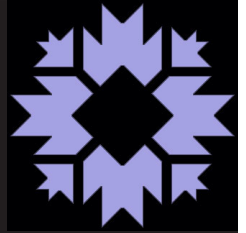




The P&T Post

The Newsletter of the City of Bloomington
Planning and Transportation Department



Updated Sign Regulations in Bloomington

The City of Bloomington, as a result of a recent Supreme Court ruling, significantly updated its sign regulations. These new sign regulations went into effect on June 7, 2016. The City will not regulate the content of any sign which is displayed; the only regulations apply to location, size, and materials. The Planning and Transportation Department reviews the plans for compliance with the Unified Development Ordinance.

A sign may exist in the City's right-of-way only if the sign is a "public sign," meaning it was erected by or on the order of a public officer for public duties; or a sandwich board sign in the Commercial Downtown and Commercial Limited zoning districts. Sign regulations vary by zoning district. Prior to placing a sign on your property, be sure to consult the sign regulations online or call the Planning and Transportation Department.

City of Bloomington Planning and Transportation Department

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The former Showers Dimension Mill, a historic building on Morton Street north of City Hall, is envisioned to be a City owned co-working space. This will allow entrepreneurs and small startups to work in proximity to one another to advance ideas and create networks that could benefit the larger Bloomington business community.

Trades District Developing

The Trades District (formerly Showers Technology Park) is the 12 acre portion of the larger Certified Technology Park. This District has been envisioned to be a pedestrian focused, live and work development that provides opportunities for developing both social and economic connections amongst businesses.

The first major residential development of the District was approved by the Plan Commission in early October. Pedcor is a 4-story multi-family building containing 36 total affordable units located on the west side of N. Rogers Street between W. 11th Street and the B-Line Trail. The proposed design of the development contains many innovative green development features including extensive solar photovoltaic cells, a car share program, greywater reclamation, rainwater capture and reuse, rain gardens and bio-swales.

This November it was announced that Tsuchiya Group will establish their North American design and development center and corporate headquarters in the Trades District. Tsuchiya Group is the North American corporate entity for TASUS Corporation, a supplier to the original equipment manufacturer automotive market. The new building will house corporate staff to oversee the marketing, sales, operations, and technical, advanced manufacturing design and development for all North American facilities which employ more than 200 locally and nearly 600 in North America.

The City has contracted with Anderson + Bohlander, LLC to determine the scope of infrastructure investment and road design within the entirety of the Trades District to help guide cohesive development. The analysis is not yet complete. The Trades district has come a long way in the last year and still has significant growth, however the City is taking great effort in planning a vital and cohesive area.

New Faces in the Department

The Planning and Transportation Department would like to welcome four new staff members: Christy Langley, Sara Gomez, Amelia Lewis and Pat Martin.

Christy was appointed the Director of Planning and Transportation in March. She was born and raised in Madison, Indiana. Christy completed her undergraduate degree in Urban Planning & Development at Ball State University and then her Masters of Public Administration from IU SPEA in Bloomington. Prior to working at the City of Bloomington, Christy worked 10 years for the City of Noblesville serving as the Assistant Director of Economic Development for 5 years, 4 years as the Director of Planning & Development and 1 year as the Deputy Mayor. She also teaches adjunct at IU SPEA and has taught part time at Ball State. Christy and her family moved to Bloomington to be closer to family. Her husband was born and raised in Bloomington and still has a lot of family in the area. Her interests and hobbies include teaching, spending time with her 6 year old son and doing stained glass projects.



Sara Gomez is the new Engineering Technician. She grew up 30 minutes outside Bloomington and spent so much time in Bloomington while growing up that she'll always say she is from Bloomington. Before joining the City in July of this year, Sara worked as a drafter for an industrial aggregate equipment builder for a year. This came after a six year hiatus from the workforce ('09-'15) where she tended to her 18 month and 5 year old boys. During that time Sara finished her Bachelor of Liberal Studies Degree at IU Bloomington, graduating in December of 2014. Her most recent favorite thing about Bloomington is being downtown everyday working for the City! In her time away from work she also enjoys spending time with her family doing many activities such as camping, hiking, riding bikes and taking taekwondo classes. Her other interests include running, face/body painting, reading and watching and or listening to true crime tv or podcasts.

Amelia Lewis is the Department's new Zoning and Long Range Planner. Amelia graduated in May with her Master's in Regional and Community Planning from Kansas State University where she also received her undergraduate degree in Communication Studies. She became interested in planning as it encompasses both qualitative and quantitative data into understanding the economic, political and social foundation of a city. Born and raised in Manhattan, Kansas, Amelia was excited to relocate to Bloomington for its community events, arts, and outdoor activities. In her spare time she enjoys reading, listening to podcasts, going to new restaurants, hiking and exploring her new city.



Pat Martin joins the City as the Senior Transportation Planner. Pat has 40 years of professional experience as an economist, environmental, multi-modal transportation planner working with the Indiana Transportation Planning Office, the Terre Haute MPO, the Bloomington MPO and the City of Terre Haute, most recently serving as the Chief Planner within the Engineering Department. He has also worked for the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology as an adjunct faculty member. Pat holds a B.S. and M.S. in Economics from Indiana State University. Pat returns to Bloomington as he describes it as being "a progressive municipality within the State of Indiana where a world-class multi-cultural university meets a dynamically active, caring and giving community." Pat is active on the boards of 8 organizations, enjoys ultra-trail running, visual and performing arts as well as indulging in quality dark chocolates, Chocolate Moose icecream and world music.

Beth Rosenbarger, former Zoning and Long Range Planner, is now the Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator in the Department. Congrats, Beth!

Construction Buzz

1 Urban Station

Construction has begun along Smith Ave. between S. Walnut and S. Washington for a four story mixed use building and a four-story multi-family building. The development will provide 54 new affordable and market rate units as well as the new home of the Chocolate Moose.



2 The Foundry

Located along the B-line Trail at Kirkwood and Morton, the Foundry will feature 28 luxury units with ground floor office space.

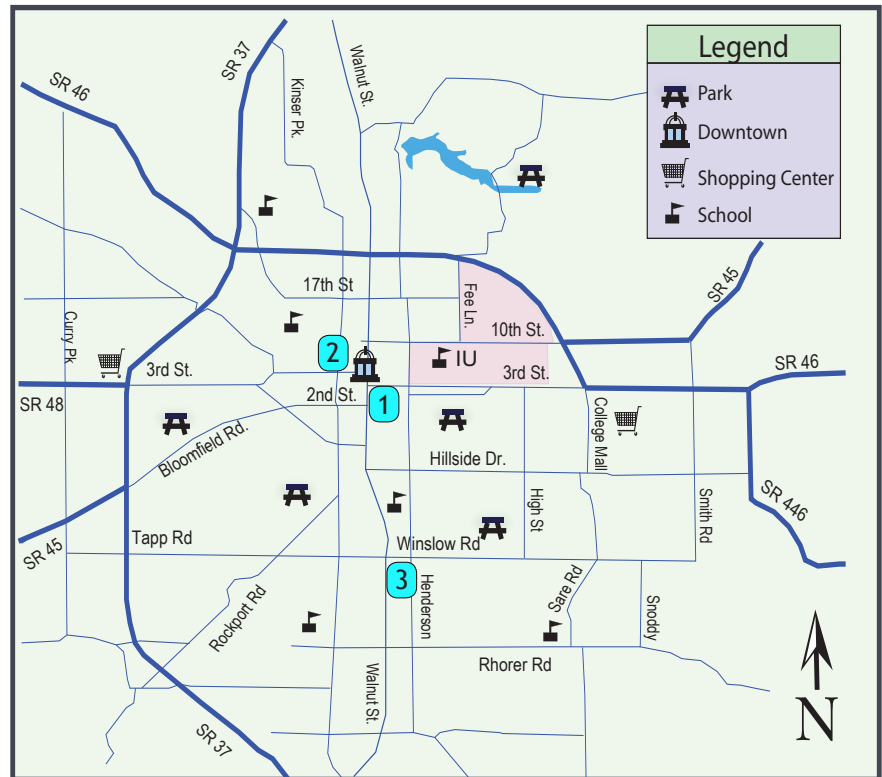


3 Echo Park

This three building development is located at the southwest portion of E Winslow and S Henderson. The first of the three buildings is complete and occupied. The completed development will have 148 apartments and 220 beds.



Construction & Transportation Buzz Location Map



Environmental Action Plan Coming Soon

The Environmental Commission (EC) will soon be releasing its Bloomington Environmental Action Plan (BEAP), a plan to reduce Bloomington's environmental impact in the face of climate change. The plan is a response to the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, to which Bloomington is a signatory, and is built off of previous EC environmental reports. The most recent agreement's goal is to achieve a 17 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from a 2014 baseline by 2020.

This Environmental Action Plan proposes policies and initiatives to achieve that reduction while also enhancing the quality of Bloomington's natural environment. The plan describes greenhouse gas emissions trends and identifies policies to reduce emissions by addressing energy, transportation, air quality, urban ecology, water, food, agriculture, and waste. The Environmental Action Plan was developed by members of the Environmental Commission, SPEA Service Corps Fellow, Alicia Reinersman, and P&T's Senior Environmental Planner, Linda Thompson.

Recent Roadway Improvements



Woodlawn Railroad Crossing

\$2.5 million

The City of Bloomington and Indiana University partnered to construct a new railroad crossing on North Woodlawn Avenue, between East 12th Street and East 13th Street. The project completed in September includes: 350 ft of new road way that connect the core of the IU campus to the

sports complex, a new at-grade railroad crossing on the Indiana Railroad tracks and new bicycle lanes and wide pedestrian sidewalks.

Recent Roadway Improvements Continued



Old 37/Dunn

\$1.9 million

The City of Bloomington and Monroe County has reconstructed the intersection of North Dunn Street and Old State Road 37. This project was partially funded with Federal funds through the Highway Safety Improvement Program. The project includes the reconstruction of the existing intersection with a leveling out of Dunn Street and improved sight distance, and the reconstruction of the curve to the north, including the addition of shoulders and new guard rails, and a continuation of the multi-use path along the southwest portion of the project, including a new pedestrian bridge.



W Bloomfield Multiuse Path & Rolling Ridge Traffic Signal

\$1.3 million

The City of Bloomington has recently finished installing a traffic signal at the intersection of West Bloomfield Road and Rolling Ridge Way, as well as constructing a sidepath on the north side of Bloomfield Road from Landmark Avenue to Basswood Drive. The West Bloomfield Road Sidepath and Signal Improvements Project will improve access to the Twin Lakes Recreation Center, Twin Lakes Ballfields, and residential areas to the south of Bloomfield Road. The project will also improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in this area.

Comprehensive Plan Moving Forward

The update to the City's Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) will help guide the growth and development of the city for the next twenty years. The document will provide a framework for how the community makes future policy and planning decisions. It will also develop guidelines that will affect how the community looks and feels to both residents and visitors. As a result, the public's input into the update process is crucial.

Over the last several months, City staff hosted a number of opportunities for the public to review the CMP working draft and provide their comments and suggestions. This included making presentations or informational updates to nearly 15 City boards and commissions at their scheduled monthly meetings, as well as to Indiana University, Monroe County, the Monroe County Apartment Association, Downtown Bloomington, Inc., the Greater Bloomington

Chamber of Commerce, the Council of Neighborhood Associations and a host of other civic groups. Two town hall style meetings were also held during August and September at the Monroe County Public Library. These events provided an informal opportunity for citizens to learn more about the CMP, as well as share their thoughts, concerns and ideas directly with City staff.

City staff is reviewing and revising the working draft of the CMP in order to integrate the public feedback that was received at these various meetings. Moving forward, the Plan Commission must review and approve the CMP document. The final step is then for the City Council to review and formally approve the CMP. Revisions to the document can be made by both the Plan Commission and City Council. Public comment opportunities will be available during these meetings and people are encouraged to stay involved in the

process. It is anticipated that the CMP will go to the City Council for their consideration by mid-2017.

To learn more about the CMP, please visit bloomington.in.gov/cmp. There you can read the draft CMP, see a complete listing of every public comment that has been received and participate in UserVoice, an on-line discussion forum focusing on CMP topics.



Community members attend public workshops to provide input on the CMP.