



- RECOGNIZE THE NEED
- ASSESS YOUR RESOURCES
- GET THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED
- MAKE A VISUAL IMPACT
- SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

Turn Blight into Right



Blight

Urban Dictionary

The feeling, when walking through a part of town, that this neighborhood has seen better days.

The decline of a part of the city from thriving neighborhood to encroaching disrepair.

Usually, blight begins with the construction of a mall/huge shopping complex, which drains local businesses of needed revenue, causing them to fail, leading eventually to joblessness and poverty.

The first signs of blight are poorly kept properties, damaged building facades and an increasing number of "for sale" signs.



Making it Right

Public/Private
Partnerships

Community
Garden(ing)

Riverwalk

The "606"

Green Roof

Special
Service Areas

Small Projects -
Big Impact

Chicago Gateway Green

- ▶ A public/private partnership 501c3 non-profit funded by corporate sponsorships and event fundraising
- ▶ **3 Main Programs**
 - ▶ Expressway Partnerships
 - ▶ International Sculpture Program
 - ▶ Days of Impact
 - ▶ Tree Plantings
 - ▶ Neighborhood clean-up



Benefits

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Removes contaminants from air, soil, and water
- Absorbs carbon emissions
- Replenishes groundwater supply by absorbing and purifying storm water, which reduces the risk of urban flooding

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Offsets taxpayers' burden by maintaining roadside landscape for the State of Illinois
- Provides beautiful views to visitors and residents during long commutes
- Reduces noise pollution for surrounding neighborhoods



Expressway Partnerships

- ▶ Leasing state highway parcels
 - ▶ Develop plans for clean-up and plantings
 - ▶ On-going maintenance
 - ▶ Trash removal
 - ▶ Tree trimming
 - ▶ Grass cutting
 - ▶ Mulching
 - ▶ On-going site remediation

Your Logo Here!



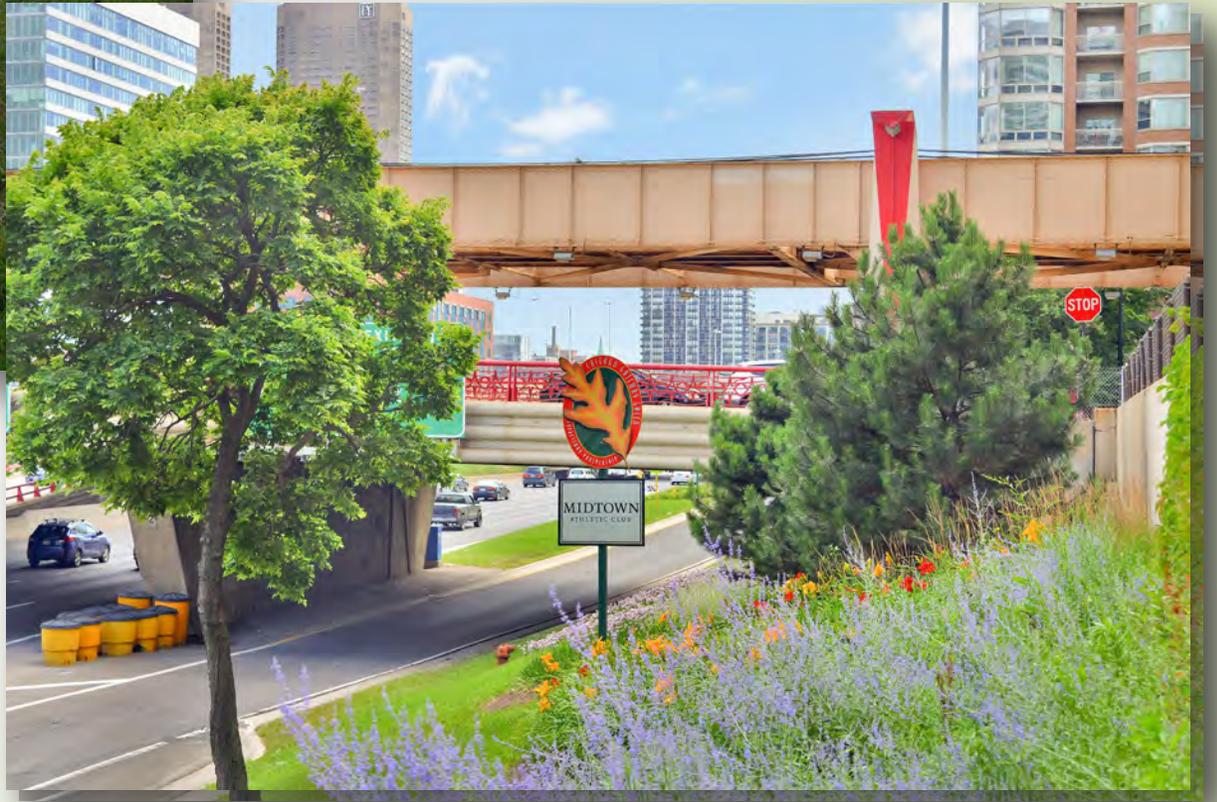
➤ Corporate Partners

AIB AWARD SPONSOR









International Sculpture Program

Permanent, large-scale public art applauds Chicago as an international city of culture. Civic stewards who sponsor their display establish a legacy of support for both the arts and environment.

Chicago Sister Cities International Program

The Chicago Sister Cities International Program, under the auspices of the Department of Cultural Affairs, provides leadership to develop, manage and coordinate comprehensive exchanges with Chicago's international sister cities.

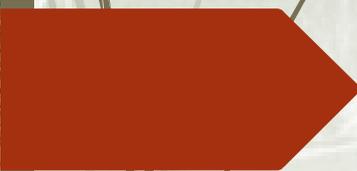
City of Chicago Public Art Program

The Public Art Program provides citizens of Chicago with improved public environments, through enhancement of city buildings and open public spaces, showcasing quality works of art by professional artists and artisans.





Taking it to the hood





PETERSON GARDEN PROJECT

PGP Pop-up Victory Gardens are sprouting all over Chicago. Pop-up Victory Gardens have a primary purpose, not of permanent green space, but to teach people in urban settings that they can grow their own food. PGP is focused on long-term *gardeners* more than long-term gardens.



Since the 1960s, community groups across Chicago have used vacant or untended lots as opportunities to create open spaces in their neighborhoods. These sites become important community assets that provide residents with opportunities to socialize with each other, plant and grow food, or simply be outside and enjoy nature.

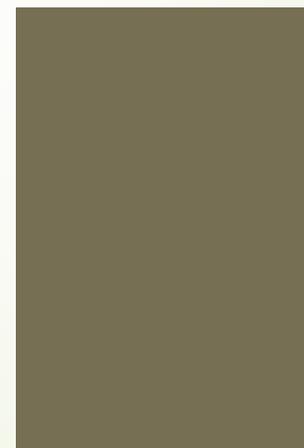
Grow2Give and Food Security

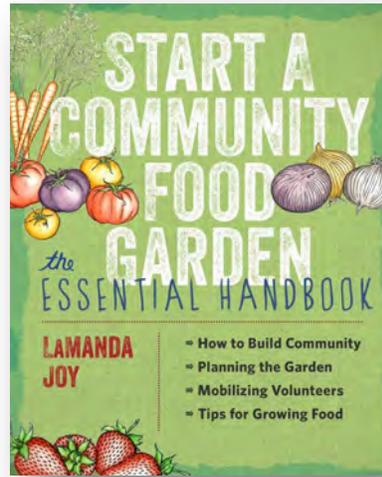
People today are concerned about the origin, availability and safety of their food—confusion about GMO labeling, what organic really means, “food miles” and other issues are important topics.

PGP removes the mystery by teaching everyone to grow, and cook, their own organic food. And start on a path of lifelong learning.

Grow2Give™ is a volunteer-run program growing fresh produce to share with others. The donations go to local food pantries or nutrition programs chosen by the community. The program addresses food security issues by introducing vulnerable populations to fresh produce.

Volunteers have grown six tons of food for our partners since 2010!

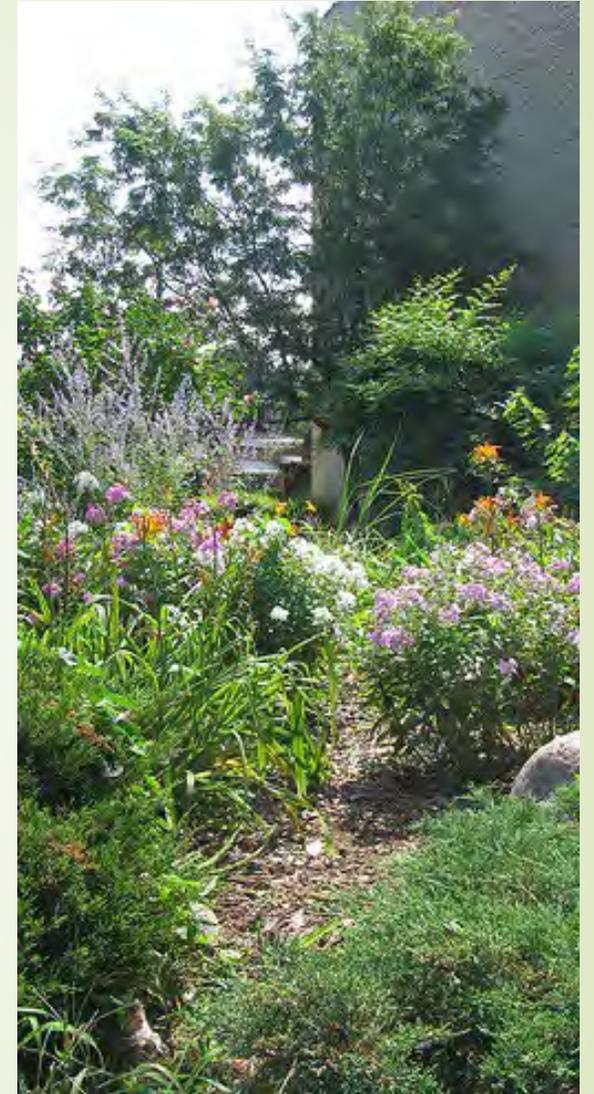
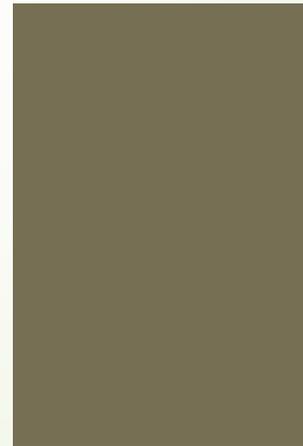






Neighborspace is now the steward of 109 community garden sites located in 33 wards across the City of Chicago.

In the mid-1990s, studies showed that Chicago ranked 18th out of 20 cities of comparable size in the ratio of open space acres to population. In response to these and other findings, leadership from the City of Chicago, Chicago Park District and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County came together to undertake the development of a comprehensive plan to expand open green space in the City.



42nd Street Garden

- Land provided by Neighborspace
- Plants and hardscape donated by Chicago Flower & Garden Show
- Design ideas and plans from Brightview Landscape and the director of Millennium Park
- Labor provided by local residents
- Grant from the City of Chicago - \$35,000





Take me to the River

Chicago's Riverwalk

The City has been working on the development plan for the Chicago Riverwalk since the 1990's.

During the reconstruction of East-West Wacker Drive, the roadway was reconfigured to allow greater public access to the river.

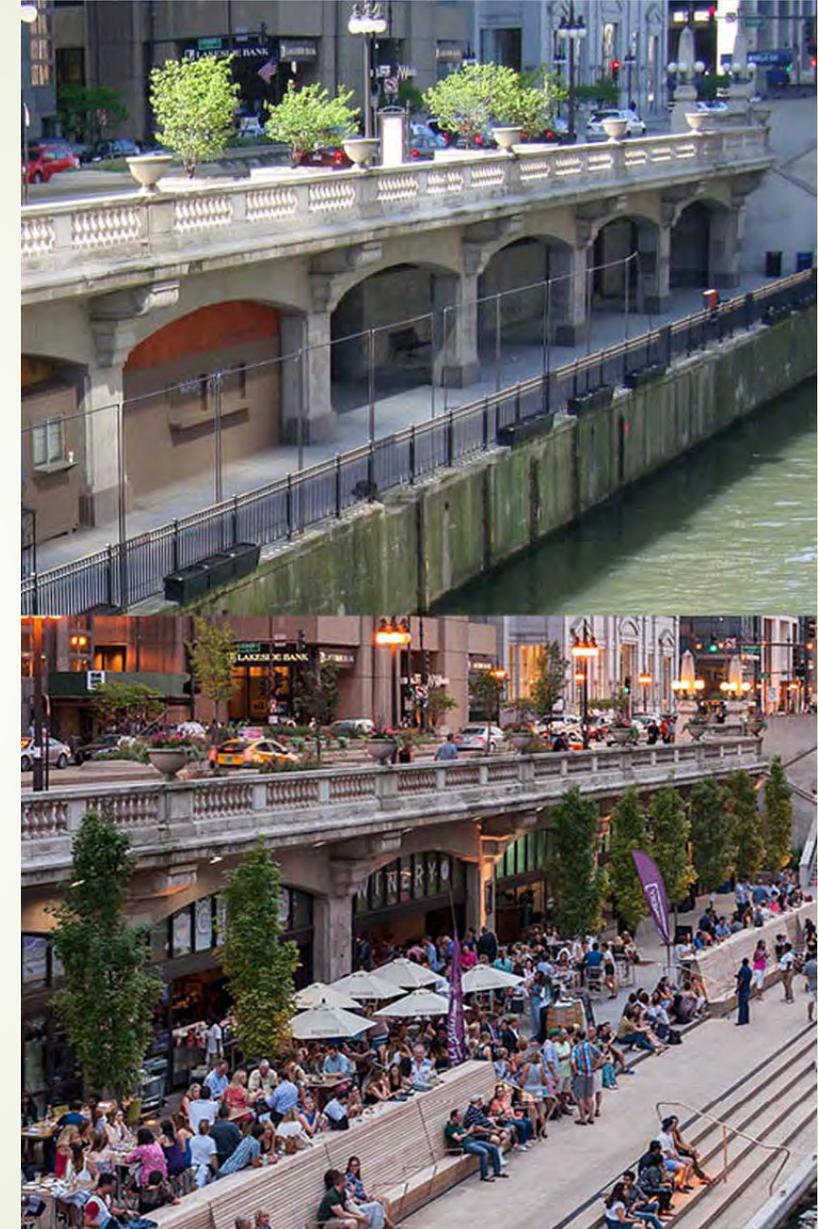
The City obtained **\$98 million** for design engineering and construction from the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA).



Mayor drops another \$10M into Riverwalk upgrades

In two years, and with \$10 million, Mayor Rahm Emanuel plans to overhaul another section of the Chicago Riverwalk that hasn't gotten much love.

Early August 2018 the [Chicago Tribune](#) reported the city's plans to invest more into the Riverwalk from State Street to Lakeshore Drive.





I Don't Hear the
Train a Comin'

2.7 Miles of Abandoned Train Tracks

Decades in the making... The 606

As train traffic slowed on the Bloomingdale Line in the 1990s, attention turned to how the train line might be used to increase much-needed green space.

The City of Chicago brought residents together to discuss an area of particular concern – Logan Square, a neighborhood that, at the time, had the least amount of open space per capita of any in Chicago.



Before

Despite the neighborhood's historic boulevards, Logan Square needed an additional 99 acres of active open space just to be brought up to City minimums.

The 2004 Logan Square Open Space Plan called for an ambitious reuse of the former industrial rail corridor. This spurred the formation of the Friends of the Bloomingdale Trail, a group of residents who would champion the project for the next decade, dedicated to making the vision become a reality.

Members of the Friends of the Bloomingdale Trail reached out to the national non-profit - Trust for Public Land, which helped bring together a coalition of city and civic organizations to move the project forward.



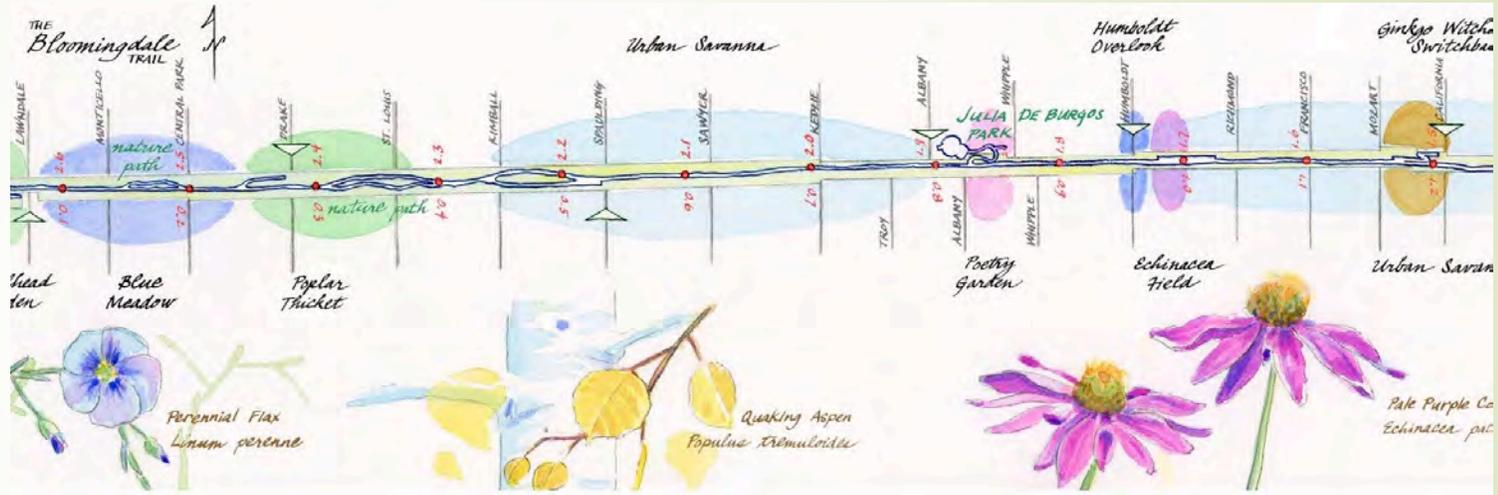


Community
Involvement

Leisure Activities

Community Events
& Interaction

Interactive Maps & Trails



The 606 is managed as part of the Chicago Park District, adding another 20 acres of open green space to Chicago's legacy of great parks.

During the decade-long planning process, the Chicago Park District has worked alongside the City and The Trust for Public Land in the design, creation, and upgrades of the six ground-level parks that connect to The 606's Bloomingdale Trail.





Rail Yards and Parking Lots

Millennium Park

Millennium Park sits on space that was previously occupied by rail yards and parking lots.

Through a massive civic effort, generous private donations and six years of tireless work, the Park ceremoniously opened on July 16, 2004.



From 1852 until 1997,
the Illinois Central
Railroad owned a right of
way between downtown
Chicago and Lake
Michigan, in the area that
became Grant Park and
used it for railroad tracks



#1 Tourist Attraction

In 2017, Millennium Park was the top tourist destination in Chicago and the Midwest, and placed among the top ten in the United States with 25 million annual visitors.

Being on top of parking structures, Millennium Park is considered one of the world's largest rooftop gardens.



It wasn't cheap!

The final cost of \$475 million was borne by Chicago taxpayers and private donors. The city paid \$270 million; private donors paid the rest, and assumed roughly half of the financial responsibility for the cost overruns.

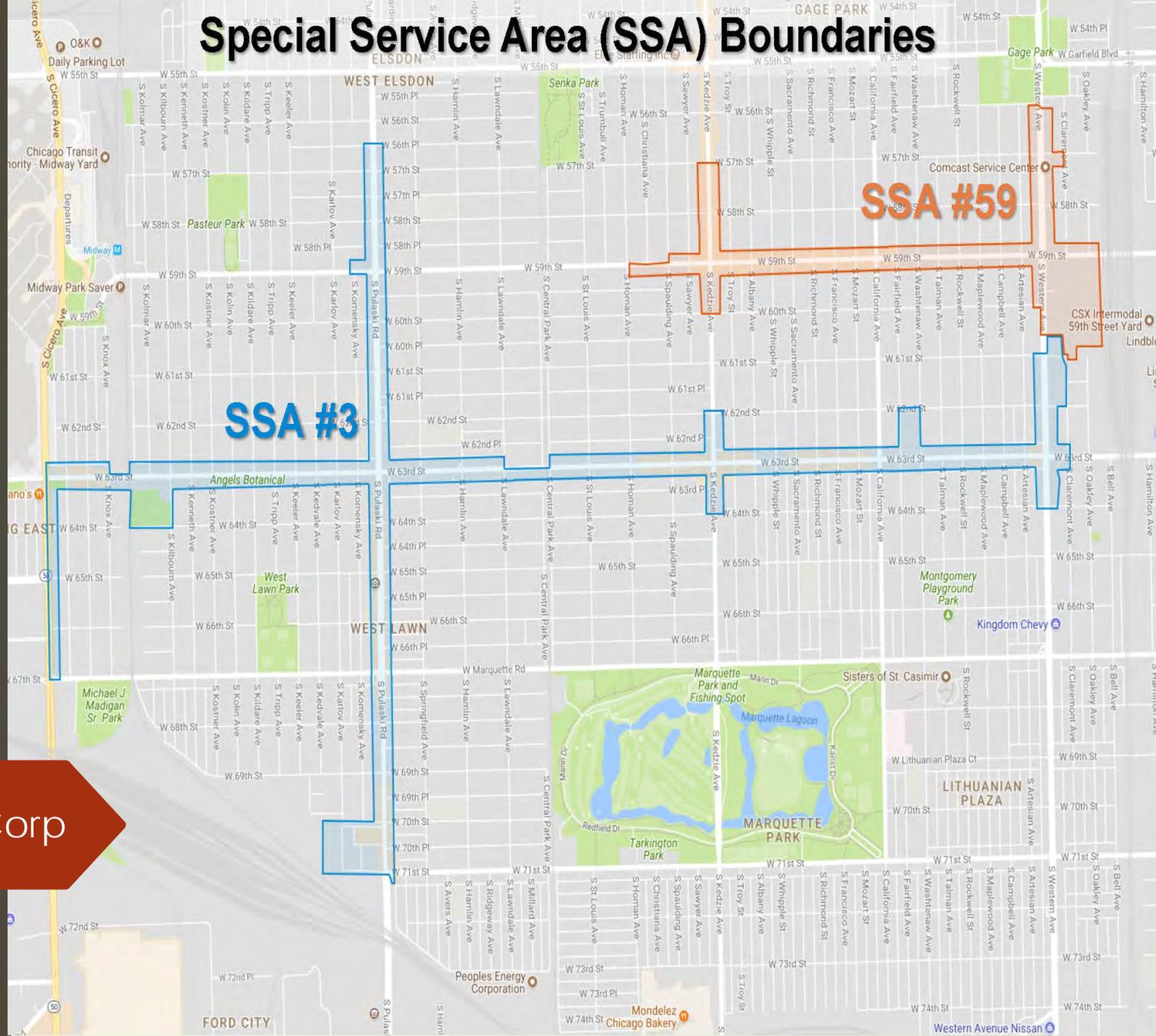
The community surrounding Millennium Park has become one of the most fashionable residential addresses in Chicago. In 2006, Forbes named the park's 60602 zip code as the hottest in terms of price appreciation in the country.



Special Service Area (SSA) Boundaries

An SSA is a geographic area that receives additional support through a variety of programs that you and your neighbors can utilize.

In 2017, GSDC gave out over \$200,000 to local businesses through various programs.



Greater Southwest Development Corp



Greater Southwest Development Corp

GSDC is a non-profit City of Chicago Delegate Agency that strives to improve economic development through

- (1) *job retention/creation*
- (2) *finding solutions for individual business needs*
- (3) *making linkages between businesses and their communities, and*
- (4) *coordinating City services*



Small Projects
Big Impact





BEFORE

NoTrees



Few Trees



Many Trees



Potential Impact of Trees on Streetscape AFTER

Gradual
change and
ongoing
improvements

BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



Alley Gate

Have Fun – Cultivate the Next Generation

Mounting a **Crescent Garden** Madison planter on to a wooden post as the head, using metal washers for eyes, rebar for arms, and painting a wooden board as the informative “t-shirt”, these Pot Head docents will have the kids giggling while they learn.





Blight into Right

Tony Abruscato – Chicago, Illinois

Chicago Gateway Green – Executive Director

Chicago Flower & Garden Show – Show Director

Get Growing Foundation – Founder & President

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