



From the Ground Up

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Welcome to the first electronic newsletter generated by the Building and Zoning Division of Community Development. It is our hope that we can provide you with information as to the current issues and projects that we are handling. The initial plans are to provide bi-monthly information available through the City's website. Feel free to subscribe to this service.



"It takes everyone in a community to keep our homes, schools, offices, stores and other buildings safe."

Citywide Resource Plan

This project is under contract to Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. They will be assessing the existing natural, agricultural and cultural assets and create an action plan to protect these resources, as well as to incorporate those assets into future development plans. Areas looked at may include the development of a walkable trail/greenway along the floodplain (Lindenthal Creek and Laurel Branch), a forestry set aside program along the creeks, trails connecting the city parks and a tie to the county trail system and Silver Lake watershed. This list is just an example of some of the resources they may look at.

Floodplain Maps



While the preliminary floodplain maps are out for comment, the City is quite aware there are areas of the maps that may be erroneous. We have contracted to have some general elevation shots and a flood model run in the areas of major discrepancy. However, it is still up to the individual property owners to appeal the flood information affecting their property should they feel it is incorrect.

Areas of Interest:

1. *Citywide Resource Plan*
2. *Floodplain Maps*
3. *Property Maintenance*

**City of Highland's
Community
Development
Mission
Statement:**

*To ignite positive
change through
orderly development
and revitalization of
quality construction
while serving in a
courteous,
professional, and
ethical manner.*

Property Maintenance

There has been a significant increase in the number of issues related to the condition of real estate occurring in Highland. While the City has codes that do address those issues, we would rather work with you to resolve any property maintenance issues rather than have to go through our process, which if no correction is done may lead to court and/or fines. Taking pride in your property may lead to a bigger reward for you in the form of increased property values. Simple steps like taking a walk around your property and evaluate the condition of your buildings twice a year. This will allow you to catch minor issues which can be corrected before they turn into major issues and may be costly to repair. Should you discover a major issue and do not have the funds readily available, there are several avenues you can use to correct the problems. Madison County has a low interest loan program available and a home repair grant program available for rehabilitation. You may reach them at (618)296-4452.

Keeping your grass mowed (under 8"), dispose of any piles of junk, derelict vehicles, painting and touching up the exterior of the buildings on your property will go a long way in helping keep your neighborhood looking beautiful.

**City of Highland
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Zoning**

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We're on the Web!

www.ci.highlandil.us



Feel free to contact Building and Zoning at 2610 Plaza Drive, (618) 654-7115 or via email at highlandzoning@highlandil.gov should you have any questions or comments.

SAFETY FIRST!



Test your
Smoke
Detectors

Every Week!