

Dear new Bloomingtonian,

Welcome to Bloomington, and congratulations on joining a vibrant community filled with opportunity. Nestled in the rolling hills of southern Indiana, this city is unlike any other in the state. We are a community where dreamers and doers live side-by-side. We cherish our landscape and the recreational activities it affords us, revel in our abundant arts scene, and delight in the diversity of our population. Nowhere else can you find the variety of dining, entertainment, education, and career opportunities in a city that still manages to maintain a Midwestern small-town friendliness.

Bloomington's hills, forests, and lakes provide both activity and sanctuary. Enjoy finding your favorite fishing pier, paddleboard spot, or waterfall at one of our many natural water features. Or take a hike along the 36 miles of trails that are yours for exploring. Just beneath our verdant landscape lies abundant high-quality limestone, quarried for use in iconic structures like the Empire State Building and The Pentagon, and highly prized by sculptors all over the world. You'll see many stunning examples of our local limestone's beauty and versatility employed across the Indiana University campus and throughout our city.

Students and faculty from around the world vie to come to Indiana University, a place that nurtures the ideas, dreams, and talents of its 49,000 students. IU's flagship campus and a research university, IU Bloomington's 17 schools consistently rank among the top in the nation. And keep your camera ready - our campus offers one gorgeous photo opportunity after another all year long.

Bloomington knows how to have a good time! The seventh-largest city in Indiana, Bloomington is home to 85,000 residents. The city shares its dynamic energy, Big Ten sporting events, thriving local businesses, vibrant arts scene, a busy calendar of festivals, and unique shopping and dining experiences with two million annual visitors. Explore your interests (or discover new ones) through our world-class stage and screen company, at our award-winning science museum, or in one of our more than 30 two-time National Gold Medal Award-winning parks.

Check out these handy resources to learn even more about your new home:

- **Begin by reviewing the materials in this packet!** And keep it for handy reference.
- **Good times await you here!** Explore places and programs offered by the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation including the 65-acre, community-informed Switchyard Park that has something for everyone, the new accessible waterfall boardwalk at Cascades Park, and camps, classes, or family programs around the city. Learn more at <https://bton.in/heGQC>
- **Share your gifts!** Find the right volunteer opportunity for your interests and skills when you delve into the Bloomington Volunteer Network site at [bloomingtonvolunteernetwork.org](http://bloomingtonvolunteernetwork.org)

- **Join in the fun!** Experience a community-wide annual festival such as Pridefest, Kiwanis Indiana Balloon Fest, or the Lotus World Music and Arts Festival with music from around the globe. Learn more about what is happening in Bloomington at <https://bton.in/OGTVJ>
- **How can we help?** Learn more about your new home and local government services when you go to the City of Bloomington website at <https://bloomington.in.gov/>
- **Read the news as it happens!** Sign up at <https://bton.in/-M!di> to receive City news delivered to your inbox.

Whether you've come here for school, a career opportunity, or to enjoy your retirement, we're glad you're here. We wish you happiness and success throughout your stay. And again, welcome to Bloomington!



Mayor John Hamilton  
City of Bloomington