

# Citywide sidewalk cleanup day event planned for June 12

*James S. Rosien  
Leader Reporter*

A team of local citizens are banding together to help build a community that's more physically active in Anaconda, and they're starting with a place that's often taken for granted: the sidewalks.

As a way to help improve residents' access to a more active lifestyle, the Building Active Anaconda Team (BAAT) is organizing a citywide sidewalk cleanup day on Thursday, June 12.

The event will run all day and organizers hope at minimum to cover all of Commercial and Park Avenues between Main and Cedar Streets, though people are welcome to go beyond that or clean up the sidewalk on their own block, said Kris Smith, one of the organizers of BAAT.

"We just completed our sidewalk audit and the consensus was that we need a sidewalk cleanup party downtown," Smith said. "You don't have to show up at any specific time, just

anytime to volunteer for a block. We're hoping it grows into a citywide block party – you're responsible for the block you live on. Wherever you live, go outside and pull weeds or sweep the sidewalk."

The aim, Smith said, is to "create an active environment where people will want to walk downtown."

Organizers are asking that people bring gloves, brooms, dust pans, and pruning or garden sheers to the clean up event, and we will provide garbage bags. There will be a information/coordination booth set up in Durston Park.

The Building Active Anaconda Team originated from Anaconda's award to the Building Active Communities Initiative, a technical assistance grant awarded to the county from Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Center for Disease Control, stated Kaitlin Leary with the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Planning Department.

"The Building Active Communities Initiative focuses on helping communities address the epidemics of physical inactivity and poor nutrition with ideas on affecting communities' physical environments," Leary stated. "The Building Active Anaconda Team formed to do such in more personal, Anaconda style, and is aiming to assess, inspire and implement systematic change in areas concerning land use, active infrastructure, site design, and access and accessibility."

BAAT intends to hold a community presentation and involvement event in the coming months, she added.