



THE VISION: To preserve and expand what has become a valuable community resource - the Bowmanville Gateway Garden. Since 2009 this garden has provided Bowmanville and nearby Chicago neighborhoods vital open space to grow food, build community, and learn key skills for a sustainable future.

The plan is to permanently acquire the land, and in doing so double the size of the existing garden. Within the expanded space, neighbors envision year-round food growing, ecological education for children and parents, accessible gardening for the elderly and persons with disabilities, and a quiet oasis in a hectic urban environment. Individual gardeners will enjoy expanded growing areas, and



local organizations and businesses will have the chance to invest in and maintain dedicated growing space.

Situated at the intersection of Bowmanville, West Edgewater, West Andersonville, and the Ravenswood Industrial Corridor, the garden is a point of convergence for many diverse communities. This commonly maintained space nurtures gathering and collaboration that reaches across socio-economic, generational, and geographic lines.

The Bowmanville Community Organization (BCO) has formed a strategic partnership with non-profit NeighborSpace to acquire the land. NeighborSpace is the only non-profit urban land trust in Chicago that preserves and sustains gardens on behalf of dedicated community groups. With the additional space, the garden will cover one-third of an acre – the equivalent of four city lots. A permanent green space of this size on the dense north side of Chicago will be an unprecedented boon for the well-being of the surrounding communities.

THE GOAL: To make this vision a reality, the Bowmanville Community Organization is committed to raise \$50,000 by the end of summer 2017. These funds will be matched by contributions from the City of Chicago and environmentally focused not-for-profit organizations.

[DONATE HERE](#) to preserve and expand this valuable community resource.

[PROGRESS](#) including fundraising totals and a donor's list are updated regularly at www.bcochicago.org.

[READ MORE](#) about this opportunity, organizations supporting this effort, and the garden's history.

[CONTACT](#) planning@bcochicago.org to help.



FUNDRAISING

Contributions from individuals, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations are needed. Contributions are tax deductible through the partnership with NeighborSpace, a registered 501(c)(3) organization.



Business and Foundation Giving

If your organization can offer support, or if you can connect us with prospective donors, please contact planning@bcochicago.org.

Many groups have already stepped forward in support of this effort. Supporters include:

- NeighborSpace
- Bowmanville Community Organization (BCO)
- Alderman Patrick O'Connor, City of Chicago Ward 40
- Driehaus Foundation
- U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley, IL District 05
- Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce
- Andersonville Chamber of Commerce
- Rogers Park Montessori School
- Amundsen High School
- Holland & Knight LLP
- NorthEdgeGroup @properties
- Mobile Perspectives LLC

Individual Giving

Donations at any level are appreciated! A matching gift campaign is underway during May. Individual donations will be matched up to \$1000. **DONATE NOW.**

Donors can designate how they would like to be acknowledged for their donation, with an option to remain anonymous.

Thus far seventeen individual ambassadors have offered up their personal networks, creative ideas, and hospitality toward our fundraising effort. Each ambassador has committed to raising at least \$500. To lend your support as a fundraising ambassador contact planning@bcochicago.org.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Bowmanville - A Garden in the City

The Bowmanville neighborhood, located in the Lincoln Square community area of Chicago, has been a leading example of community driven open land preservation. Comprising just over 1,500 households, the neighborhood has worked with the City of Chicago and environmentally focused not-for-profits since 1996 to create shared green spaces. Bowmanville's four small community gardens have earned regional accolades, public and private grants, and multiple media spotlights.

The Gateway Garden – A Corner Transformed

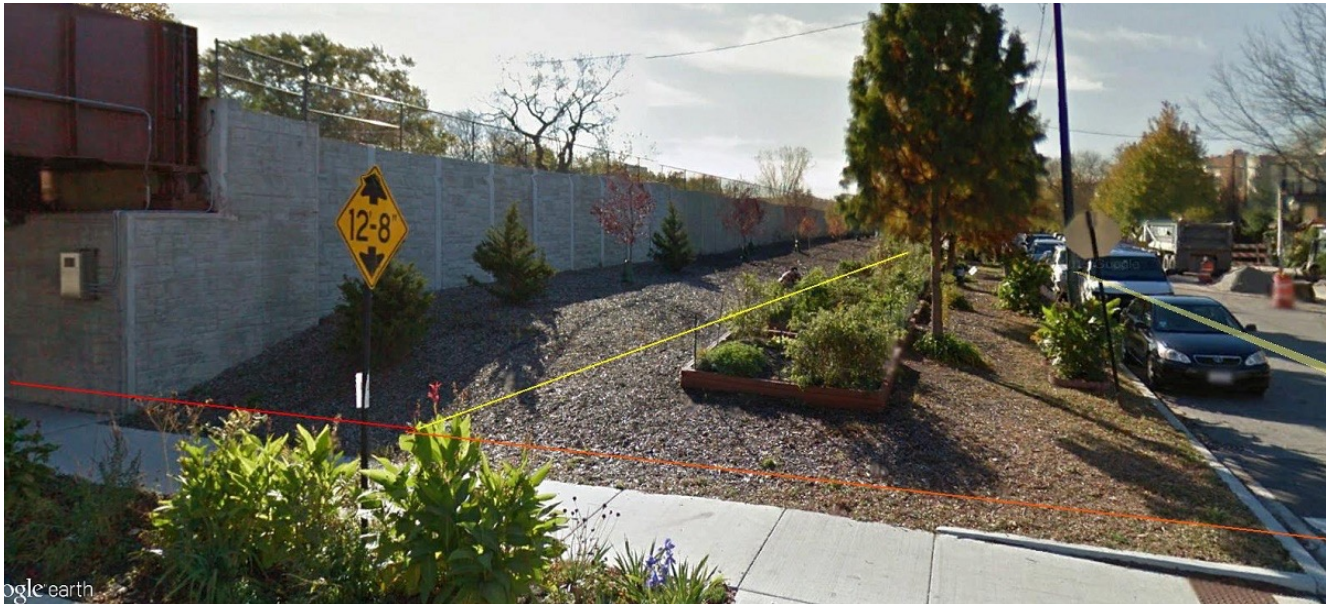
In the late 1990's, a group of dedicated Bowmanville neighbors banded together to clean up a narrow strip of land along the Metra tracks that was little more than an eyesore. The strip was littered with tires and choked with weeds, and was a destination for illegal fly-dumping. After successfully clearing and cleaning the land, the Bowmanville Community Organization (BCO) partnered with Chicago not-for-profit NeighborSpace to establish a community food garden. With support from 40th Ward Alderman Patrick O'Connor, in 2008 the BCO was granted permission to install 18 raised beds, as well as a picnic table and pergola on the land.



The current garden, which serves over 40 gardeners, sits on a public right of way and is maintained by community volunteers who donate their time, sweat, and financial contributions to make the garden flourish. The Gateway Garden hosts residents of the Bowmanville, West Andersonville, and West Edgewater neighborhoods, as well as gardeners who work along the revitalized Ravenswood Industrial Corridor and beyond.

The Threat of Development

The narrow private parcel located between the Gateway Garden and Metra rail tracks is privately owned and has been for sale, touted as a prime development opportunity in the burgeoning Andersonville/ Lincoln Square area. If this property were to be sold, not only would the gardeners lose access to the public land on which they grow, Rogers Park Montessori School would lose the teaching plot that serves as an outdoor classroom for the school's nascent food gardening program, and the neighborhoods of Bowmanville, West Andersonville, and West Edgewater would lose much needed open space.



Room to Grow

In response to this threat, the BCO has partnered with NeighborSpace to acquire the private parcel and expand the Gateway Garden into a forum for urban agriculture and community building. Our offer was accepted on the condition that funds for the purchase price be raised **by the end of summer 2017**. The BCO and NeighborSpace are working together to secure funds from both public and private sources.

Full funding is contingent on the community raising its share – \$50,000 – to acquire the land and build out the vision.

NeighborSpace – A Key Partner for Community-Managed Open Space

NeighborSpace is the only non-profit urban land trust in Chicago that preserves and sustains gardens on behalf of dedicated community groups. NeighborSpace supports over 100 community gardens in the City– through property ownership, insurance, water, stewardship, education, tool lending, project planning, fundraising support, troubleshooting, and more — so that community groups can focus on gardening and on their community-building vision, generating food, beauty, play, health, and safety for their neighborhoods. For more information, visit www.neighbor-space.org.