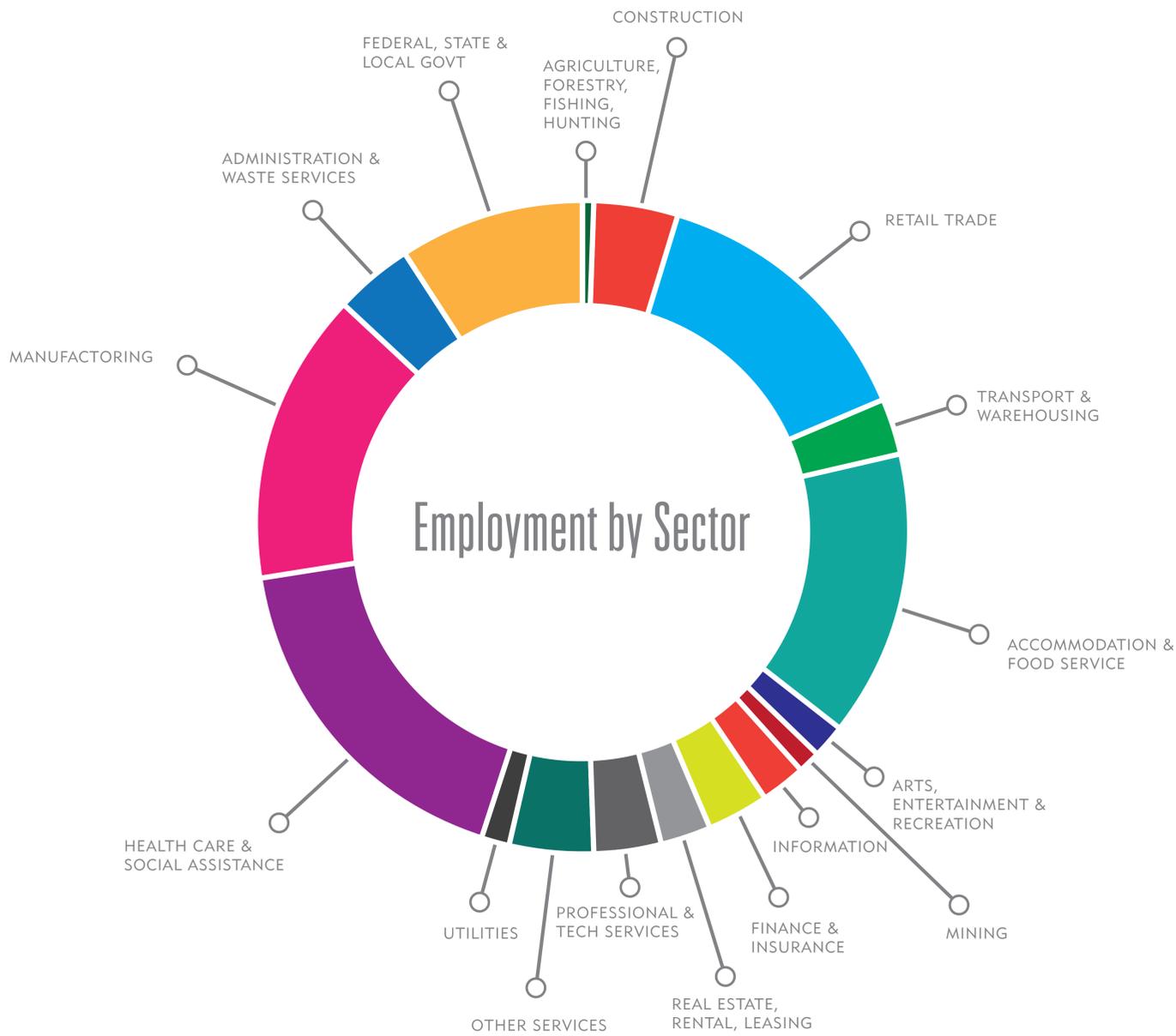




CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

# Socio-economic / Demographics



## Projected New Housing

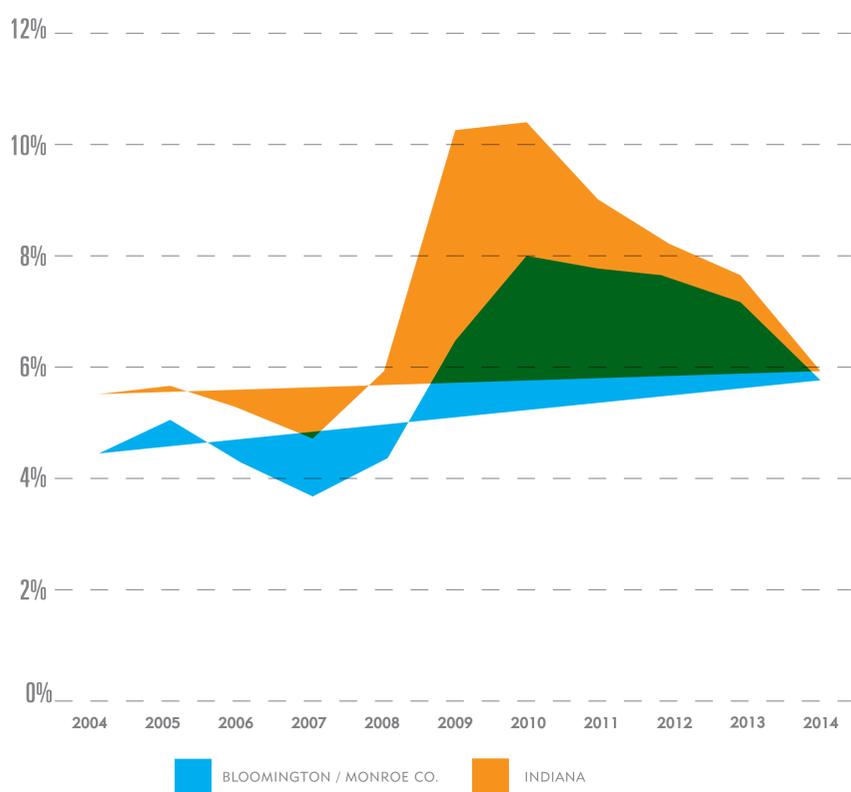


**4,607**  
Single Family Homes

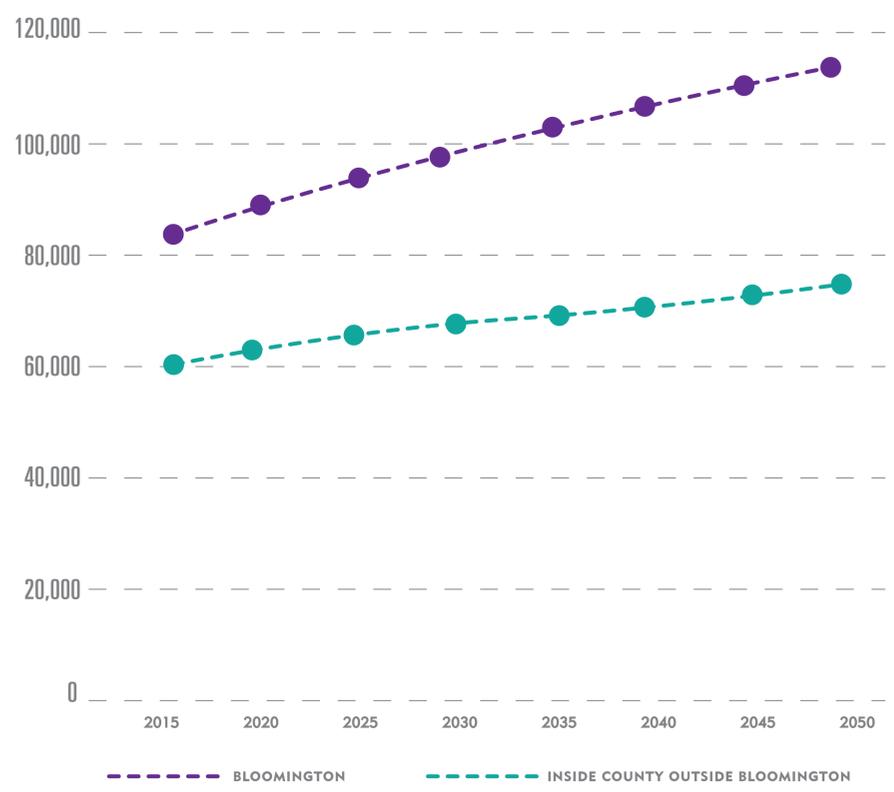


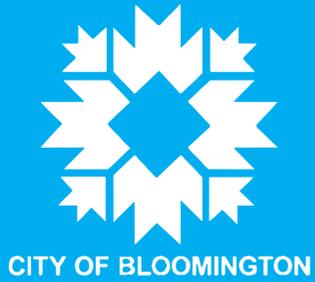
**8,944**  
Multi-Unit Housing

## Unemployment Rate



## Projected Population





# Chapter 1 Community Services

## Goal 1.1

• Prioritize implementation of programs and strategies that sustain the health, well-being, recreation and safety of residents and visitors.

- **Policy 1.1.1:** Promote City stewardship of its parks, facilities, programs and services for present and future generations
- **Policy 1.1.2:** Recognize and respond to the City's changing population demographics in order to meet the needs of Bloomington's diverse community

## Goal 1.2

• Engage the community, work with regional partners, reach out to schools, collaborate with non-profits and create business partnerships in order to provide community services and programs for all age groups.

- **Policy 1.2.1:** Encourage the creation of partnerships within Monroe County and adjacent communities to seek effective solutions for shared problems and community service needs.
- **Policy 1.2.2:** Continue to foster partnerships between the City and Indiana University with the goal of enhancing the quality of life for a united Bloomington by increasing opportunities for shared use and the development of programs, facilities, and community services.
- **Policy 1.2.3:** Collaborate with the Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) and private schools to better integrate the use of school services, playing fields and facilities for public benefit, particularly for young people, families, and seniors.
- **Policy 1.2.4:** Sustain the high education values and standards of local schools as they continue to contribute to the social and economic vitality of the City.

## Goal 1.3

• Recognize the intrinsic value and everyday importance of our parks and community centers/spaces, libraries and civic buildings by investing in their maintenance and improvement.

- **Policy 1.3.1:** Increase access to parks and recreation facilities.
- **Policy 1.3.2:** Avoid deferred maintenance of City infrastructure and reinvest in the maintenance of aging facilities where such investment improves their usefulness, efficiency and appearance.
- **Policy 1.3.3:** Facilitate universal access by a variety of transportation modes for our residents and visitors to parks, recreation programs, athletic fields, libraries, arts and cultural centers.

## Goal 1.4

• Plan for a future in which the services we provide to our community continue to thrive and adapt to the growth and change of Bloomington.

- **Policy 1.4.1:** Ensure that our growth does not eclipse our ability to provide equitable community services.
- **Policy 1.4.2:** Encourage and partner locally to ensure quality wired and wireless connectivity availability throughout the City of Bloomington.
- **Policy 1.4.3:** Parks and open space should be included and prioritized in the planning process to preserve the natural environment and reduce the amount of carbon emissions.
- **Policy 1.4.4:** Seek opportunities to develop new parks and recreation facilities to meet the emerging needs of the multi-generational residents and visitors to the City of Bloomington.

## Goal 1.5

• Commit to transparency, open government and high quality public engagement so that exemplary services are provided to our residents, businesses and visitors.

- **Policy 1.5.1:** Foster inclusive and representative engagement within all development processes.
- **Policy 1.5.2:** Maintain highly motivated, professional, engaged staff and volunteers who are valued for their integrity, commitment and contributions towards the City and community.





# Chapter 2 Culture & Identity

## Goal 2.1

- Support cultural spaces in all regions of Bloomington, especially urban centers and neighborhood villages, where they are accessible to a broad range of people and can help activate the public realm.
  - **Policy 2.1.1:** Utilize zoning amendments and incentives to place an emphasis on public space design within the private development realm including but not limited to the pedestrian and active transportation environments surrounding the sites, any opportunities for public art or engagement within the development, and how the development aesthetically blends in with its surroundings.
  - **Policy 2.1.2:** Ensure culturally significant places and spaces are preserved and celebrated
  - **Policy 2.1.3:** Encourage the designation of existing clusters of cultural spaces as cultural districts.
  - **Policy 2.1.4:** Encourage partnerships with the public, private and nonprofit sectors to engage in creative placemaking projects.
  - **Policy 2.1.5:** Encourage the use of public art to create a neighborhood identity.
  - **Policy 2.1.6:** Support the temporary re-use of vacant and/or underutilized building facades for art exhibitions and murals.
  - **Policy 2.1.7:** Create infrastructure and signage for better transportation connections to and among cultural venues.



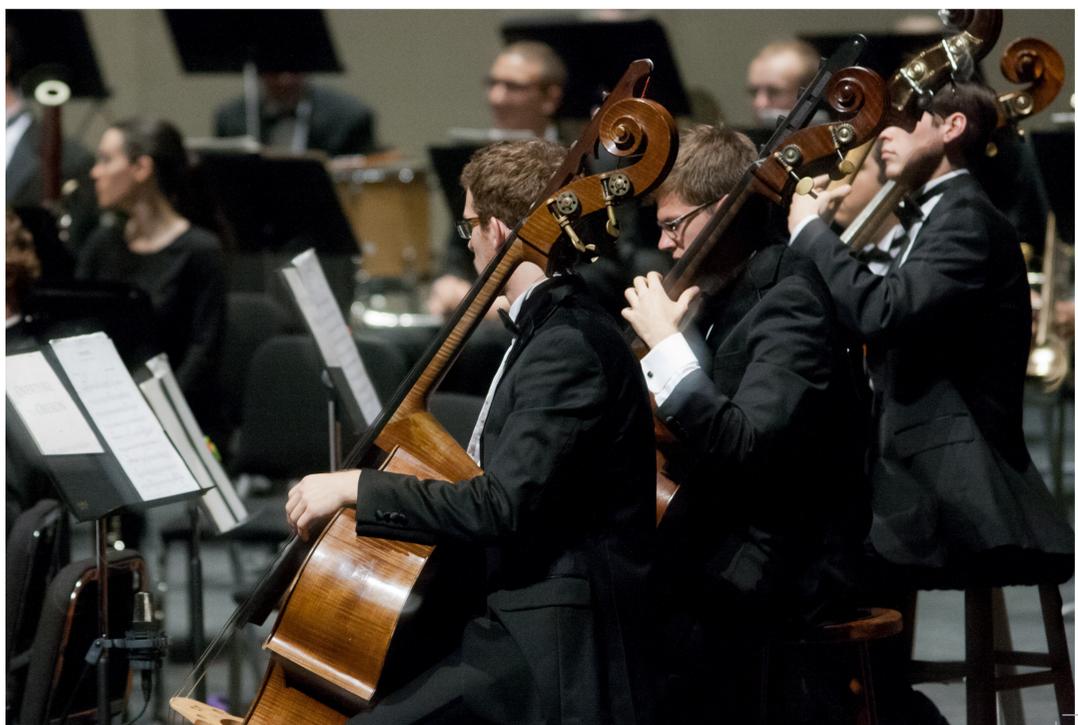
## Goal 2.2

- Preserve assets of historic, architectural, archeological or social significance.
  - **Policy 2.2.1:** Continue to work with the department of Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) and the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to aid in the advocacy and monitoring of historic structures and places.
  - **Policy 2.2.2:** Continue to explore opportunities to enhance and expand the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center to create additional venue and activity space.



## Goal 2.3

- Ensure public spaces are of high-quality, engaging and active.
  - **Policy 2.3.1:** Incorporate a visual arts component into the planning, construction, or renovation of all city facilities as deemed feasible.
  - **Policy 2.3.2:** Consider the use of natural art and beauty through the preservation of trees, waterways, and other environmental features.





# Chapter 3 Environmental

## Goal 3.1

- Preserve open space, natural and urban habitats, and protect ecosystems and natural resources that are the foundations of the environment.
  - **Policy 3.1.1:** Support regional efforts to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain an open space system including land linkages and trail connections.
  - **Policy 3.1.2:** Carefully manage access and use in environmentally sensitive areas to ensure that the habitat and sensitive wildlife is protected.
  - **Policy 3.1.3:** Protect sensitive plant and animal resources from the impacts of development
  - **Policy 3.1.4:** Pursue opportunities to enhance and expand habitat for endangered and rare species.
  - **Policy 3.1.5:** Support native plant restoration and conservation efforts in and around parks and open spaces to encourage healthy, diverse ecosystems
  - **Policy 3.1.6:** Provide ongoing education for City staff, homeowners, contractors, and developers regarding landscaping, tree maintenance practices and irrigation practices that protect the urban forest.

## Goal 3.2

- Conserve water resources and protect water quality to support our natural environment, public health and safety, plant and animal life, and the vitality of our diverse urban activities.
  - **Policy 3.2.1:** Reduce pollution in urban runoff from residential, commercial, industrial, municipal, and transportation land uses.
  - **Policy 3.2.2:** Continue to limit the amount of impervious surface in new development or public improvement projects to reduce urban runoff into storm drains, creeks, and other watersheds.
  - **Policy 3.2.3:** Improve storm drainage performance by constructing new system improvements where necessary and replacing undersized or otherwise inadequate lines with larger lines or parallel lines.
  - **Policy 3.2.4:** Promote the inclusion of Low Impact Development (LID) measures such as rainwater harvesting and storm runoff infiltration in private developments and public improvement projects, when feasible, as required by the City's storm water discharge permit
  - **Policy 3.2.5:** Explore the development of a City Sustainability Plan through Economic and Sustainability Department to address concerns on waste management, air quality, energy consumption, etc.

## Goal 3.3

- Protect life, ecosystems and property from natural and man-made hazards.
  - **Policy 3.3.1:** Expand citizen awareness of karst and geologic hazards through public education and preparedness.
  - **Policy 3.3.2:** Minimize exposure to geologic hazards including slope instability, subsidence, and expansive soils.





# Chapter 4 Downtown Bloomington

## Goal 4.1

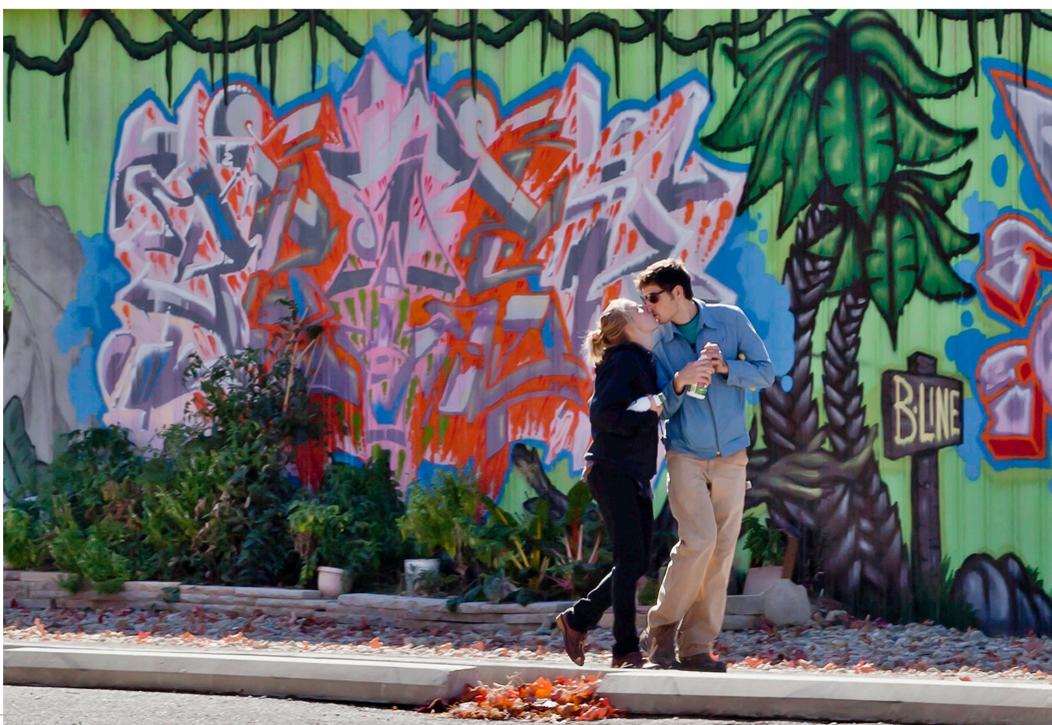
- Ensure the redevelopment of downtown does not usurp its historic character and small-town feel.
  - **Policy 4.1.1:** Balance public investments in infrastructure and technology to support a robust economy and to enhance Downtown Bloomington's status as a regional economic and tourist center.
  - **Policy 4.1.2:** Promote the preservation of significant historic buildings to reinforce the scale and character of the Courthouse Square, Kirkwood Avenue, and 'Restaurant Row'.
  - **Policy 4.1.3:** Recognize the significance of innovative, high-quality architecture in supporting community character and urban design.

## Goal 4.2

- Encourage attractive, convenient public and private motor vehicle and bicycle parking facilities.
  - **Policy 4.2.1:** Provide sufficient parking in the immediate downtown area to support vibrant economic activity.
  - **Policy 4.2.2:** Encourage and develop incentive-based approaches to beautify existing parking structures.
  - **Policy 4.2.3:** Update the UDO to require the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in new developments.
  - **Policy 4.2.4:** Design vehicle parking areas to reduce stormwater runoff, increase compatibility with street trees, and add visual interest to streets and other public locations. Encourage covered parking in parking lots or structures through the use of tree canopies or photovoltaic panel canopies.

## Goal 4.3

- Integrate housing, employment, shopping and entertainment in a compact way that promotes walking, biking, transit, and commerce.
  - **Policy 4.3.1:** Create opportunities for an enhanced retail and restaurant presence within the downtown that caters to multiple demographic levels.
  - **Policy 4.3.2:** Collaborate with Indiana University and Downtown Bloomington, Inc. to integrate planning efforts.





# Chapter 5 Housing & Neighborhoods

## Goal 5.1

- Guide growth, change, and preservation of residential and business areas through planning policies that sustain their unique character.
  - **Policy 5.1.1:** Preserve the character of neighborhoods by encouraging new or remodeled structures to be compatible with the neighborhood and adjacent structures.
  - **Policy 5.1.2:** Continue to reinforce an open network of streets, sidewalks, and paths connecting each neighborhood to adjacent uses and the city as a whole.
  - **Policy 5.1.3:** Design and arrange new multifamily buildings, including entries and outdoor spaces, so that each unit has a clear relationship to the public street.
  - **Policy 5.1.4:** Encourage alternative types of housing to provide more diverse housing opportunities including expanded development of below market units.
  - **Policy 5.1.5:** Enhance the appearance, safety, and walkability of sidewalks and streets in all neighborhoods through proactive repair and cleaning programs and policies. Employ a variety of landscaping to improve both appearance and safety.

## Goal 5.2

- Help all people have fair and equal access to housing in Bloomington.
  - **Policy 5.2.1:** Promote a diverse and inclusive city through housing programs that serve lower-income households.
  - **Policy 5.2.2:** Expand programs that preserve or produce affordable housing, preferably long term, for lower-income households, and continue to prioritize efforts that address the needs of Bloomington's extremely low-income households.
  - **Policy 5.2.3:** Promote housing affordable to lower-income households in locations that help increase access to education, employment, and social opportunities while supporting a more inclusive city and reducing displacement from Bloomington neighborhoods or from the city as a whole.
  - **Policy 5.2.4:** Identify publicly owned sites suitable for housing and prioritize use of sites, where appropriate, for rent/income restricted housing for lower-income households.

## Goal 5.3

- Help meet the current and projected regional housing needs of all economic and demographic groups by increasing Bloomington's housing supply.
  - **Policy 5.3.1:** Encourage opportunities for infill development in or immediately adjacent to the city to bridge the gap for lack of moderate income or 'workforce' affordability.
  - **Policy 5.3.2:** Allow and promote innovative and nontraditional housing design and construction types to accommodate residential growth.
  - **Policy 5.3.3:** Allow and encourage housing for older adults and people with disabilities, including designs that allow for independent living, various degrees of assisted living, and/or skilled nursing care, in or near urban centers and urban villages where there is access to health care and other services and amenities.
  - **Policy 5.3.4:** Consider the cumulative impact of regulation on the ability of housing developers to meet current and future housing demand.

## Goal 5.4

- Stabilize neighborhoods by promoting a variety of homeownership and rental housing options, security of housing tenure, and opportunities for community interaction.
  - **Policy 5.4.1:** Promote and maintain homeownership options within neighborhoods.
  - **Policy 5.4.2:** Promote housing opportunities and design that build a sense of community, civic involvement, and neighborhood pride.
  - **Policy 5.4.3:** Promote good relationships between housing developers and their neighbors.
  - **Policy 5.4.4:** Enable people who are elderly to remain in their own neighborhoods as their needs change by supporting shared housing, accessory dwellings, smaller homes, adult foster homes, and other assisted residential living arrangements.





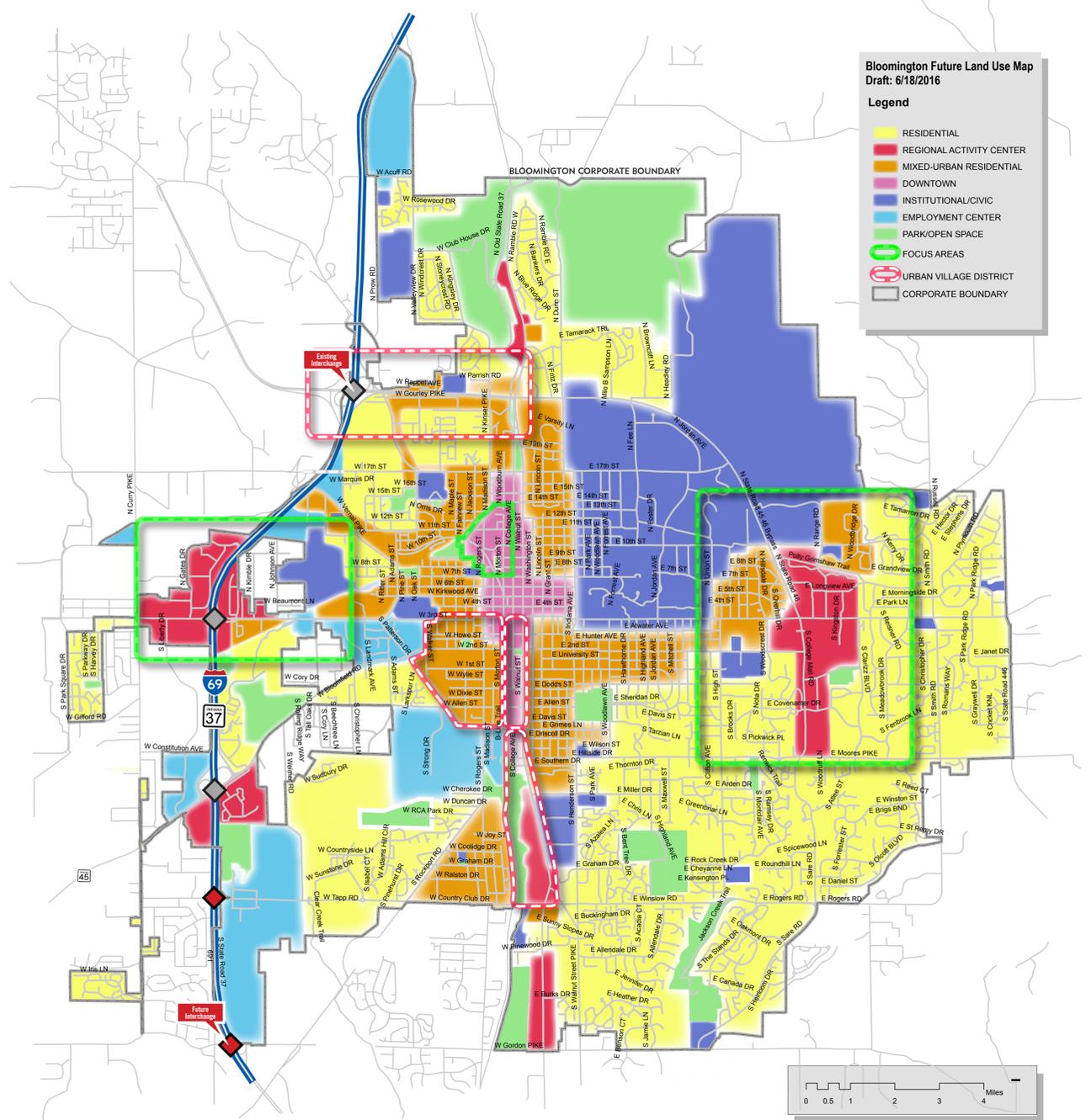
# Chapter 6 Land Use

## Goal 6.1

- Urban space is a limited resource; therefore, development needs to be compact and the best use made of land to balance natural resources and community needs.
- **Policy 6.1.1:** Require new development to demonstrate that adequate public services and facilities are planned and will be constructed to accommodate development within the corporate limits.
- **Policy 6.1.2:** Manage redevelopment of vacant and underused properties to promote infill development.

## Goal 6.2

- Plan for streets and public spaces to enrich Bloomington's sense of place and community.
- **Policy 6.2.1:** Invest in the improvement of the City's urban streetscape to support business prosperity, pedestrian usage and the aesthetic quality of its civic spaces.
- **Policy 6.2.2:** Continue to develop Area Plans to emphasize pedestrian-oriented development that creates a strong connectivity between new development and existing neighborhoods.
- **Policy 6.2.3:** Enhance the character and scale of streets, new public plazas, or gardens to create connectivity between new development and its surroundings. Do not allow new developments to interrupt the City's network of streets, sidewalks, bike routes, and paths.
- **Policy 6.2.4:** Promote design and site planning of on-site open space in new development that incorporates green building principles and invites inhabitants of surrounding development to use it.
- **Policy 6.2.5:** Encourage developments to use an efficient parking design and allow the implementation of creative parking solutions including shared parking with adjacent uses to minimize the amount of land devoted to parking, provided that the City's traffic safety, parking, and economic goals are met.
- **Policy 6.2.7:** Strengthen the identity of important natural and urban landmarks, such as public art, that serve as gateways to the city and elsewhere in Bloomington. Ensure that such landmarks and art installations are compatible with the character and identity of the surrounding neighborhoods.
- **Policy 6.2.8:** Design public infrastructure, including paving, signs, and utility structures, to meet high quality urban design standards.
- **Policy 6.2.9:** Preserve and enhance public gathering spaces within walking distance of residential neighborhoods. Ensure that each residential neighborhood has such spaces.
- **Policy 6.2.10:** Encourage small-scale local-serving retail services, such as small cafes, delicatessens, and coffee carts in residential areas and centers of neighborhood activity.
- **Policy 6.2.11:** Encourage new residential, commercial, and mixed-use development around Urban Village



Redevelopment Districts that include bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, neighborhood serving retail, and city services to allow residents and employees to meet daily needs without the use of the private automobile. Encourage such development to maximize allowed densities.

## Goal 6.3

- Encourage development in Bloomington to provide public benefits and employment to neighboring cities and counties, while improving land uses, streets, infrastructure and the character of the city.
- **Policy 6.3.1:** Evaluate changes in land use in the context of regional needs, overall city welfare and objectives, as well as the desires of adjacent neighborhoods.
- **Policy 6.3.2:** Participate in regional strategies to address the interaction of jobs, housing balance, and transportation issues.
- **Policy 6.3.3:** Encourage quality employment opportunities for citizens.



# Chapter 7 Transportation

## Goal 7.1

- Create a sustainable transportation system that emphasizes walking, bicycling, the use of public transportation, and other methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of single-occupancy vehicles.
  - **Policy 7.1.1:** Continue to support the adoption and use of technologies that reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutants from passenger and transit vehicles.
  - **Policy 7.1.2:** Make land use decisions that promote infill, redevelopment, and reuse of vacant or underutilized parcels employing minimum density requirements that support walking, bicycling and public transit use.
  - **Policy 7.1.3:** Locate higher density development near transit corridors, employment and retail centers, and near multimodal facilities.
  - **Policy 7.1.4:** Strive to balance economic, environmental, accessibility, and social cost issues in local transportation decisions.
  - **Policy 7.1.5:** Support public transit access to regional destinations, multimodal transit stations and employment centers including those within Bloomington.
  - **Policy 7.1.6:** Continue to encourage the provision of amenities such as seating, lighting, and signage including real-time arrival information, at bus stops to increase rider comfort, safety, and convenience.
  - **Policy 7.1.7:** Prioritize pedestrian access and bicycle use within Bloomington and to surrounding communities.
  - **Policy 7.1.8:** Improve and add attractive, secure bicycle parking at both public and private facilities, including transit stations, City parks, City streets and other public rights of way, in private developments, and at other community destinations.
  - **Policy 7.1.9:** Encourage and require where legally feasible new private developments to dedicate easements and provide improvements for bicycle and pedestrian paths to complete the connectivity in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation & Greenways System Plan.
  - **Policy 7.1.10:** Support the development of bicycle parking and service infrastructure such as bicycle stations and bicycle sharing programs consistent with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation & Greenways System Plan.

## Goal 7.2

- Maintain an efficient roadway network for all users.
  - **Policy 7.2.1:** Maintain a hierarchy of streets in Bloomington that meets the roadway typologies of Freeway/Expressway, Arterial (Primary & Accessory), Collector (Primary & Secondary), and Local.
  - **Policy 7.2.2:** When constructing or modifying roadways, consider, plan, design and construct the roadway space for the use of all users, including motor vehicles, transit vehicles, freight, emergency responders, bicyclists, and pedestrians and formally adopt a city-wide Complete Streets Policy.
  - **Policy 7.2.3:** Avoid major increases in street capacity unless necessary to remedy severe traffic congestion or critical neighborhood traffic problems. Where capacity is increased, balance the needs of motor vehicles with those of pedestrians and bicyclists.

## Goal 7.3

- Protect neighborhood streets that support residential character and provide a range of local transportation options.
  - **Policy 7.3.1:** Implement traffic calming measures to manage traffic on residential streets and prioritize traffic calming measures over congestion management.
  - **Policy 7.3.2:** Balance vehicular circulation needs with the goal of creating walkable and bike friendly neighborhoods.
  - **Policy 7.3.3:** Continue to improve connectivity between existing neighborhoods, existing and proposed trails, and destinations such as commercial areas and schools with improved pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks, multi-use facilities, and connector paths.

## Goal 7.4

- Provide a high level of safety for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists on Bloomington streets consistent with Vision Zero strategies.
  - **Policy 7.4.1:** Continue to make safety and accessibility the top priority of citywide transportation planning.

