CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

# 2023 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MISSION

To advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# 2023 PRIORITIES

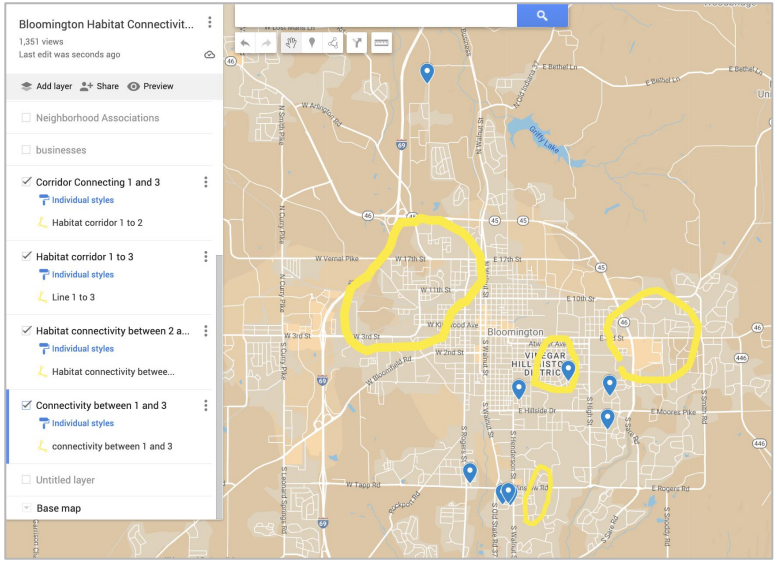
- Promote Habitat Connectivity Plan
  - Greater engagement with Bloomington community members
  - Improved usability of the interactive tool
- Revamp Outreach Programs and Activities
  - Annual Eco-Heroes Art Contest
  - Tabling at local events
- Create or Sponsor a Volunteer Event for the Public*
- Provide recommendations and reporting on environmental quality
  - Air Quality working group
  - Advise on UDO and Plan Commision considerations

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# 2023 PRIORITIES

Promote the Bloomington Habitat Connectivity Plan

- Greater engagement with community members
- Improved usability of the interactive tool




https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment/habitat-connectivity

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# 2023 PRIORITIES

## Revamp Outreach Programs & Activities

- Annual Eco-Heroes Art Contest
- Tabling at local events

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ECO-HEROES

## 2023

- 30 submissions
- 20 sponsors
- Art, videos, songs, essays, and poems

## 2024

https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/environment/eco-heroes-contest

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# 2023 PRIORITIES

Provide recommendations and reporting on environmental quality

- Advise on UDO, Plan Commision considerations
- Support environmental priorities through the City
- 2023 Air Quality Report

## Excerpt from 2023 Air Quality Report:

Daily ground-level ozone AQI values measured in 2022 for Bloomington, via the Helmsburg site, also predominately fall under the AQI category of Good, meaning 50 or below. Around 20 days out of the year were recorded in the Moderate category, and once again a handful of days feature insufficient data. The average $O_3$ AQI value for Bloomington in 2022 was roughly 34, which again appears to be consistent with the average data value from 2015-2019.

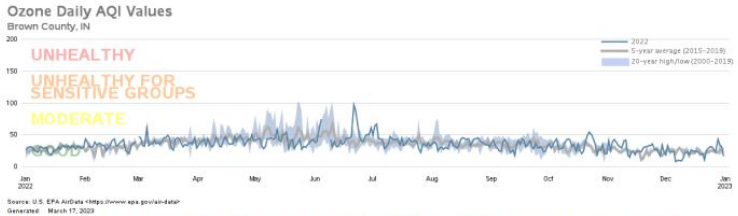



Figure 3. Ozone Daily AQI values reported in AirNow for Bloomington, Indiana from January 2022 until January 2023.

### Comparisons and the Unknown

The $PM_{2.5}$ air quality data for Bloomington in 2022 is an improvement compared to long-term historical data, which is consistent with much of the country and indicative of the progress that has been made since the air quality legislation of the 1960s and 1970s. However, the short-term averages seem to show very little progress in the last decade. The AQI values provided by the EPA for 2022 are virtually identical to the averages from 2015 through 2020. The tile plot below reflects $PM_{2.5}$ data in micrograms per cubic meter of air (µg/m³). Green represents less than or equal to 12 µg/m³, yellow represents 12.1-35.4 µg/m³, and orange through purple are not shown due to Bloomington's numbers not reaching sustained unhealthy levels of 35.5 µg/m³ and beyond.

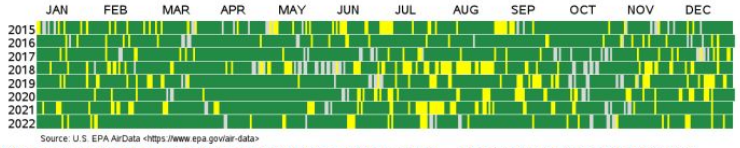



Figure 4. Tile plot for the years 2015-2022 showing the occurrences of $PM_{2.5}$ concentration values less than 12 ug/m³ (green) and 12.1-35.4 ug/m³ (yellow). Gray tiles correspond to no data.

The most recent Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan (2022) released by IDEM also reports $PM_{2.5}$ site values gradually improving, and within the national standards.[9] Data in the report are from 2019-2021,

## Summarized local findings

- The average PM2.5 AQI value for Bloomington in 2022 came in just a little over 30. The average O3 AQI value roughly approximately 34 (<50 is "Good"). Both averages are consistent with the average data value from 2015-2019.

## Recommendations to reduce climate change impact and improve air quality in Bloomington:

- Accelerate our efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuels through increased adoption of renewable energy sources like solar energy, along with efforts to decarbonize transportation

- Proposing shifts in data reporting to include a reference quality ozone monitor within the city limits, as well as a network of PM2.5 air sensors throughout Bloomington

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

# 2024 PRIORITIES

- Biodiversity Working Group
  - Promote Habitat Connectivity Plan at local events & gatherings
  - Extend focus to pollinators and native plants
  - Create, update, and collect additional educational materials
- Outreach Programs and Activities
  - Continue existing efforts (Eco-Heroes, BugFest, Weed Wrangle, etc.)
  - Engage with other organizations in the City, community, and the university in overlapping interests
  - Support and drive momentum for the City of Bloomington Climate Action Plan
  - Increase presence in local media (newspaper, radio, IU campus) when sharing reports, activities and events, and locally relevant information