

The HAND Update

A newsletter for Bloomington residents



Phone: 812-349-3420

Website: 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](#)
- [Apply for the Residents Academy](#)
- Subscribe to 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:
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Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND)
City of Bloomington, Indiana
angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov

Residents Academy application deadline July 12

Get a behind the scenes look at City services and programs.

Apply for the Residents Academy

Thursdays 6:00 to 8:00pm
August 26 to October 28

Preference will be given to residents who live within the Bloomington City limits. To request a paper application, please call 812-349-3505.



Are you interested in buying your first home?

The [HAND Department's Home Buyers Club](#) program offers participants a chance to explore the possibility of affordable home ownership. The Home Buyers Club is comprised of two sessions which are held on two consecutive Saturdays. The first Saturday session is from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the second Saturday session is from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



The goal of the class is to help first-time home buyers understand and overcome the obstacles involved in purchasing their first home, as well as what to expect after buying a home.

Participants will have the opportunity to [meet one-on-one with a housing counselor](#) to discuss any potential obstacles to achieving their goal. Income eligible graduates may qualify for up to \$10,000 in [Down Payment Closing Cost Assistance](#) from HAND.

Registration is now open for the next session, to be held on Saturdays, July 10th and 17th. Meetings will be virtual. Please visit the Home Buyers Club website to register. <https://bloomington.in.gov/housing/home-buyers-club>

City offices will be closed Monday July 5th

City of Bloomington offices will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of the Independence Day holiday.



Rental occupancy affidavit now in effect

On June 16, 2021 the Bloomington Common Council passed Ordinance 21-30, requiring landlords and tenants to sign an Occupancy Affidavit attesting to the maximum occupancy for the rental property. This ordinance only applies to rental properties with 4 or fewer units. The Affidavit must be executed each time there is a change in tenancy. It will not be sent to HAND, but rather must be maintained by the landlord and presented to HAND inspectors upon any HAND inspection. If found to be in violation of the Affidavit/Ordinance, the landlord and/or tenants may be fined up to \$500. The landlord and tenant information contained in the Affidavit is not subject to Public Records Requests.

If you are a landlord, please be on the lookout for more information from HAND in the coming weeks.

Connecting Bloomington's greenspace - with your help



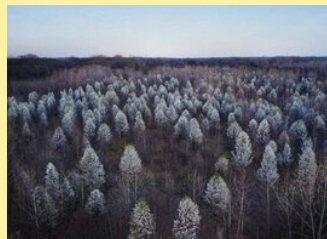
We live in exciting times. Why may you ask? The answer will show itself in the next few months, as the [Bloomington Environmental Commission](#) (EC) puts the finishing touches on the [Bloomington Habitat Connectivity Plan](#). The plan seeks to strengthen biodiversity in our area and improve habitat connectivity between main areas of greenspace. As a private landowner, you can volunteer to sign a pledge to protect land on your property where native plants are growing or will be planted in the near future. Your pledge can entail land as small as a dinner plate. The amount of land you pledge is up to you.

The EC encourages as many people as possible to sign up for the habitat connectivity project. You can flaunt your native garden to fellow residents of Bloomington, and you can show how you are helping to connect existing greenspace by identifying the location of your native habitat on this [interactive map](#).

In the coming months look out for the Habitat Connectivity Plan brochure at community events near you. The brochure will provide more details about the plan and how you can get involved. Keep up with information from the Bloomington Environmental Commission by following their [Facebook page](#).

MC-IRIS needs your help

Which invasive species concerns and frustrates you the most? Monroe County Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) wants to know. You can help to choose the 2022 Reduce One Invasive Species Challenge by filling out a [one-question poll on their website](#).



Why do we manage invasive species?

Attend the 2021 Indiana Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA) Conference by the same name and find out the answer. The meeting, which will consist of both virtual and field events, will be held from Wednesday, August 4th to Saturday, August 7th. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

News from the Monroe County Public Library

MCPL meeting rooms will soon be available from use by the public.

You may reserve space now for use beginning July 19th. For reservations please visit <https://mcpl.info/spaces>.

