



BECOME A NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNER

HELP ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF VACANT AND ABANDONED PROPERTIES IN SOUTH BEND

THE CHALLENGE

The issue of vacant and abandoned properties has been a major concern for South Bend. The economic shocks of past decades, combined with population shifts and changes in the housing market, have combined to leave communities like ours with more homes than families can fill, and many teetering on the brink between demolition and rehabilitation.

Shortly after taking office in 2012, Mayor Pete Buttigieg convened a group of city and county officials, private sector practitioners, and neighborhood

advocates to form a working group on this policy challenge. This group took on the dual challenge of analyzing the dimensions of South Bend's problem, and assessing the elements of a comprehensive solution.

The result of this yearlong effort is the Vacant & Abandoned Properties Taskforce Report. In conjunction with the report, the mayor announced in February 2013, an effort to address 1,000 vacant and abandoned homes in 1,000 days.

PROPERTY REUSE OPTIONS



REPAIRS & REHAB

Not all abandoned houses need to be demolished. Some can, and should, be repaired or rehabbed. Costs range from \$1,000 for minor repairs to over \$100,000 for rehabs.



DEMOLITION

Houses that are a health and safety hazard must be demolished. Vacant lots created as a result have many reuses. Demolitions typically run in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 range.



URBAN GARDENING

Urban gardening offers an opportunity for neighbors to grow food for themselves and/or provide for those in need. Supplies for an urban garden can cost up to \$3,000.



SIDE LOT

A side lot allows a property owner to use the larger yard for kids to play, to plant a garden, or to increase the value of a home. Platting and other fees to transfer lots can be up to \$2,000.



POCKET PARK

With some effort and commitment from neighbors, vacant lots can be transformed into neighborhood parks and green space. Equipment and materials can cost up to \$7,000 for small parks.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Neighborhood Partners join a comprehensive effort to create a safer, more sustainable future for the residents of South Bend. This initiative aims to increase the overall quality of life, vitality, tax base, and aesthetic of our neighborhoods. The large number of vacant and abandoned homes is an issue that needs to be addressed by the whole community. Working together we ensure that every South Bend neighborhood is a great place to live.

Below are sponsorship levels that we encourage businesses and individuals to consider. Funds raised through this effort will be utilized towards a number of initiatives including rehabilitations, demolitions, pocket parks, and urban gardens. Contact Community Investment Assistant Executive Director Chris Fielding for more information: cfieldin@southbendin.gov or 574-235-5822.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Neighborhood Visionary	\$100,000 +
Neighborhood Stabilizer	\$50,000 - \$99,999
Neighborhood Builder	\$25,000 - \$49,999
Neighborhood Advocate	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Neighborhood Supporter	\$5,000 - \$9,999
The Good Neighbor	\$1,000 - \$4,999

The City of South Bend also welcomes individuals and groups to volunteer time towards this effort.

PROPERTY DONATIONS

The City of South Bend encourages individuals, banks, or other title holders to donate vacant or foreclosed property.

BENEFITS

Neighborhood Partners qualify for:

1. Premiere signage on sites.
2. Recognition on a plaque displayed in Mayor's Office.
3. Company's logo or family's name on the City's website and print correspondence regarding this initiative.
4. City of South Bend appreciation certificate.

CONTACT

If you would like to participate as a Neighborhood Partner or discuss property donations, please contact **Chris Fielding** at cfieldin@southbendin.gov or 574-235-5822.



“South Bend can meet the ambitious goal of tackling 1,000 houses in 1,000 days, but only if we all focus and work together.”

—Mayor Pete Buttigieg



Mayor Pete Buttigieg
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