

# BCO GreenSpace Chicago

## Project Overview



The Bowmanville Community Organization (BCO) is a volunteer group committed to maintaining and improving the quality of life for Bowmanville residents. Since its inception in 1987, the BCO has created a solid foundation of community service and neighborliness within the community. The BCO has engaged in large and small endeavors to preserve a high quality of urban living for over 1,500 households. One major focus has been to secure and preserve permanent open space within the Bowmanville Community.

The most recent efforts of the BCO GreenSpace Committee have led to the acquisition of the property at 5384 North Bowmanville Avenue that will be developed into green space via volunteer efforts and fundraising within the community. As the community rallies around these efforts, the BCO GreenSpace Committee continues to pursue opportunities and support to expand this site into a larger park space.



**Permanent Greenspace Secured for Bowmanville Community:** The Bowmanville Community Organization is proud to announce the successful acquisition of the property at 5384 North Bowmanville Avenue as Phase I of our greenspace Initiative. Funding for the purchase of the property was made possible through the generous support of the City of Chicago and CorLands, a division of Openlands. **ABOVE,** **CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:** The property at 5384 North Bowmanville Avenue was acquired in July 2010; demolition of the house took place in September 2010 to make way for the community's new greenspace; Greenspace supporters 40th Ward Alderman Patrick J. O'Connor (left), U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley (center) and Illinois State Senator Heather Steans (right) were on hand at the kickoff of the BCO GreenSpace Fundraising Campaign in August 2010; Bowmanville neighbors enjoy the newly acquired open space.

**To find out more, please contact [greenspace@bcochicago.org](mailto:greenspace@bcochicago.org) or call the BCO Hotline at 1-866-837-1006. Contributions can be made to BCO GreenSpace Chicago at 5361 North Bowmanville Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625-1008. You can also Donate Online! Simply go to [www.bcochicago.org](http://www.bcochicago.org) and follow the links to make a gift.**

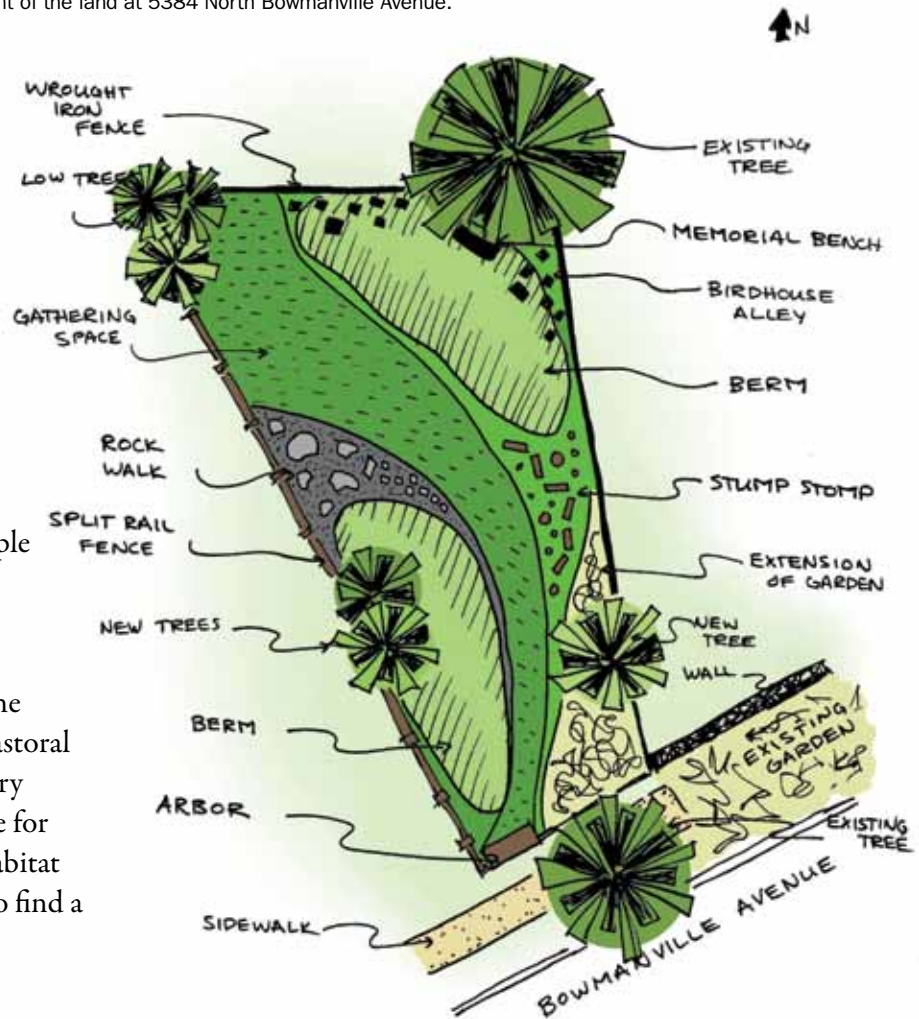
# Planning and Development



Neighbors gather to help plan the development of the land at 5384 North Bowmanville Avenue.

## Neighborhood input was invaluable in preparing the conceptual design for the green space at 5384 North Bowmanville Avenue.

Through neighbors' suggestions and discussion at our two charrettes (brainstorming sessions), we have developed an overall concept of a "Neighborhood Yard." Much like your own backyard, it serves multiple purposes and moods. It serves as a natural playscape that is appealing to all ages and abilities. It expands and preserves green space within the community, in keeping with the pastoral tranquility of the Rosehill Cemetery setting. Neighbors will find a place for quiet reflection amidst a natural habitat where birds and butterflies will also find a home.



## We need your continued support and assistance!

We need your help to transform our new green space into an enduring haven for people, plants and wildlife. Please help us design, develop and maintain the land we have acquired by contributing to our **goal of \$50,000 and 5,000 community service hours** by August 2012. Each contribution is tax deductible through our partnership with Friends of the Parks, acting as our fiscal agent.

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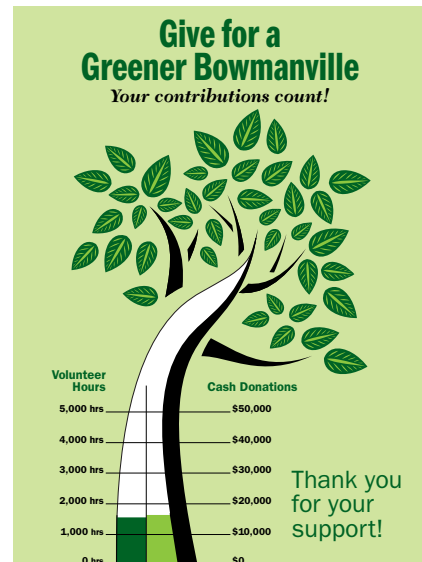
## Easy Ways That You Can Help!

**Give generously!** We need your financial support in order to design, develop and maintain the land we have acquired.

**Volunteer your time** — we need help with grant research and writing, fundraising and promotion during special events, flyer distribution, land development and maintenance.

**Provide in-kind donations** — raffle prizes for fundraising events, hardscape materials and printing are all needed.

**Host a house party** for your neighbors and invite them to support BCO GreenSpace.



(as of April 2011)

## Fundraising for GreenSpace has Community Support



**May 30, 2009 at Bowmanville's Gateway Garden:** U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley toured the neighborhood and provided early critical support for the community's GreenSpace Initiative.



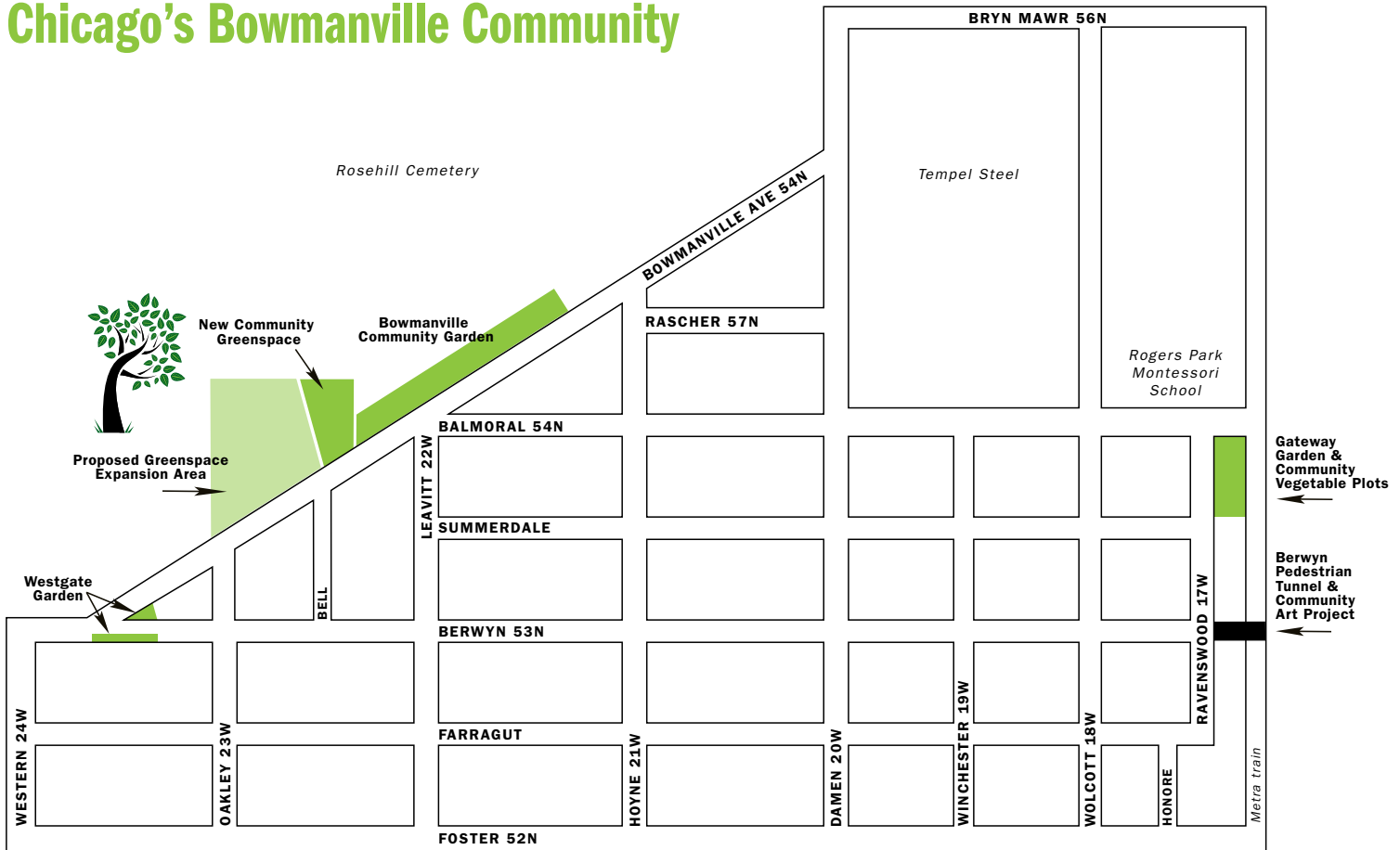
**Bowmanville Kids' Lemonade Stand** raised more than \$300 for **BCO GreenSpace** at the 2010 Garden Walk. Helena and Cate Shingler were two of 12 local kids making it happen!



**Fundraising for GreenSpace Through the Seasons:** (above, left to right) Neighbors of all ages were on hand for the **GreenSpace Fundraising Campaign Kick-off** at the annual BCO Ice Cream Social in August 2010. The GreenSpace Committee launched a **scooter raffle** at the BCO Fall Festival in October to raise needed funds for the community's new greenspace. Raffle ticket sales were brisk at Lincoln Square's Christkindl Market in December. The winning ticket was drawn at the BCO's Open Meeting in March 2011.

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# Chicago's Bowmanville Community



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The **Bowmanville Community Organization (BCO)** is established as a not-for-profit corporation under the General Not for Profit Act of Illinois. The BCO is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, not-for-profit civic organization, providing an important communication link within the community and with local officials and other organizations to ensure that the interests of the members of the community are being addressed.



**Friends of the Parks (FOTP)** is a 501(c)(3) designated park advocacy organization, dedicated to preserving, protecting, and improving Chicago's parks and forest preserves for all citizens. Contributions made in support of BCO GreenSpace Chicago programming are fully tax deductible through the BCO's partnership with Friends of the Parks.

## BCO GreenSpace Committee

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NeighborSpace

**NeighborSpace** helps community groups protect and secure their community garden or park from potential development, and works in concert with many private and public partners — including the City of Chicago and Chicago Park District — to preserve and expand community managed open space in Chicago. NeighborSpace has been instrumental in the ongoing development of Bowmanville's award-winning community gardens.



Founded in 1963, **Openlands** protects the natural and open spaces of northeastern Illinois and the surrounding region to ensure cleaner air and water, protect natural habitats and wildlife, and help balance and enrich our lives. Openlands was instrumental in helping the BCO secure the property at 5384 North Bowmanville by providing legal and financial guidance.

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