

# The HAND Update

A newsletter for Bloomington residents



Phone: 812-349-3420

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

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

.....

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTERESTS:

- Apply for a [HAND Small & Simple Grant](#)
- Apply for a [HAND SSCIPS Grant to control invasive plants](#)
- 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](#)

.....

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)

## 1,000 Households Who Mulch – Sign up now!

*A Note from the City of Bloomington Director of Innovation:*

Do you think composting and mulching is just for hippies? Would you be surprised to hear that most landscaping companies that remove leaves compost them and sell the product back to the very yards they took the leaves from? This is not a dig at landscaping companies – not at all! While we often think of leaves as a nuisance that should be removed from our yards, they see them as resources.

Do you want to learn how to use your leaves to enrich your soil for free instead of paying for fertilizer? Join the “1,000 Households Who Mulch” pilot project.

We'll give you all the information you need to get started. We have some hands' on demonstrations and can even send someone to your yard to help you.

Have you been mulching and composting for years? This pilot is also for YOU! We have partners like the IU Campus Farm, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department who can show you the research they have been doing to MAKE YOUR COMPOSTING EVEN BETTER!

To sign up now, go to:  
<https://forms.gle/ssGELwqv1uAZ9Mw38>

For more information on the project, go to:  
<https://bloomington.in.gov/innovate/2021-leaves>



## Small & Simple grant deadline approaches

Do you have an idea for a small neighborhood project that could be accomplished with about 500 bucks? Apply today for a [Small & Simple Grant](#) from HAND. Whether you're ready to tackle invasive plants or wish to hire a magician to entertain the kids at the annual neighborhood block party, a Small & Simple Grant can help you accomplish your goal.

Applications are accepted anytime and will be processed as they are received. LAST DAY to apply is September 1, 2021. Questions? Call 812-349-3505 or email [angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov).

## Welcome new neighbors or tenants with a welcome packet from HAND!



Welcome packets include a wealth of information to set residents up to be successful community members. From trash pick up to parking permits, we've got it covered.

Neighborhood Associations are encouraged to add additional information about their own organizations.

Neighborhoods and landlords may order welcome packets by emailing [angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov) or calling 812-349-3505. Packets are free, and we appreciate your help in disseminating this important information.

## MC-IRIS native plant sale - September 11

Need native plants for your garden? Just in time for fall planting, come and find just what you are looking for at the MC-IRIS Native Plant Sale. Native plants for sun, for shade, for dry sites, for rain gardens - they'll have them all! Come early for the best selection! Indiana native plants for sale include: grasses, sedges, forbs, shrubs, and trees.

Looking for ideas for your garden? Check out the [Switchyard Park Field Guide](#), then take a walking tour to view native plants in the many beautiful beds found in the park.

The sale will take place in the Switchyard Park Maintenance Building, Switchyard Park, 601 S Rogers St, Bloomington. (Enter at the South Rogers entrance. The Maintenance Building is immediately to your right.) on Saturday, September 11 from 9:00am to 3:00pm or until sold out.



## Apply for your neighborhood parking permit online

Neighborhood parking permits will again be sold online through the [Neighborhood Residential Permit Online Portal](#).

Not sure if you need a permit? Check out the [Neighborhood Parking Permit Zone Maps](#).

Need help? Visit the [Neighborhood Parking Permits website](#), or call the Parking Services office at (812) 349-3436.

