

# The HAND Update

A newsletter for Bloomington neighborhood residents



Phone: 812-349-3420

Website: [bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods](http://bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods)

 [City of Bloomington, IN-Neighborhood Services](#)

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTERESTS:

- Apply for a [HAND Small & Simple Grant](#)
- [Neighborhood Services 2021 Calendar](#)
- Sign up to receive [The HAND Update](#)
- Sign up to [Adopt-A-Drain](#)

Keep up with your local law makers:  
[City Council](#)

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

Check for road closures:  
[inRoads](#)

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

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:  
[Angela Van Rooy](#)  
Neighborhood Services Program Manager  
Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND)  
City of Bloomington, Indiana  
[angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov)

## HAND grants update

HAND is pleased to offer three types of grants to Bloomington neighborhoods. Your group need not be an officially recognized neighborhood association to apply, but you must be able to demonstrate that your project has a neighborhood-wide benefit.

Two **Neighborhood Cleanup Grants** have been awarded. Both are to neighborhoods that are first-time Cleanup Grant recipients. Congratulations to Mayfair and Woodlands Winding Brook neighborhoods! In addition to the items we have always collected--trash, hazmat, tires, scrap metal, brush/limbs--HAND is excited to be able to offer electronics recycling as part of this year's program.

The deadline to submit a **Neighborhood Improvement Grant** is today at 4:00 p.m. Nine neighborhoods have expressed an interest in applying for a portion of the \$27,000 program budget.

**Small & Simple Grant** applications can be submitted anytime until September 1, 2021. These are limited to \$500 annually per neighborhood, and can be used to fund activities such as workshops, newsletter distribution, special celebrations, or toward efforts to control invasive plants in your neighborhood. If you have an idea for which you would like to apply for a Small & Simple Grant, please contact Angela at [angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov) or 812-349-3505.

## Pedestrian-only spaces return to Kirkwood Ave starting this week

The City of Bloomington will again create pedestrian-only spaces on three blocks of Kirkwood Avenue, beginning March 25, 2021 and running through June 30, 2021. This timeline may be modified due to the status of the state of emergency and/or COVID-related health department guidelines should the need arise.

These closures will be for the following sections of Kirkwood Avenue:

- Indiana Avenue to Dunn Street
- Dunn Street to Grant Street
- The west half of the block between Walnut Street and Washington Street

Further details are available [here](#).

## City seeks resident opinion for third biennial survey

This month, the City of Bloomington will ask residents to participate in the 2021 Bloomington Community Survey. This is the third community-wide, scientific survey of Bloomington residents, and is again being administered by National Research Center, Inc. (NRC). The survey will gauge residents' perceptions of the quality and value of City services and current conditions in the community. This year's survey is updated with several questions informed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the last week of March, a random and scientific sample of 3,000 households will be mailed invitations to participate in the survey; the first wave of invitations will be sent March 24 and the second, March 31. Participants' confidential responses will be weighted, analyzed, and published on the city's open data portal [B-Clear](#). Residents who do not participate in the randomized study have the option of completing the survey online. The results of residents who opt in will be collected, analyzed, and published in a separate data set.

## Look what's happening at MCPL

The Indiana Room has reopened with a capacity of ten. Patrons should limit their use to one hour if others are waiting. Patrons may provide advance notice of their query details by emailing [indianaroom@mcpl.info](mailto:indianaroom@mcpl.info) a few days prior to their visit. If demand for this service is not too overwhelming, the Library will gladly set materials out for quick digest, scanning, or photocopying. Learn more at [mcpl.info/indiana](http://mcpl.info/indiana).



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Public Library**  
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## Infrastructure improvements

Infrastructure improvement projects are underway across the city. You can find more details about current progress on the following projects [here](#):

- Jackson Creek Trail Phase II
- Sare Road Multiuse Path and Intersection Improvements
- Lower Cascades Streambank Stabilization and Trail Extension
- West 14th Street Sidewalk

## Celebrate Earth Day at Southeast Park

Join local organizations at [Southeast Park](#) on Thursday, April 22 to celebrate Earth Day. Programming will be offered all day, beginning at 9:00 a.m. **Registration is required--sign up [here](#)** for the following sessions:

- Identifying and removing invasive plants
- How to plant a native plant and prevent deer browsing
- Planting and maintaining rain gardens
- Composting
- Benefits of using a rain barrel
- Protecting our watersheds
- Connecting Bloomington neighborhoods one native plant at a time
- City grants available to reduce invasives in your neighborhood

**FREE native plant giveaway, while supplies last!**



**Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

