

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 get started!



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

B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: POTHOLES!

"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.



In the spirit of spring, I'm spotlighting our *Requests to Fill A Pothole* – a look at the requests coming in via U-Report and 311 to patch potholes on the City's 237 miles of streets.



FIND OUT MORE:

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

UREPORT: ON LINE REPORTING AND HELP REQUESTS

And of course, you too can submit a request to patch a pothole on your street (or trim shrubs that block a sidewalk, or fix a broken streetlight.) **Use UReport!**

This online portal is a quick, easy way to communicate with the city about these kinds of non-emergency issues, and it even has a place to upload your photos of whatever needs attention.

FIND OUT MORE:

bloomington.in.gov/ureport-about

WHAT'S ALL THIS I'M HEARING ABOUT REDISTRICTING? HOW WILL IT IMPACT ME?

Every ten years, following completion of the federal census, states and municipalities undertake the process of redistricting, which includes revisiting and often redrawing boundaries for government and political districts, including the following:

- US Congressional Districts
- Political Precincts
- County Commissioner/Council Districts
- Bloomington Common Council Districts

So what's happened so far?

Results of the 2020 Census were released in August 2021. While the City of Bloomington is challenging the accuracy census numbers (more about that in another column), some work has already been done by the State Legislature:



US Congressional Districts – These have been redrawn (fairly substantially in some cases) by the state legislature (although most all of us

remain in District 9 and will be choosing our new Representative this fall.) Find out more and compare the before/after maps at: projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-2022-maps/indiana/



Indiana State Senate and State House Districts – We also saw some revisions here, although most of us continue to be represented by **Senator Shelli Yoder**

(District 40) and **Representative Matt Pierce** (District 61). You'll find more info at iga.in.gov/information/senate_district_map/

APRIL CONSTITUENT MEETING

Saturday, April 2, 2022 | 1:30 pm

Zoom/In-Person Details TBA

Okay, but what about local redistricting. Have any changes been made here?

Yes! Back in October, the Monroe County Commissioners appointed a four-member advisory committee and charged them with making recommendations on three sets of boundaries: **political precincts** (the smallest political units/building blocks), **County Commissioner Districts**, and **County Council Districts**

Precincts – Done! *Your precinct determines, among other things, where you vote on Election Day.*

You'll find more information on precinct boundaries and the associated population numbers at moco-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=63d90826263f4177b7e0c09de0d594b3.

(Apologies for the super-long URL!)



County Commissioner / County Council Districts -

Also done! Residents of Commissioner District 1 (currently represented by **Lee Jones**) will be electing their representative this fall as will residents of Council Districts 1 (**Peter Iverson**), 2 (**Kate Wiltz**), and 4 (**Jennifer Crossley**).

So what's next? What else is needed?



City of Bloomington Common Council (aka City Council) -

Municipal elections won't be held until 2023, but in the meantime, the Citizen's Redistricting Advisory Commission (CRAC) will be revisiting and possibly revising existing City Council districts. While it's relatively rare that boundaries shift dramatically, it's possible that your precinct may be shifted to a different district in 2023 and represented by a different councilmember beginning in 2024.

Find out more and follow the group's work here:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/council/redistricting>