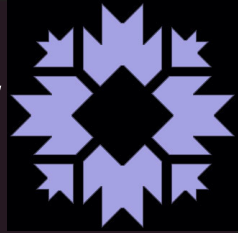




The Planning Post

The Newsletter of the City of Bloomington
Planning and Transportation Department



City of Bloomington Planning and Transportation Department

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Five Historic Homes on the Move

Bloomington has grown accustomed to the shuffle of students throughout the year. Some students moving in during January and August, others moving out in May and December. What we are not accustomed to seeing is a *house* on the move. In the University Courts Historic District—roughly the neighborhood north of 7th Street to 10th Street and Indiana Avenue to Woodlawn Avenue—five historic homes are on the move to new locations within the same neighborhood. This housing migration began at the end of January with one house moving per week. This housing shuffle was coordinated between Indiana University and the City of Bloomington.



Concept image of a curbless street in Eugene, Oregon. A similar concept will be evaluated for the realignment of 10th Street from Morton to Rogers. Source: LID Manual, bwdh20.org

Certified Technology Park: Core properties

Progress continues on the redevelopment strategy for the City's downtown, 65-acre, state-Certified Technology Park (CTP). The CTP master plan, adopted in August 2013, includes a vision for the 65-acre redevelopment area and a list of steps for the City to pursue in order to help revitalize and spur private investment. The CTP vision aims to create technology sector job growth and leverage the area's historic character while incorporating green infrastructure and sustainable building design. While the plan addresses the entire 65-acre area, many of the recommendations are focused towards the redevelopment of the 12-acre core properties, currently owned by the City.

The City has been preparing the 12-acre core of the CTP to make it "shovel ready." An early step involved demolishing the IU Food Storage and the IU Printing Services buildings to better position the core properties for redevelopment. By using green demolition best practices, approximately 60 percent of the waste was recycled and diverted from a landfill.

Last April, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering services for the 12-acre core of the CTP. At its February 17 meeting, the Redevelopment Commission awarded this service contract to Anderson Bohlander. The engineering services would include plans for a realignment of 10th Street to match the street with the existing grid east of Morton Street, reconstruction of a north-south alley, temporary parking area, and installation of utility infrastructure. Additionally, the goal of the street redesign is to improve pedestrian facilities and create a space *continued on page 3 >>*

Gold Standard: Path to Platinum

This past November, the League of American Bicyclists recognized the City of Bloomington as a Gold-Level Bicycle Friendly Community, an upgrade from its 2010 silver-rating.

The city's gold-rating is the result of an on-going concerted effort on the part of City staff, elected officials, and community leaders to improve conditions for bicycling. The creation

and unanimous adoption of the report, *Breaking Away: Journey to Platinum* was a pivotal step for translating ideas into action. The platinum report has served to better communicate the needs, priorities, and reasons for numerous initiatives to elected officials, boards, commissions, city staff, and the public.

Thanks to the report, city budgets, *State of the City* addresses, neighborhood meetings, board and commission agenda items, non-profit organizations, businesses, and the general public all have adopted a more bicycle-friendly mindset in their discussions, actions, and daily business.

Since 2010, the City has carefully implemented a wide range of on-street and off-street bicycling infrastructure, bringing the total mileage of the bike network to 58 miles, an increase of 73 percent. One goal of the expanded network is to improve connectivity between destinations such as schools, shops, parks, and homes, including low to moderate income areas such as the Broadview Neighborhood.

New facilities have been added around the city including neighborhood greenways, buffered bike lanes, bike boxes, and traffic diverters. Retrofitting streets present opportunities to construct new or enhance existing facilities. By taking an iterative and innovative approach toward engineering, the City has been able to vastly improve the bikeways network. Thanks to these improvements, the network serves a larger portion of Bloomington residents, and serves to keep us on the path to platinum.



A bicycling class on the B-Line.



A bicyclist on the B-Line bridge at Grimes Street at dusk. |

New Faces

The Planning and Transportation Department would like to welcome two new staff members: Emily Avers and Beth Rosenbarger.



Emily Avers is the Department's new Planning Assistant. A native Bloomingtonian, Emily graduated from IU with degrees in English and History, both with an emphasis on the post-colonial period. She joins the department from the IU Credit Union, where she worked as a Mortgage Loan Processor. Emily enjoys reading, hiking, cooking, and visiting kid-friendly sites in Bloomington with her family.



Beth Rosenbarger is the new Zoning and Long Range Planner. Beth is from Southern Indiana and received her bachelor's degree from IU in Journalism, International Studies, and Spanish. Beth worked at the downtown Bakehouse longer than she'd like to admit before moving to Austin to pursue a master's degree at the University of Texas. She joins us from the Monroe County Planning Department. Beth enjoys traveling, biking, and cooking.

Construction Buzz

1 The Gateway

Construction at 17th and College is moving forward. The Gateway will be a mixed residential and retail building. Project completion is anticipated for August 2015.



Rendering of approved plans for The Gateway.

2 17th Street & Arlington Road Roundabout

The new roundabout at 17th and Arlington is nearly complete. It is open to autos, bikes, and pedestrians. Some grading around the site is still being completed. The construction costs for the project total is approximately \$3.6 million.

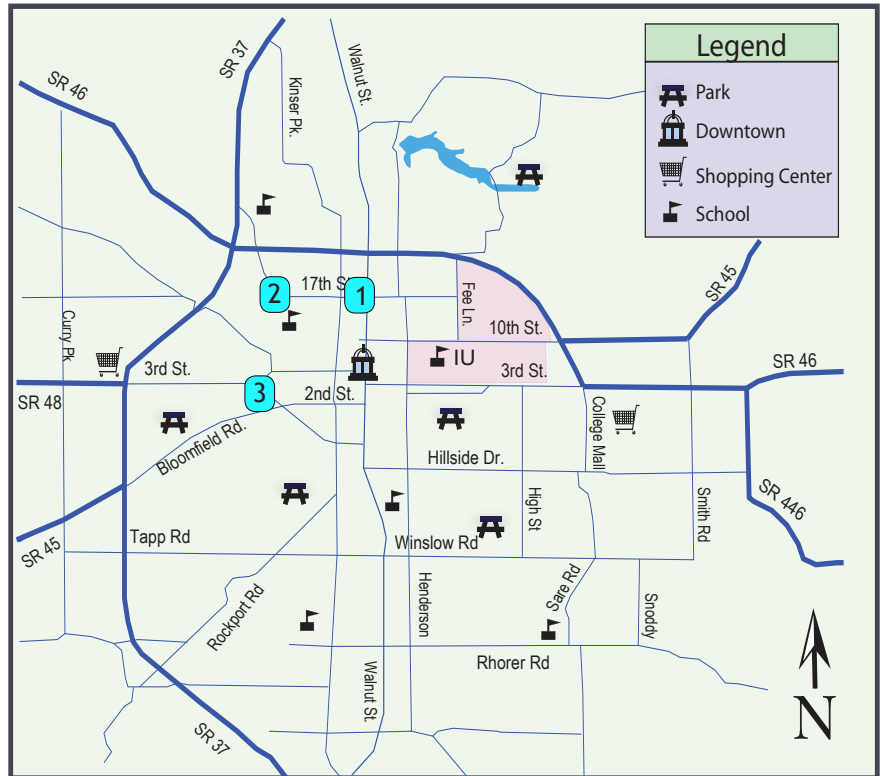


3 Patterson Park

Phase two of three has been completed at the Patterson Park multifamily development.



Construction Buzz Location Map



CTP Continued...

that works well for festivals, as well as everyday use. Thanks to the City's preparations, most of the site is now either ready for redevelopment or occupied by historic buildings primed for adaptive reuse.

In November 2014, the City issued another RFP seeking qualified development proposals to acquire and redevelop core properties within the CTP. The RFP detailed the CTP's goals and how submitted proposals would be evaluated. Five proposals were submitted from local and regional real estate development teams. Proposals ranged from small lots within the core properties to all 12 acres of the core properties. The use types also varied from each of the proposals. Some proposed single uses while others proposed a mix of uses. All proposals have office, residential, or professional services incorporated into their redevelopment project. Real estate development teams were interviewed by City staff this January. Now, City staff is tasked with evaluating the proposals and hopes to enter into negotiations with one or more of the development teams who submitted proposals.

Ultimately, the goal is for the core properties to be owned and developed by private investors. Overall the CTP aims to recapture up to \$5 million of certain state and local tax revenues and reinvest them back into the area. The Redevelopment Commission, Plan Commission, and City Council all have some authority to approve and oversee the redevelopment milestones of the CTP. To learn more, visit: <http://bloomington.in.gov/ctp>.

Beyond Playgrounds: Making Bloomington More Playable

Twelve communities convened for the *KaBOOM! Playful City Leader Summit* to discuss strategies for creating playful communities. Seven times, Bloomington has been named a *Playful City* by KaBOOM!, the national non-profit dedicated to ensuring that all children, particularly the 16 million American children living in poverty, get the active play they need to become healthy and successful adults.



This bus stop in Baltimore is made of 14-foot tall letters. This feature encourages play while waiting. <http://www.shareable.net/blog/how-to-trick-out-your-bus-stop>

Many children face barriers to play, which include daily time-consuming tasks such as making dinner, doing homework, running errands etc. Children's days also include "dead time" like waiting for the bus, walking to school, or waiting on a parent to pay the parking meter. Communities attending the *Summit* shared ideas on how to capitalize on that "dead time" by creating mini playgrounds around town that convert waiting time into stimulating and playful time. If you've ever used a tree plot edge as a balance beam while walking down the street, then you understand the concept of a mini playground.

By designing play elements into public spaces, moments of frustration for kids and parents turn into moments of joy and creativity. The fountain in front of



Kids playing in "Bloomington Waters" in front of City Hall during a farmers market.

City Hall, named "Bloomington Waters," was designed as an art installation, but is often used as a cooling spot for kids waiting on their parents to finish shopping at the farmers' market. Baltimore is purposefully including playful design with creative bus stops and hopscotch intersections. These examples create opportunities for kids and adults alike to play.

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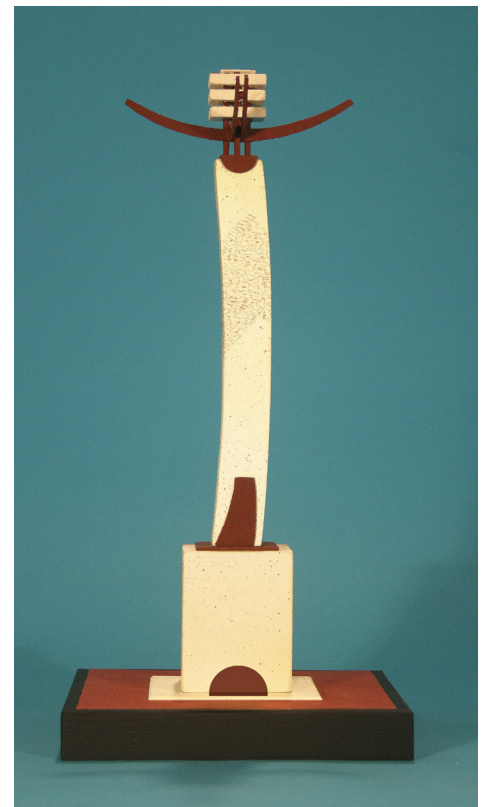
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Sculpture to be located at the 17th Street and Arlington Road roundabout, created by local artist, Dale Enochs, and selected by the neighborhood.