

B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: PARKS & RECREATION TRAIL MAPS

“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 *Parks & Recreation Trail Maps*.

Even on the snowiest days (and maybe especially on snowy days!) Bloomington has some of the most beautiful hiking trails, including my favorite, pictured here ... the Waterfall Trail in Lower Cascades.



FIND OUT MORE:

<https://data.bloomington.in.gov/dataset/parks-and-recreation-trail-maps>

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

ONE MORE RESOURCE DURING TOUGH TIMES: YOUR TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Your township trustee is an elected official charged with providing emergency assistance to Bloomington Township residents who are experiencing unforeseen hardship. The trustee can help with basic necessities like rent, utilities, food, and some medical care. In keeping with COVID-19 precautions, Township offices are closed for in-person assistance, but staff are happy to meet and assist by phone:

Monday thru Friday | 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
(812) 336-4976

FOOD PANTRY HOURS:

Tuesday thru Thursday | 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Please call 812-349-8819 to order. Delivery is curbside.

FIND OUT MORE:

<http://www.bloomingtontownship.in.gov/>

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:

<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards>

**NOW AVAILABLE:
REVISED DRAFT OF BLOOMINGTON UDO
ZONING MAP AND TEXT AMENDMENTS**

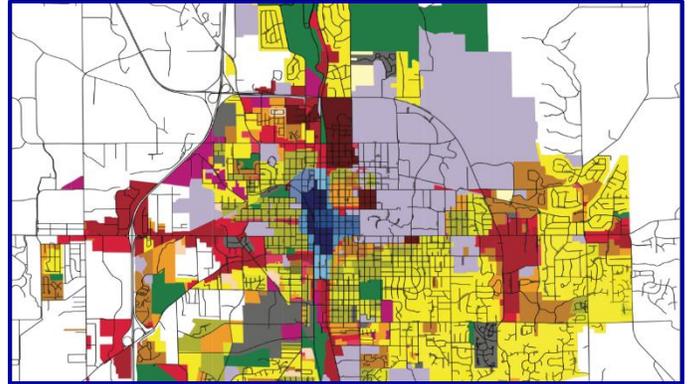
What changes will you be permitted to make to your property? What could a developer build on that lot down the street (or next door)? What materials need to be used for new construction in your neighborhood? When finalized, the *Unified Development Ordinance* (local laws governing land use and development)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

(So this is a big deal!)

The early drafts of these documents were introduced back in October, and the public comment has been abundant and spirited. Now, revised drafts of the *Zoning Map* and the *Unified Development Ordinance* (UDO) text amendments have been released, and I'm glad to say that they reflect much of that feedback. The newest Map and UDO Amendments will be formally introduced at a Plan Commission Hearing on Monday, March 8th.

Big changes (compared to the map we saw last October) include the following:

- **The number of new R4 Zones (urban residential areas that allow multiplexes) has been significantly 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.
- The new R4 Zone will allow duplex, triplex, fourplex, live/work, multifamily, and cottage development, **but the revision will designate all as conditional**, meaning that all will require a public review and approval through the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- In the existing R1 - R3 zones (where fourplexes were already prohibited), **triplexes have been removed as either a permitted or conditional use, and duplexes have been shifted to conditional use**, again requiring public review.
- In the existing R1 - R3 zones, **use-specific standards for duplexes have been modified to include physical spacing and timing requirements** that will avoid concentration and allow ongoing evaluation and monitoring.



The **Plan Commission** will now hold special hearings to consider the new *Zoning Map* and series of text amendments that clarify or change uses and standards in the UDO. Once a "final" version of the map and final amendments have been approved by the Plan Commission, the process moves to City Council.

City Council then has 90 days to do one of two things: **(1)** approve the map (which gives it force of law), or **(2)** send it back to the Plan Commission with recommended changes (in which case the cycle would start again). If City Council fails to do either of those things, then the new Zoning Map automatically becomes law.

Both the Plan Commission and City Council will offer multiple opportunities for public comment, and your feedback is welcome and needed. Help these groups 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! →

Sue Sgambelluri
City of Bloomington Common Council
District II Representative

Council Office:
401 N Morton Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

E-Mail:
sue.sgambelluri@bloomington.in.gov

Phone:
Office: (812) 349-3409
Cell: (812) 345-3215

SueForCityCouncil.com