CITY OF BLOOMINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

TREE COMMISSION

MEETING AGENDA

Monday, August 17, 2026
9:30 a.m.

This meeting was held at City Hall in the McCloskey Conference Room

401 N Morton St Bloomington Indiana 47404

Learn more about accessibility and building access in the City of Bloomington

For more information about the Tree Commission, or to submit questions or comments for consideration by the Tree Commission, send an email to Urban Forester Haskell Smith.

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Tree Commission Members

Stephanie Freeman-Day	Common Council	2/1/2025	2/1/2025-1/31/2028
Travis Harding	Common Council	2/1/2025	2/1/2025-1/31/2028

George Hegeman	Board of Park Commissioners	2/1/2024	2/1/2024-1/31/2027
Vacant	Mayor	n/a	n/a
Mia Williams	Mayor	2/1/2026	2/1/2026-1/31/2029
Karl Gaisser	Environmental Commission	4/16/2026	4/16/2029
Vacant	Board of Public Works	n/a	n/a
Haskell Smith, Staff Liaison	n/a	n/a	n/a

CALL TO ORDER

I. ROLL CALL

A. Present: Haskell, Mia, George, Stephanie, Karl, plus guests (Neil Tong, Ava Hartman, Jude- urban forestry specialist with city)

B. Absent: Travis

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND MEMO. -July 20th, 2026

A. Mia move to approve, Karl seconds, all pass

III. AGENDA

A. Reports

1. Urban Forester's Report (Haskell Smith) - see attached (below)

i. Removals (including pear trees and poor-quality red maples on E 3rd), plantings (210 to date and 480 planned for fall), and pruning (multiple parks) summarized, rebuilding nursery irrigation,

ii. Park Board for September (2026 Canopy Expansion, BUFRG partnership, quarterly ash removals and risk reports, Palo Alto partnership- mutual tree plantings of same species

iii. Bloomington Branches 9/12 4-7PM

iv. Interlocal agreement with county to clear logjams in Clear Creek corridor

v. Tree Assistance Program contract awarded to Bluestone, and agreement with Mother Nature landscaping for tree health care treatments (non Ash-borer)

vi. New certified arborist added to crew, Haskell and others going to TRAQ renewal course in the fall

vii. Ash tree workshop being planned, Green Waste Management Plan (grant possibility), UF Master Plan 90% complete (goal to get approved by Park Board by the end of the year)

viii. Equipment repair and replacement- city council due to review budget in near future

2. Environmental Commission Report (Karl Gaisser)

    i. Much of last meeting focused on the Dark Skies Policy, will have joint session with Commission for Sustainability and Resilience, EC needs new members for 5 vacant seats, possible partnership with Canopy for plantings in Habitat Corridor

3. Report from Indiana University's Landscape Liaison (Mia Williams)

    i. Recurring meeting with Tristan Johnson, lead arborist position posted, fall trees- 130 to be planted to meet KPI of 300 trees/year, locations include 17th Street Corridor, bypass area, old Everman area, getting a new spiderlift, tree inventory presentation that Mia shared last meeting- IU will make a public-facing version of the slides

B. New Business

1. Indiana Community Forest Council (INCFC) Questionnaire Template (see attached)
    i. INCFC is an advisory group to IDNR-CUF
    ii. Goal- visit other Tree Commissions and advisory groups to ask set of questions to find experiences/opinions with tree ordinances and policy
    iii. We can download and get form back to Haskell

C. Old Business

1. none

D. Public Comment – anything unrelated to agenda items

1. none

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A. Vote to adjourn- Mia moves, Karl seconds, all approve

NEXT MEETING: Monday, September 21, 2026

Location: To Be Determined

Handouts (see attached, if available)

- Tree Commission Meeting Memo and Notes (July 20, 2026)

- Tree Commission Meeting Agenda (July 20th, 2026)
- Urban Forester's Report (August 17, 2026)
- INCFC Policy Question Template (August 17, 2026)