

HAND INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR 2022 NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT GRANTS!

The Department of **Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND)** has announced the start of the 2022 grant cycle for **Neighborhood Improvement Grants**. These awards are intended for capital projects with a minimum budget of \$1,100 and a 10% match. Ridgefield Village, Blue Ridge, Matlock Heights, and several other neighborhoods have been successful in securing grant funding in the past, and some great projects have come to fruition as a result, including these nifty new benches added in Ridgefield Village just last year. →→ →→ →

It's never too early to begin the planning process, so use these winter months to organize, gather input from neighbors, and settle on a project that enhances your neighborhood.

How do we begin?

Start by attending **one** of two **Virtual Information Meetings**. These are MANDATORY for applicants and will be offered on Tuesday, January 25th at 6:00 pm and on Monday, January 31st at 7:00 pm.

What kind of projects should we be thinking about? What's been funded in the past?

How about one of the following for your neighborhood?

- community garden or landscaping
- picnic shelter
- performance stage
- playground or fitness trail
- public art installation
- neighborhood entrance signs
- lighting improvements
- street sign toppers
- benches
- historical markers
- information kiosks
- pet waste stations

Neighborhood groups of all kinds are eligible to apply for HAND grants. Groups need not be registered neighborhood associations.



You'll find detailed guidelines, key dates, and an application form at the website below. Have more questions? Contact Angela Van Rooy, Neighborhood Services Program Manager at (812) 349-3505 or angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov.

FIND OUT MORE:

bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods/grants/improvement



B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: TRAFFIC DATA

"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 parking to potholes to bike paths.

This month I'm spotlighting our **Traffic Data** – a look at car traffic, bike/ped traffic, and crash data throughout the city.

FIND OUT MORE:

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



**ANOTHER GRANT OPPORTUNITY:
DO SOME SERIOUS SPRING CLEANING WITH A
HAND NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP GRANT**

A cleanup can be one of the most satisfying ways to build community in your neighborhood. Neighbors come together on a Saturday morning to rid their homes and properties of trash, scrap metal, hazardous materials, tires, and brush/limbs. There is also a "picker pile" for gently used items, because one person's trash just might be another's treasure. The City's Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) provides the means of disposal, and the neighborhood provides the volunteers.



Neighborhood groups of all kinds are eligible to apply for HAND grants. Groups need not be City-registered neighborhood associations to apply.

HAND awards two Cleanup Grants per year on a competitive basis. These Cleanup Days take place in the spring on a Saturday in April, May or June. 2022 application forms are now available, and the application deadline is **March 7, 2022**. A successful neighborhood cleanup requires advanced coordination among neighbors, so start planning now!

For more information visit the cleanup grant webpage, and contact Angela Van Rooy, Neighborhood Services Program Manager with questions at (812) 349-3505 or angela.vanrooy@bloomington.in.gov.

FIND OUT MORE:

bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods/grants/clean-ups

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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TREE UPDATES FROM OUR URBAN FORESTER

Erin Hatch, Bloomington's Urban Forester, cares for and manages City-owned trees - those that grow on public land, including parks and *public rights-of-way* (ROWS).

With nearly 20,000 trees to care for, that's a BIG job!

The ROW typically extends beyond the edge of the roadway by about 10 feet. This area (referred to as an "easement", and "public right-of-way") is reserved for public utilities, infrastructure, amenities, or other features like drainage, tree preservation, environmental conservation, or pedestrian access. (For more info, see the Bloomington Municipal Code 20.05.040).

Trees that grow in this 10-foot strip--regardless of whether or not a sidewalk is present--are considered City trees, and are thus the responsibility of the urban forester. Need to know if that tree at the corner of your yard is a "city tree"? The **TreeKeeper** website has an inventory of Street trees and some Park trees and can help determine if it's a City tree. Want to learn more about tree species most suited to Bloomington's soil and climate? Check out the City's *outstanding Tree Care Manual*.

FIND OUT MORE:

- bloomingtonin.treekeepersoftware.com
- issuu.com/bloomingtonparks/docs/tree_care_manual_4th_edition_0117

