



The Difference between a Neighborhood Association and a Homeowner's Association

Because the names are similar, some might confuse a *neighborhood association* and a *homeowners association* (HOA). However, the two entities are quite different.

A **homeowners association** is formed by a developer and pertains to a specific subdivision or project. The association provides the framework for the future maintenance of the development's common grounds and amenities, for instance a pool; clubhouse or common area landscaping. All homeowners are compelled to follow the codes, covenants and restrictions (CC&Rs) governing the development and pay association dues. The City of Bloomington does not register or regulate HOAs in any way.

A **neighborhood association** is a section of a city with a common identity. Neighborhood associations offer a place to meet friends, exchange information, create projects and priorities, propose solutions, and have fun.

A neighborhood association is formed based on the needs and desires of its residents. The association will give residents a forum to discuss common concerns and to brainstorm possible solutions. Some potential outcomes may be: improved street lighting, bike paths, traffic calming devices, parks and open spaces, zoning and land-use planning, park amenities, beautification projects, and neighborhood clean-ups. Many neighborhood associations have summer picnics, holiday parties and other special events in order to have fun as well as to keep the lines of communication open with their neighbors.

Interested neighborhood associations are encouraged to register with the City of Bloomington HAND department. This involves completing a simple [Neighborhood Association Registration Form](#), and providing a copy of your organization's bylaws. If you need assistance developing bylaws, HAND can provide sample bylaws and guidance.

Registered neighborhood associations give residents a voice and an advocate. Neighborhood associations greatly improve the two-way communication between the City and its residents. Your neighborhood will have a clear, organized way to speak to City government so that your voice will be heard by elected officials and City departments. You can meet with representatives of other neighborhood associations from around the City through the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA), a private, non-profit organization.

Registering also opens the door to increased communications from City government. Neighborhood association leaders receive communications from City departments regarding proposed public works projects, public meetings, and neighborhood-specific issues. This increased communication can be a resource for upcoming meetings or other community opportunities.