feedback and comments from the Council, but no changes were noted. Shoemaker stated that this is a living document and at any time you can suggest changes.

B-5 Griffy Insect Study

Olson was looking for feedback about the Griffy Insect Study Report shared with the Council at the April meeting. He would like to have this published in “Proceedings” which is the official publication of the Indiana Academy of Science. He was quoted \$600 per page just to have the Academy review it. The Council commented that producing the report in black and white would not be as interesting, but maybe the Academy could link to the color version on the Bloomington Parks website. Olson shared that the City may not see reciprocal value in having the report published. Shoemaker mentioned the information will be public knowledge because it would be on the Bloomington Parks website. Nadolski replied that it would be easier for academics to find the information if it was professionally published. Olson added that the publication uses a lot of colors and trying to make it legible in black and white would take a lot of work.

C. New Business

C-1 Aquatic Vegetative Management

Shoemaker reported that Aquatic Control completed their herbicide application at Griffy Lake and informed her that everything went well. Less than 5 acres of problem areas were detected during the week of 5/23 and treatment of the Eurasian milfoil was completed the following week. The Council asked if the need for treatment has continued to decrease. In 2024, treatment took place on 5.17 acres representing 2 main areas of the lake. In 2025, the total treatment area was reduced to 4.68 acres but was spread out over 4 main locations.

C-2 Education Update

Shoemaker updated the group on the success of the first Nature Play Days held at Lower Cascades Park on Saturday, June 7. The skies were overcast, but the rain held off and 138 people could come out and join us. With so many activity stations, the duration of the stay for each group was quite long. A survey will go out to try to improve the event for next year and there is a person interested in offering financial support for the event. Upcoming programs include full moon paddle at Griffy Lake, a partnership with the Indiana Astronomical Society for Night Sky Viewing on June 28 at Ferguson Dog Park. Sparks mentioned there may be some light pollution at the dog park. Shoemaker reminded the group that the next big event is Bug Fest on September 13 at Karst Farm Park. Olson shared an update about the first week of Banneker Summer Nature Days. They took the kids on field trips to Lower Cascades Park and Bean Blossom so far and have seen a fox, turtles, snakes, and birds. BPD is also hosting a Pollinator Habitat Workshop on Friday for staff and will repeat the workshop on Saturday for the public. This is in partnership with US Fish and Wildlife.

Sparks stated that rain or not, Urban Greenspace is doing 6-8 Weed Wrangles a week utilizing 50 Greenspace volunteers. The MCR plant sale will be returning to Switchyard Park's maintenance building again on September 6. National Pollinator Week is this week and UGS is doing some Weed Wrangles and Seed collections with Pollinator Partnership and Project Wingspan. Wednesday, June 25 the Lilly Library on campus will have an exhibit for Pollinator Week.

Spotted lantern fly education will be a focus of Bloomington Parks in the near future. Press releases will be used to educate the public on spotted lantern fly, how to identify them, why they are a concern, and their reliance on tree of heaven trees.

The Council recommended bringing back Bird Fest and Swift agrees and recommends planning for spring 2026.

C-3 Project Updates

Gateway permit has not been closed due to disturbances caused by nearby construction. Planning needs to see that groundcover has stabilized but

construction vehicles drive over it and cause disturbance. A few trees planted during the project died, but they have already been swapped out.

BPR is still trying to fill the irrigation position, but the waterfall is up and running at Miller Showers. Aquatic Control has been called upon to help with algae at Miller Showers.

The Hopewell grand opening took place April 23. There are pickle ball courts, ping pong, a dry creek bed, and a Farmer's Market.

Construction has begun on the foundation of the new multiuse path at Building Trades. The hope is to have things completed by September or sooner.

Powerline Trail is going in and the Sudbury neighborhood will continue this trail through their development. This multi-use trail will eventually connect to Mill Trail, Clear Creek Trail, and Bloomington Rail Trail and make a loop. There is an old quarry that has been treated as a karst feature in the development plan so staff are working on a variance for that.

There is a master planning survey going around our community. This survey is only 5 questions long and will collect public feedback to guide the future of BPD.

C-3 August Meeting Agenda Items

Dredging at Miller Showers, storm water projects, and encroachment.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, August 13, 2025

Winslow Woods Park Shelter