

The HAND Update

A newsletter for Bloomington neighborhood residents



Website: bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods

Phone: 812-349-3420

 [City of Bloomington, IN-Neighborhood Services](https://www.facebook.com/CityofBloomingtonIN/)

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTERESTS:

- Sign up to receive [The HAND Update](#)
- [Contribute to the Blooming Neighborhoods commemorative video](#)
- [Enter the Neighborhood Association Logo Contest](#)

Report an issue to the City:
[uReport](#)

Find civic information specific to your address:
[My Bloomington](#)

Explore the City's open databases:
[B-Clear Open Data](#)

Volunteer your time and talent:
[Bloomington Volunteer Network](#)

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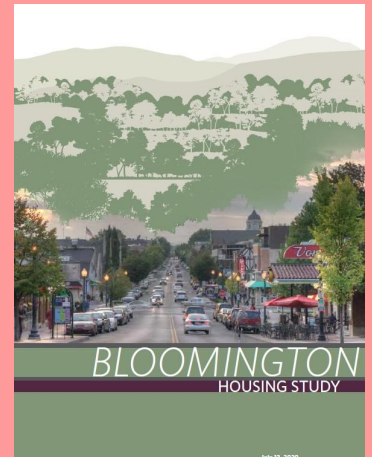
Please direct questions or concerns to:
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City of Bloomington, Indiana
angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov

Bloomington housing study released

Commissioned in August 2019, the [Bloomington housing study](#) assesses the city's housing needs and recommends strategies to provide safe, affordable housing for all residents. The study includes impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which served to highlight certain trends and vulnerabilities. Among its findings, the study determined that:

- Over 60% of renter households and nearly 30% of owner-occupied households in Bloomington are cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on housing.
- The median sales price of a home in Bloomington rose from \$167,000 in 2016 to \$217,000 in 2019, a 30% increase in three years.
- Bloomington's population has grown at a consistent rate of 1.3-1.9% annually since 1980, and will need an additional 2,592 housing units of a variety of types (beyond student housing units) to accommodate projected population growth by 2030.
- A landlord survey revealed a rental vacancy rate of just below 2%, significantly lower than the estimated vacancy rate of almost 9%.

The study suggests potential strategic housing and neighborhood goals, including streamlining the development review and approval process, conserving existing housing stock as the most affordable and sustainable option, and leveraging new development opportunities such as those at the existing hospital site and alongside Switchyard Park. Finally, the report proposes strategies for achieving the aforementioned goals, including community partnerships, creative financing options, and sustainable building practices.



Welcome to Bloomington information available

At this time of year HAND provides [welcome information](#) to landlords and neighborhoods to distribute to new tenants and neighbors. Please contact HAND to arrange for pick-up or delivery of these items.



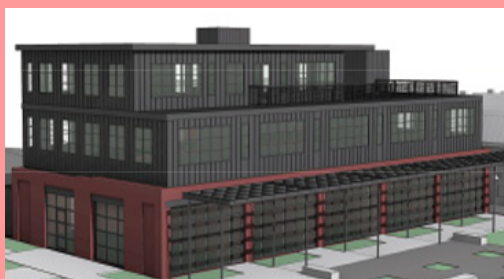
Parks and Recreation requests your input

The Parks and Recreation Department invites the community to help develop the Parks' priorities over the next five years. The department is encouraging residents to provide input about Parks' programming and facilities through an online survey during the first stage of updating its Master Plan. The online survey can be found at bloomington.in.gov/parks. Paper copies of the survey will also be available at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center, Cascades Golf Course pro shop, Banneker Community Center, and the Parks and Recreation office in City Hall (401 N. Morton St.). The department hopes to collect at least 600 survey responses by September 18.



Keep up with news from the Planning and Transportation Dept.

Read the latest edition of the *Planning and Transportation Post Newsletter* [here](#).

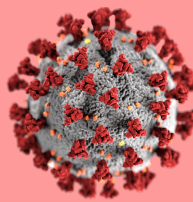


Fresh Food Fridays at Hoosier Hills Food Bank

Hoosier Hills Food Bank's Fresh Food Friday distribution continues on August 21 and September 4 & 18, from 11:00am to 3:00pm at 2333 West Industrial Park Drive. Each box, available to anyone in need of food, includes fresh produce, dairy products, and frozen meat. No ID or proof of income is required.



COVID-19 Updates



The Monroe County Health Department has issued recommendations for communal living facilities, including campus organizations with group living facilities, such as fraternities and sororities, as well as off-campus rooming houses.

The current health order stipulates that private gatherings are limited to no more than 50 people. If you observe gatherings you believe to be in violation of the public health order, you may report them using this form. Alternatively, you may call the hotline at 812-803-6360.

Results of Digital Equity Study Released

The City of Bloomington has published the results of a survey assessing how residents use internet services as the first step in the development of Mayor John Hamilton's Digital Equity Strategic Plan. Results of the scientific survey, completed by 1,080 respondents, have been collected and are being analyzed with the goal of improving internet accessibility and affordability for Bloomington residents. The survey's full results are available [here](#).

Among the survey's preliminary findings:

- 12% of low-income respondents never interact with the internet.
- Lower-bandwidth households report significant difficulties in completing homework due to internet deficiencies.
- Fully half of respondents said their job now requires internet access at home.