

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](#)

City offices will be closed Monday, October 11

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

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

Check for road closures:
[inRoads](#)

Get answers to your trash and recycling questions:
[Recollect](#)

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](#)

Need Help?
[Helping Bloomington Monroe](#)

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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

Planning a neighborhood event or small project? A Small & Simple Grant can help.

The Small & Simple Grant program offered by HAND provides neighborhood groups community building opportunities that might not otherwise be available. With a \$500 limit and no match component, Small & Simple Grant applications will be accepted from January 3 to September 1, 2022.

Grant funds may be used for many neighborhood projects, including:

- training sessions and educational workshops
- neighborhood newsletter mailings
- sustainability projects
- physical improvements
- special celebrations

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

Help is available

Helping Bloomington Monroe is a curated database of resources, with over 2100 listings from medical care and food, to job training and legal services. Search the database at: helpingbloomingtonmonroe.auntbertha.com/.



2022 Community Development Block Grant deadlines approaching

The City of Bloomington is making preparations to start the 2022 Program Year for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars. These federal funds provide resources for social service and physical improvement community development projects in Bloomington.

CDBG Information and application materials, as well as a program timeline, can be found here:

bloomington.in.gov/grants/community-development-block-grants.

The first step in the process is to submit a letter of intent to apply for funds to HAND by Monday, October 18, 2021 at 4 p.m. EDT.

Invite HAND staff to your next neighborhood meeting

HAND staff are available to attend your next neighborhood meeting. Learn more about many programs we offer:

- HAND grants for neighborhoods
- Enforcement of Title 6: trash/overgrowth/snow
- Residential rental inspection program
- Historic preservation
- Neighborhood organization
- Neighborhood watch programs

Please direct your requests to Angela Van Rooy, angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov, 812-349-3505.

Neighborhood associations, please update your info

Neighborhood associations, please be sure to periodically update your contact information with HAND. Please let us know who in your organization is the person who can disseminate information to your neighbors. We don't want anyone to miss out on important notices.

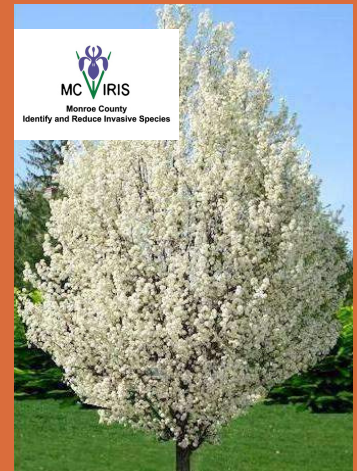
Please send updates to Angela Van Rooy, angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov, 812-349-3505. Thanks!

MC-IRIS announces Reduce One Invasive Species Challenge for 2022!

The Reduce One Invasive Species Challenge (ROIS Challenge) hosted each year by Monroe County - Identify & Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) is an opportunity for people in Monroe County to learn how to identify one invasive species and prioritize its removal. In 2020, the focus was Asian Bush Honeysuckle and in 2021, Purple Wintercreeper vine. Callery Pear (aka Bradford Pear), a highly invasive tree that is a major concern in Monroe County, will be the MC-IRIS ROIS Challenge species in 2022.

Callery Pear has escaped from city green spaces, residential yards, and church and business landscaping. It spreads easily to neighboring properties, along right-of-way corridors, and into our surrounding forests, wetlands, and other sensitive natural areas; negatively impacting our watershed.

By focusing on one invasive plant species at a time, we learn how to identify it with confidence, discover how to control and dispose of it with greater efficiency, and by working together we can limit further spread. Look for more information on Callery Pear, including management and disposal recommendations, as well as special events and opportunities, to be announced in 2022! To learn more and keep up to date, visit MC-IRIS mc-iris.org or find them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mciris)!



Bloomington Creative Glass Center Presents 12th Annual Great Glass Pumpkin Patch



The Bloomington Creative Glass Center (BCGC) is hosting its annual Great Glass Pumpkin Patch October 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will feature roughly 700 blown glass pumpkins spread out on the Courthouse lawn like a real pumpkin patch. You'll find traditional orange and green pumpkins, as well as purple, blue, black, polka-dot, swirl and more. Pumpkins range in price from \$20-\$200.

The event is free to enter and is open to the public. Tickets are not needed, though they do ask that folks maintain social distance. Inside the pumpkin patch, masks are required for everyone over 4 years of age. All the proceeds from this event will go towards the organization's arts education programs.