

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 November 25 & 26 in observance of Thanksgiving.

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

Do some serious spring cleaning with a HAND Neighborhood Cleanup Grant

A cleanup is one of the most satisfying ways to build community in your neighborhood. Neighbors come together on a Saturday morning to rid their homes and properties of trash, scrap metal, hazardous materials, tires, and brush/limbs. There is also a "picker pile" for gently used items, because one person's trash just might be another's treasure. HAND provides the means of disposal, and the neighborhood provides the volunteers.

A successful neighborhood cleanup requires advanced planning and coordination among neighbors. It offers an opportunity to come together for the mutual benefit of the neighborhood. But most importantly, it's FUN!

HAND awards two Cleanup Grants per year on a competitive basis. These take place in the spring on a Saturday in April, May or June. 2022 application forms will be available January 3, 2022. The application deadline is March 7, 2022.

Neighborhood groups of all kinds are eligible to apply for HAND grants. Groups need not be City-registered neighborhood associations to apply. For more information visit the [cleanup grant webpage](#), and contact Angela Van Rooy, Neighborhood Services Program Manager with questions at angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3505.



Neighborhood cleanups are a great way to build community in your neighborhood!

ATTENTION neighbors in the Maple Heights Conservation District

The Maple Heights Conservation District will automatically elevate in status to an historic district unless a majority of property owners object to the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission in writing.

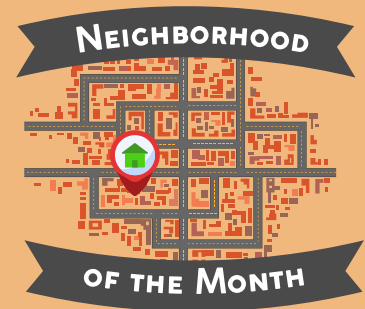
Ballots were mailed to all property owners on October 15, 2021. Ballots or written comments must be received (not postmarked) in a sealed envelope at the HAND office (City Hall, 401 N Morton St, Suite 130) by Wednesday, November 17 at 5:00p.m. Ballots received after this time will not be accepted.

"Neighborhood of the Month" coming in 2022

HAND wants to celebrate our unique Bloomington neighborhoods all year long, so in 2022 we've got something new in store. Each month the HAND Update will profile a different neighborhood, but we'll need your help to pull it off.

If you would like your neighborhood to be featured, please email angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov. Below is a list of categories that you might consider when determining what you want us to know about your neighborhood. Please address as many of these categories as you wish in your email. All categories may not be applicable to all neighborhoods.

- Neighborhood name.
- Neighborhood logo.
- Links to your website and/or social media.
- Mission statement.
- Description of your neighborhood: what's the vibe?
- A brief history of your neighborhood.
- How does your neighborhood build community? Tell us about your activities, events, initiatives, etc.
- What do you love about your neighborhood? Ask around. We want to hear from multiple neighbors.
- Anything else you want us to know.



Neighborhoods will be selected at random from the entries received. One neighborhood will be featured each month. Content may be edited for space in the newsletter.

Involve your neighbors in this process. This should be a group activity. Have fun and THANKS!

CBU again offering Residential Stormwater Grants in 2022

The City of Bloomington Utilities Department (CBU) invites homeowners to apply for funding through the fourth annual Residential Stormwater Grants Program. A total of \$100,000 has been dedicated in CBU's 2022 budget to this program assisting owners of single-family residential property with environmentally-friendly drainage projects such as rain gardens, bioswales, and detention pond maintenance.

CBU will host two public information meetings about the grant application process and project requirements:

- Thursday, December 2, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Switchyard Park Pavilion, 1601 S. Rogers Street; and
- Tuesday, December 14, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Banneker Community Center, 930 W. 7th Street.

If you are unable to attend, meetings will be recorded and available for viewing on the CBU grants webpage at www.bloomington.in.gov/utilities/stormwater/grants.

The application deadline is Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The application may be submitted online at bloomington.in.gov/utilities/stormwater/grants.

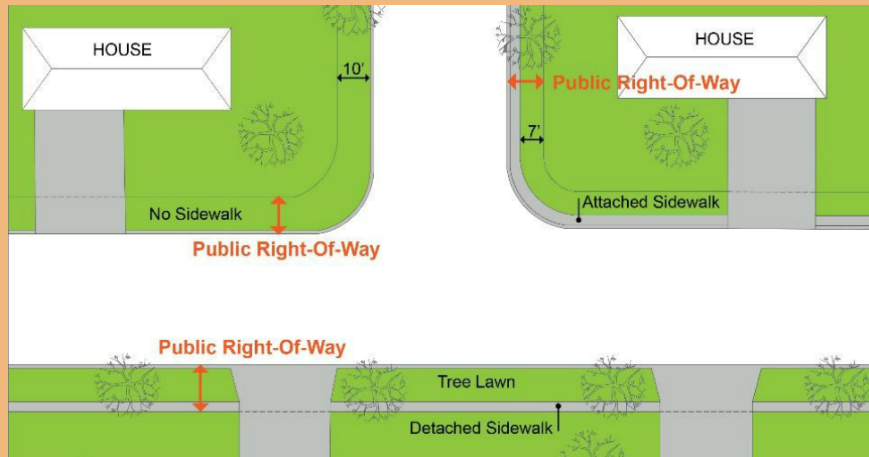


Projects will be reviewed by an internal review committee, an external committee including members of the public, and the City's Utilities Service Board. Projects will be ranked according to their potential to improve drainage and reduce the amount of pollutants discharged into our waterways. Projects containing "greener" stormwater solutions and impacting lower income census tracts will rank more favorably. Contiguous neighbors may apply together for one grant.

Tree updates from our Urban Forester

Erin Hatch, City of Bloomington Urban Forester, cares for and manages City-owned trees. With nearly 20,000 trees to care for, that's a BIG job! City-owned trees are those that grow on public land, including parks and public right-of-ways (ROWs).

The ROW typically extends beyond the edge of the roadway by about 10 feet. This area (referred to as an easement, and labeled "public right-of-way" in the graphic below) is reserved for public utilities, infrastructure, amenities, or other features such as drainage, tree preservation, environmental conservation, or pedestrian access (you can learn more in the [Bloomington municipal code 20.05.040 - Easements](#)).



Trees that grow in this 10-foot strip--regardless of whether a sidewalk is present--are considered City trees, and are thus the responsibility of the urban forester. You can search for City-owned trees in your neighborhood by visiting the [TreeKeeper](#) website.

There is always work to do to maintain the urban canopy. Below are some of the tree-related activities the city has recently undertaken.

- The City contracted Bluestone Tree to conduct mature tree pruning on various Pin Oaks along East Wexley Rd, Kensington Pl, and South Stratford Dr, which were completed recently. This is part of an ongoing effort to address various mature pin oak pruning across the City. Previously other work was done on South Olcott Blvd.
- The City had contracted Davey Resource Group/Davey Tree Expert Company to conduct small tree pruning in the Old Northeast Downtown and Garden Hill neighborhoods. This work will continue in November and December. So far over 100 trees have been pruned.
- You can explore memorial/honorary trees and downtown plaque trees on the [TreeKeeper website](#), including viewing pictures of associated plaques. This can be done by clicking on the magnifying glass to the left of the map, clicking the dropdown arrow next to "Select Quick Filters", and choosing "Memorial trees".

HAND neighborhood support

Do you have a neighborhood listserv or email contact list?

Do you have trouble keeping it up-to-date as neighbors move in and out of your neighborhood? Are there some neighbors you have never been able to reach?

Maybe it's time to get back to basics with some old-fashioned canvassing. Gather some volunteers and go door-to-door with a flyer letting neighbors know how to contact your neighborhood association, how to access the various methods by which you communicate amongst yourselves, as well as any up-coming activities and events.

You design the flyer and HAND will provide the copies for free (b/w only). Simply email your flyer and the number of copies needed to angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov.

How to properly mulch a tree



Mental Health presentation and Q&A at the library

Navigating your personal mental health can be difficult--especially during a pandemic and the holidays! Learn more about mental health, including a client therapy testimonial and mindfulness-based coping skills tips, then participate in a Q&A session. Come normalize prioritizing your mental health with Catholic Charities Counseling Services reps! Age 18 and up. Drop in.

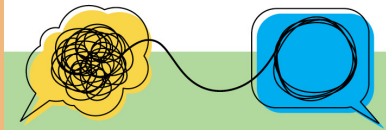
"Am I the Only One
Feeling Like This?
Just Checking."

(and Other Normal
Mental Health Questions)



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Tuesday, November 16,
6:00-7:00 PM
Downtown Library,
Meeting Room 1C



Invasive Spotlight: Chinese yam

Are you interested in reducing the invasive plants on your property, but just don't know where to start? Try identifying just one species and focus on reducing its numbers.

Recently Gillian Field, of MC-IRIS, came across an infestation of Chinese Yam, and sent along some helpful information to assist property owners in identifying it. Like many invasive plants, it was first introduced to North America in the 1800s as an ornamental plant. Now it is regulated under the Indiana Terrestrial Plant Rule, a list of 44 plants that are illegal to sell, gift, barter, exchange, distribute, transport, or introduce in the state of Indiana.

For more information about how to identify Chinese Yam and other invasive plants visit the Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States at <https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/index.cfm>.



"Air potatoes" on a Chinese yam plant.

Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance workshop

Are you a landlord, property manager, or realtor? Do you have tenants who are behind on their rent?

You are invited to a workshop to learn more about the Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance (IERA) program administered by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, which provides up to 15 months of assistance in past due and forward facing rent and utilities to eligible households.

This event, hosted by the Bloomington Board of Realtors (BBOR), the Monroe County Apartment Association (MCAA), and the Bloomington Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND), will be held on Wednesday, November 17, 11:30am - 1:00pm at the BBOR offices at 320 W 8th St, Bloomington, IN 47404.

The panel will include:

- Rayanna A. Binder, IERA Director
- Mindi Goodpaster, IERA Community Outreach Manager
- Chase Techentin, The Roof Director, New Hope Family Shelter

The on-site location can accommodate up to 50 people--register to participate on-site. A virtual option will also be available--register to participate virtually.

Home energy savings virtual chat



**The
"GREEN CHAT"
A series of 30
minute,
informal Zoom
chats**

**Chat #2 SATURDAY, November 20, NOON
Community member Therron Thomas
"Home Energy Savings - first steps"**

Chats address ways we can take better care of ourselves, our community, and our world, in order to reduce waste, climate crisis and associated environmental pollution. Email Elisa for the link: epokral@mcswmd.org or call 812-349-2866.