

ONE MORE SAFETY MEASURE DURING STORM SEASON



Get emergency alerts and other important community news through the **Monroe County Alert Program**.

You'll receive critical information quickly in a variety of situations including tornado warnings, unexpected road closures, missing persons, and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods. These time sensitive messages are based on any addresses you add to your account, so you're able to get messages for both home and work locations. You'll also get to pick how your messages are delivered: email, text, home phone, mobile phone, or all of the above. (I signed up last year, and the alerts have been as timely as my trusty NOAA weather radio!)

FIND OUT MORE:

<http://www.https://www.co.monroe.in.us/> and click on "Resident Alert Sign Up"



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 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 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



B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL ADOPTIONS

"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 **Animal Care and Control Adopted Animals**. How many animals have been cared for by the Bloomington Animal Shelter? (Hint: It's well over 10,000!) How many of their dogs have been named Ziggy? When was the last time someone adopted an iguana? It's all here!



FIND OUT MORE:

<https://data.bloomington.in.gov/dataset/adopted-animals/resource/>



LOWER CASCADES PARK: ROAD CONVERSATION PROJECT UPDATE

In March 2020, the City of Bloomington launched a pilot project to convert a .6 miles segment of Old State Road 37 North through Lower Cascades Park to a bicycle- and pedestrian-only trail. That pilot is continuing, and the City continues to gather feedback from park and trail users about their experience in the park. In addition to its impact on park users, the road closure may change some traffic patterns for northside neighborhoods.

FIND OUT MORE AND COMPLETE A SURVEY:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/parks/lower-cascades-road>



UDO TEXT AMENDMENTS AND ZONING MAP: PUBLIC HEARINGS + COUNCIL VOTES AHEAD

What changes will you be permitted to make to your property? What could a developer build on that lot down the street (or next door)? What materials need to be used for new construction in your neighborhood? When finalized, the **Unified Development Ordinance or “UDO”** (local laws governing land use and development) and the **Zoning Map** will answer *exactly* these kinds of questions for years to come.

(So this is a big deal!)

The most recent UDO was finalized in late 2019 and signed into law in April 2020. In October 2020, the City of Bloomington released early drafts of (1) several proposed changes to the **UDO** and (2) a revised **Zoning Map**. Public comment was abundant and spirited. New versions with further revisions followed in late February 2021, and I’m glad to say that those versions reflected some of public feedback.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In early March, proposed changes to the UDO were formally introduced to the **Plan Commission** as a series of ten proposed amendments. These amendments have been discussed and debated individually in recent weeks in a series of public hearings with multiple opportunities for public comment. Here are some key outcomes:

- **The number of new R4 Zones (urban residential areas that allow multiplexes) has been reduced** and concentrated in nodes or corridors across the city offering proximity to transit routes, major employers, schools, and/or shopping centers, or in new undeveloped areas.
- **Duplexes are permitted by right (not conditionally) in R1, R2, R3, and R4 zones.**
- In the existing R1-R3 zones, proposed **use-specific standards for physical spacing and timing of duplex projects** (designed to keep too many duplexes from being built in close proximity or in a short amount of time) were voted down.
- **Triplexes are permitted by right in R4, as are fourplexes.**

WHAT’S NEXT?

The **Plan Commission** will submit its recommendations to **City Council** (a process called “certifying”), most likely in the next week.

UDO Amendments:

Once recommendations have been certified, **City Council** then has 90 days to do one of the following: (1) *adopt* the proposed amendments (which gives them force of law), or (2) *amend* them, or (3) *reject* them. If we vote to amend or reject these ordinances, then we send those items *back* to **Plan Commission** with a statement of our reasoning. The Plan Commission then has 45 days to consider it’s next steps. If they approve our changes, the amended ordinances will become law. If the Plan Commission disapproves what we have submitted, then Council’s action on the *original* rejection or amendment will stand *only* if confirmed by *another* vote of Council within 45 days.

Zoning Map:

Once the Map is certified to **City Council**, we have 90 days to vote it up or down. We do not have the power to amend it. If we vote it up, then it takes effect. If we reject it, then the map is defeated.

If City Council fails to take *any* action on the above items (HIGHLY unlikely!), then the amendments and new Zoning Map automatically become law.

City Council will offer multiple opportunities for public comment, and your feedback is welcome and needed. Help your representatives understand how proposed zoning will affect you and your neighborhood. In addition, please consider sharing your feedback through online surveys on the project website.

FIND OUT MORE:

bloomington.in.gov/planning/udo/map/updates



KEEP IN TOUCH! →

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