

B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY PORTAL

“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 the *City Financials* data set – a look at revenue and expenses for the City of Bloomington along with budget categories, sources of revenue, and more. Find out how the City uses your tax dollars!



FIND OUT MORE:

<https://data.bloomington.in.gov/dataset/city-financials>

UREPORT: ON LINE REPORTING AND HELP REQUESTS

See a swing set at the park that needs to be repaired? 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:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/ureport-about>

PILOT PROJECT: LOWER CASCADES ROAD CONVERSION

WHO DECIDES WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PILOT? -

Two groups ultimately have the authority to decide what to do with the road in Lower Cascades: (1) the **Board of Park Commissioners** (BPC), and (2) the **Board Public Works** (BPW). BPC will deliberate and vote on a recommendation to close/not close the road. Then, BPW will use their statutory authority to actually close/open the street once the recommendation comes to them. 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.



SHARE YOUR OPINION! - Come offer your thoughts during public comment at the following meetings:

- **Board of Public Works** - August 4 | 5:30 pm at City Hall in Council Chambers (Initial Report)
Agenda and Meeting Materials:
<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/public-works>
- **Board of Parks Commissioners** - August 18 | 4:00 pm via Zoom (Vote on Permanent Closure)
Agenda and Meeting Materials:
<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/park-commissioners>
- **Board of Public Works** - September 1 | 5:30 pm at City Hall in Council Chambers (Final Vote)
Agenda and Meeting Materials:
<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/public-works>

NOTE:

The dates above are just my current best guess about when Lower Cascades will come up on the agenda. Please visit the web pages for those Boards and check for an updated agenda regularly so you don’t accidentally miss an opportunity to offer comment.



COMING UP: AUGUST 17-20 THE CITY'S 2021 BUDGET HEARINGS

Every year in August during one *packed* week, the Council hears a report from each department and program in the City. We'll learn about accomplishments and challenges in 2020, aspirations for 2021, and budget requests for the coming year. (I've often described these budget hearings as a graduate level course in municipal government.) In the weeks that follow, we work through tradeoffs and compromises, and we try to arrive at a budget that best reflects our community's values. And you can play a part ...

Meetings begin each night at 6:00 pm. They'll be broadcast live on CATS and residents are welcome to participate via Zoom. Every night includes opportunity for public comment – a chance for you to weigh in on how the City can best invest its resources. Here's what's on deck each night:

Monday, August 17

- Budget Overview
- Compensation and Health Insurance
- Human Resources
- Office of the City Clerk
- Legal
- Information and Technology Services
- City Council
- Office of the Controller
- Office of the Mayor

Tuesday, August 18

- Bloomington Fire Department
- Bloomington Police Department

Wednesday, August 19

- Public Transit
- Bloomington Housing Authority
- Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND)
- Economic & Sustainable Development
- Community & Family Resources
- Parks & Recreation

Thursday, August 20

- Utilities
- Public Works – General
- Animal Control
- Fleet Maintenance
- Traffic Control & Streets
- Sanitation
- Facilities

FIND OUT MORE:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/council/meetings/2020>



LEAF COLLECTION

Bloomington has long been designated a **Tree City** by the Arbor Day Foundation, and it's a nice testament to our natural environment. But having a lot of trees means that we also have a lot of leaves to manage every fall. With climate change producing more rainfall, we have to be especially careful about clogged storm drains and we have to find environmentally sustainable ways to manage all those leaves. At the same time, we need to be mindful of the City's budget and the annual cost of maintaining this expensive program.

Have trees in your neighborhood? Ever seen those giant vacuum trucks that come around in the fall and suck up all the leaves that residents rake to the curb? The City wants your feedback on this leaf collection program. Through **Monday, August 3**, renters and homeowners are invited to share your experience with this program and explore how we could improve it and make it as cost-effective as possible.

(Don't worry about this year! The City may do a pilot project in one neighborhood this fall, but we're not likely to see any wholesale changes before fall 2021.)

FIND OUT MORE:

Complete The Survey:

<https://tinyurl.com/leafing-survey-english> (English)
<https://tinyurl.com/leafing-survey-spanish> (Spanish)

Learn More About Leaf Collection and Stormwater::

<https://bloomington.in.gov/sanitation/leaf-collection>
<https://bloomington.in.gov/utilities/stormwater>



KEEP IN TOUCH! ↓

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