

LOWER CASCADES PARK: ROAD CONVERSATION PROJECT UPDATE IT'S DECISION TIME!

In March 2020, the City of Bloomington launched a pilot project that converted a .6 miles segment of Old State Road 37 North through Lower Cascades Park to a bicycle- and pedestrian-only trail. Due to COVID-19, the City later extended the pilot project, and continued to gather more feedback about the conversion through online surveys and in-person meetings (including several of my monthly Constituent Meetings).

Now, we are approaching a decision point.

The issue does not come before City Council, and so I don't have a vote. What I CAN do is help as many people as possible take advantage of opportunities to share their views on how a permanent road closure would impact them.

Two key groups will be meeting to discuss the pilot, review feedback, and decide how to move forward. Please consider offering public comment on how a permanent road closure would impact you and your neighborhood during these important meetings:



Board of Park Commissioners

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

4:00 pm | City Hall | Council Chambers

Board of Public Works

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

5:30 pm via Zoom

Meeting ID: 969 2529 0580 | Passcode: 026317

FIND OUT MORE:

bloomington.in.gov/parks/lower-cascades-road

YOU'RE INVITED TO APPLY FOR THE 2021 CITIZENS ACADEMY (THIS IS A REALLY COOL THING!)

In 1999, the City introduced **Citizens' Academy**, a 10-week series of mini-classes designed to encourage citizen engagement and to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to participate more actively in City government. Sessions cover topics like day-to-day operations, the structure and function of City departments, the role of City Council, boards and commissions, and goals for the future. Just as important, you'll also learn about the challenges we face as we balance our budget constraints with the goals and service needs of an active, thriving city.



I completed Citizen's Academy in 2015 and left feeling much more confident in my role with the RDC and much more able to engage with my elected representatives.

Now it's your turn! The Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) invites you to apply for the **2021 Citizens' Academy**, to be held on **ten consecutive Thursday evenings, August 26 to October 28, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**. The Academy will include a mix of in-person and virtual sessions with City staff as well as tours of City departments and facilities.

Applications are due by Monday, July 12 and you'll be notified of acceptance by Monday, August 2.

Preference will be given to residents who live within the Bloomington city limits. You may apply online, but if you'd like a paper application, just call (812) 349-3420.

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY ONLINE:
bloomington.in.gov/citizens-academy

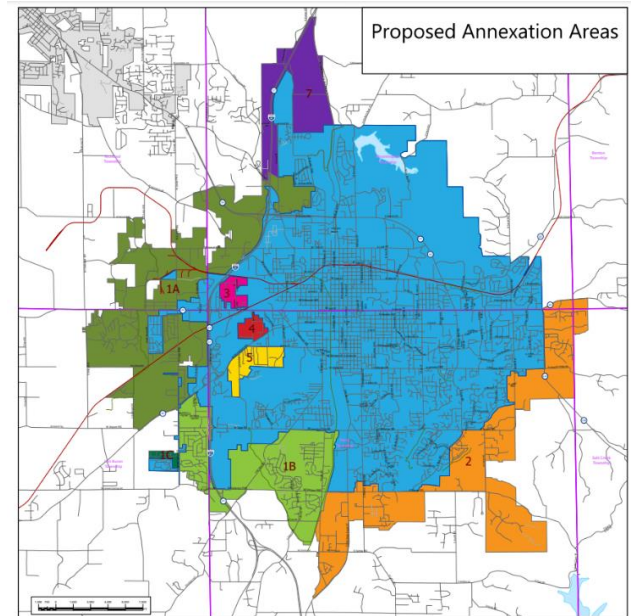


B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: PROPOSED ANNEXATION AREAS

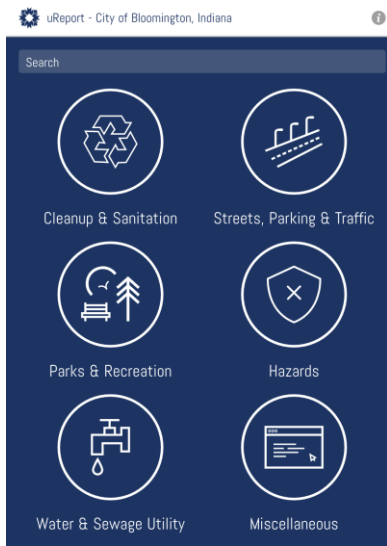
“B-Clear” is short for *Bloomington Clear*, a web-based, one-stop site for data about the City of Bloomington, its services, and its neighborhoods. The site is open to the public and includes over 200 data sets about everything from park trails to police calls to paving schedules. This month, I’m spotlighting *Proposed Annexation Areas*. The City of Bloomington has proposed the annexation of eight urbanized areas just outside the current municipal boundaries. Although these areas may already be part of the Bloomington community, they are not within the City’s municipal boundaries at this time.

FIND OUT MORE:

data.bloomington.in.gov/dataset/2021-proposed-annexation-areas-gis-data



UREPORT: ON LINE REPORTING AND HELP REQUESTS



See a sidewalk that’s blocked by overgrown vegetation? A street light that’s not working? A pothole that needs to be patched? Have an idea for a program that you’d like to share with the Parks Department? Have a compliment for a city staff member?

Use UReport!

This online portal is a quick, easy way to communicate with the city about non-emergency issues like those above. The site is easy to navigate with drop-down menus, open fields to record your comments, and even a place to upload your photos of whatever needs attention. When you submit your reports or comment to the City it will be sent to the appropriate department and you’ll hear back from the staff who are working on the issue (generally within a day or two). You may also send an e-mail directly to info@bloomington.in.gov or call the City at 812.349.3400, (but I’ve found UReport to be a lot faster!)

FIND OUT MORE:

bloomington.in.gov/ureport-about



GET INVOLVED: BOARD AND COMMISSIONS

Before I was elected to Council, I served on the City’s Redevelopment Commission for five years, and it taught me a lot. Most of all, it taught me that very ordinary people (that would be me in a nutshell) can have a lot of influence on how decisions are made, how money is spent, which projects go forward (and which don’t), and when. There are currently more than 30 boards and commissions that advise the Mayor and City Council on a wide range of issues. From the Animal Control Commission to the Parks Commissioners to the Historic Preservation Commission to the Environmental Resources Advisory Council, scores of citizens work to influence policy and spending for the City of Bloomington. Check and see if there’s a role for you!

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY TO SERVE:

bloomington.in.gov/boards



KEEP IN TOUCH!

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