

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:

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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

Build community with a HAND Neighborhood Improvement Grant

Developing a neighborhood project and applying for a grant to make it happen can be a great way to build community in your neighborhood. It necessarily brings people together to work cooperatively, and seeing a project through to fruition can foster a shared sense of accomplishment.

Starting January 1st, HAND will begin a new neighborhood grant cycle. This includes the [Neighborhood Improvement Grant](#) for capital projects with a minimum budget of \$1,100 and a 10% match. The electronic application form will be available after the first of the year, and the application deadline will be March 21, 2022.

It's never too early to begin the planning process, so make use of the fall and winter months to organize, gather lots of input, and settle on a project that your neighborhood is excited to undertake. If you're looking for project ideas here are a few to get your creative juices flowing:



- community garden or landscaping
- picnic shelter
- performance stage
- playground or fitness trail
- public art installation
- neighborhood entrance signs
- lighting improvements
- street sign toppers
- restoration of historic sidewalks
- benches
- historical markers
- information kiosks
- pet waste stations

Neighborhood groups of all kinds are eligible to apply for HAND grants. Groups need not be registered neighborhood associations. Please read the detailed [Neighborhood Improvement Grant guidelines](#), and contact Angela Van Rooy, Neighborhood Services Program Manager with questions, angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3505.

Blooming Neighborhoods Celebration a Success!

THANK YOU to the many neighborhood representatives, community partners, and City departments who attended the Blooming Neighborhoods celebration on Saturday! The weather cooperated beautifully, and it was a pleasure to be among neighbors.

I hope that you found time to mingle, share successes, and perhaps discover some new ideas. Please reach out to me at angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3505 should you desire assistance with any neighborhood needs.

Peter Dorfman, President of the Near West Side Neighborhood Association, won the drawing for the tri-colored mum. Congratulations Peter!



Blooming Neighborhoods 2021: Harvesting Neighborhood Potential Attendees:

- Arden Place Neighborhood Association
- Covenanter Neighborhood Association
- Crescent Bend Neighborhood Association
- Crestmont Community, BHA Residents Council
- Eastern Heights Neighborhood Association
- Elm Heights Neighborhood Association
- Fritz Terrace Neighborhood Association
- Matlock Heights Neighborhood Association & Historic District
- McDoel Gardens Neighborhood Association
- Near West Side Neighborhood Association
- Park Ridge Neighborhood Association
- Spicewood Neighborhood Association
- Village of Ridgely Homeowners Association
- CanopyBloomington
- Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)
- IU Dean of Students, Division of Student Affairs
- IU Student Legal Services
- Monroe County Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)
- Monroe County Solid Waste Management District
- Neighbors United
- City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources
- City of Bloomington Economic and Sustainable Development Department
- City of Bloomington Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND)
- City of Bloomington Utilities (CBU) Stormwater Education
- Bloomington Police Department Community Service Specialists



Prospect Hill Neighborhood seeks volunteers for creek clean up

PHNA Community Creek Clean-up

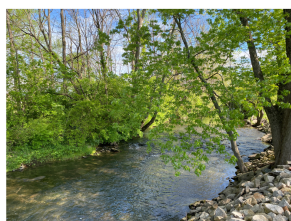
Rose Hill Cemetery, west-end behind Crescent Donuts
Thursday, Oct. 7th 1pm-3pm

We will be removing invasive plants and trash from the creek along the cemetery stone wall. City of Bloomington landscaping staff will be there with supplies, gear and guidance to assist our Prospect Hill neighborhood volunteers.

SAVE the DATE



Clear Creek west of Rose Hill Cemetery



Clear Creek along S. Rogers Street south of W. Gordon Pike



Meet us there! Let's protect this Bloomington waterway and reclaim its natural beauty for our Prospect Hill neighborhood and others.



Greenway projects public input meetings planned

Neighborhood Greenways are low-speed, low-volume, shared-space streets that create high-comfort walking and bicycling connections. The Planning and Transportation Department will hold two meetings to gather public input regarding two on-going greenway projects:

7th Street Greenway (N. Union > 7th Street Underpass): Friday, October 1, 2021 from 3:00pm - 5:00pm at the intersection of E. 8th Street and N. Overhill Drive. For more information (including considerations for rescheduling due to inclement weather) please see the project website: bloomington.in.gov/engineering/projects/7thgreenway.

Broadview/ Graham Neighborhood Greenway (S. Rockport Road > S. Rogers Street) : Tuesday, October 5th from 4:00pm - 6:00pm at the Broadview Park Pavilion (704 W. Graham Drive). For more information visit: bloomington.in.gov/engineering/projects/ralstongraham

For more information, contact Mallory at 812-349-3529 or rickbeilm@bloomington.in.gov.

Need help paying your utility bills? Assistance is available

Indiana's **Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)** is a new program that provides funds to assist with your water and wastewater bills. LIHWAP is a temporary emergency program that will help low-income households and families afford water and wastewater services during the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is designed to help low-income households and does not require proof of COVID-19 hardship to apply. Funding is available for use through September 2023 or until funds are exhausted.

The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** is a one-time annual benefit that can assist low-income Hoosiers with the high cost of home energy, and can help those who are about to get disconnected.

Hoosiers can apply for a one-time benefit assistance payment to help with utilities. You don't need to have fallen behind on your heating or electric bills to qualify. These benefits are paid directly to the utility vendor to help cover your heating and electric costs during the winter months. If your utilities are included in rent, you may still qualify for this program. This program is available to Hoosiers renting and for those who own their home.

Details and application forms for BOTH programs will be available on October 1st at this website: in.gov/ihcda/homeowners-and-renters/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap/

