

City of South Bend **Common Council** 

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## <u>NEWS RELEASE</u>

**Subject:** South Bend Alleys Receive Makeovers Friday, September 1, 2023 Date: Council President, Sharon L. McBride From: At-Large Councilmember, Karen L. White Contact: Bob Palmer, Council Attorney: bpalmer@southbendin.gov

## South Bend Alleys Receive Makeovers

South Bend Common Council President and Third District Representative, Sharon McBride and At-Large Councilmember Karen White, together with Public Works Director Eric Horvath, recently announced the continuation of an Alley Pilot Program to remedy many problems residents have with alleys. The program identified three (3) critical paths to alley improvement: 1) making alleys passable by clearing brush; 2) alley cleanups by the City in partnership with neighborhood organizations; and 3) improved alley assessment and grading.

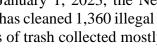
Brush cleaning began in late 2022 and continues. One hundred sixty-three (163) alleys have been completed. One hundred seventy-five (175) alleys remain to be completed.

Since April 20, 2023, Neighborhood Services and Enforcement (NSE) has conducted sixteen (16) successful neighborhood cleanups, more than twice the total number from 2022. Volunteers and NSE staff work together to clean public areas, including alleys.

Since January 1, 2023, the Neighborhood Enforcement Action Team (Neat Crew) has cleaned 1,360 illegal dumps and 1,525 tires. This equates to 326,125 pounds of trash collected mostly from alleys and vacant lots.

The City has received 258 requests for alley grading. These requests justified the City's order for two (2) additional graders to supplement the one currently in use. An asset management company, Streetlogix, has been hired by the City to complete assessments of not only alleys, but also all streets and sidewalks.

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