

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:

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

September 25th at the Bloomington Community Farmers Market

Blooming Neighborhoods Celebration

ATTENTION NEIGHBORHOODS:
You're invited to a celebration and resource fair! The HAND department will host this opportunity to network, share, and celebrate neighborhood accomplishments.

Neighborhood representatives and members of community organizations will assemble on the terraces under the trees in front of City Hall for fellowship and fun. This year's theme is **Harvesting Neighborhood Potential**.

Each participating group will be furnished with a table and chairs, a neighborhood map, and a list of HAND grants received over the years. There will be giveaways and prizes too.

Please RSVP by September 20 to angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov with your neighborhood name and the number of people attending, so that we have enough chairs for everyone. More information at: bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods/blooming

Harvest for the World: A celebration of music and food



Celebrate the rich diversity that coexists at the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market. "Harvest for the World" is an experience of sight, sound, and taste, featuring cross-cultural fashions, dance, and sounds from Bloomington's international communities. Taste delicious cuisine from food and beverage artisans and gather produce from farm vendors to create flavorful cuisine at home! 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday, September 25th.

Bloomington Community Farmers Market
401 N. Morton St. next to City Hall



It's never too early to plan for your next neighborhood grant application

HAND neighborhood grant cycles are completed for 2021, but now is the time to start planning for the 2022 funding round. HAND offers three types of grants:

- Neighborhood Improvement Grants: for capital projects with a minimum budget of \$1,100 and a 10% match. Application deadline: March 21, 2022.
- Small & Simple Grants: maximum grant of \$500, no match component. Applications available from January 1 through September 1, 2022, or until funds are depleted.
 - traditional S&S grants for events, workshops, mailings, small projects, etc.
 - dedicated S&S grants for neighborhood-wide invasive plant species removal.
- Neighborhood Cleanup Grants: a HAND-sponsored cleanup day for your neighborhood. Application deadline: March 7, 2022.

Neighborhood groups of all kinds are eligible to apply for HAND grants. One need not be a recognized neighborhood association. Detailed grant guidelines are available at the links above. 2022 grant applications will be available beginning January 1, 2022. Please contact Angela Van Rooy, Neighborhood Services Program Manager with questions, angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3505.

Here are some grant projects that were awarded this year:



The Village of Ridgfield was awarded a Neighborhood Improvement Grant to install four ADA-compliant benches within their community.



Blue Ridge neighbors participated in an invasive plants workshop, hosted by MC-IRIS, as part of their Small & Simple Grant to Control Invasive Plant Species.



Mayfair neighbors spent a Saturday morning in May helping one another rid their homes of unwanted items through a HAND Neighborhood Cleanup Grant.

MCPL fundraiser to benefit Hoosier Hills Food Bank

Each non-perishable food item donated forgives \$1 of your library fees. Donations can be made at any 2nd-floor customer assistance desk at the Main Branch or any desk at the Ellettsville branch. More information at mcpl.info/foodforfees.

FOOD FOR FEE\$

September 17-26

Each item donated forgives \$1 of your fees!

Simply bring your non-perishable donations to any second-floor customer assistance desk at the Downtown Library or any desk at the Ellettsville Branch and request that your fees* be waived!

**No fees? No problem!
Your donation is still welcome!**

mcpl.info/foodforfees

*Please note that this program applies to replacement fees—we don't charge late fines.



**HOOSIER HILLS
FOOD
BANK**
A UNITED WAY AGENCY



Monroe County
Public Library
Downtown Library
303 E. Kirkwood Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47408
812-349-3050
Ellettsville Branch
600 W. Temperance St.
Ellettsville, IN 47429
812-876-1272

Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance (IERA) portal is OPEN

TENANTS Are you behind on your rent and utility payments?

LANDLORDS Do you have tenants who are behind on their rent?

**HELP
IS
AVAILABLE**

Eligible households can receive up to 12 months of assistance in past due and forward facing rent and utilities (electric, gas, water/wastewater, and bulk fuel). All of the following must apply to meet eligibility requirements:

- At least one household member has qualified for unemployment benefits or has experienced a reduction in income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship *due to COVID-19*.
- At least one household member must demonstrate a risk of homelessness or housing instability.
- Household income must be at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).
- The property for which you are seeking assistance must be your primary residence.



The electronic application can be found here: apply.ihcda.in.gov/submit.

For general questions, please contact iera@ihcda.in.gov or call 317-800-6000.

For help submitting an application, please call 2-1-1.

Don't have access to a computer, printer, or scanner?

The Bloomington Housing Authority (BHA) can help. The BHA computer lab is available at the BHA Community Building
1002 North Summit Street, Bloomington.
Tuesdays 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Thursdays 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Get involved with Bloomington's newest urban forest advocacy organization!



CanopyBloomington
CULTIVATING A COMMUNITY-POWERED URBAN FOREST

CanopyBloomington's mission is to engage Bloomington residents in cooperatively stewarding our city's urban forest by planting and tending to our urban trees. Learn more on their website canopybloomington.org. Their first planting event will be at the end of October in the Matlock Heights neighborhood in collaboration with the City. Join their virtual volunteer callout meeting to learn about this event and other volunteer opportunities with CanopyBloomington on Thursday, September 23rd from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (link: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/87526931989>)! Please reach out to them at hello@canopybloomington.org if you'd like an email invitation or want more information but are unable to attend. Canopy hopes to (virtually) see you there!