



BARDWELL AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN AURORA, IL

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An award-winning alley lighting program.
Neighborhood cleanup events.
A United Way pilot program involving kids and parents in crime prevention efforts.
Plans for a skate park.

These are just some of the achievements of the Bardwell Area Neighborhood, which was the first community to participate in the Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative (ANPI). Assisted by Teska Associates, Inc., the City of Aurora initiated the citywide ANPI program, providing the opportunity for residents and stakeholders shape the way their neighborhoods will grow and change over the next 20 years and beyond.

The Bardwell Area was chosen as the first neighborhood to utilize the new planning process. Located to the southeast of Downtown Aurora, the Bardwell Area is home to 5,000+ residents, of which almost two-thirds are Hispanic or Latino. Selected in part for its complexity (ethnic diversity, historic preservation, hospital campus redevelopment, aging homes, perception of violence), the neighborhood regularly produced more than one hundred residents at planning meetings. The process was hailed as one of the most engaging and successful public planning projects in the City's history.

Teska led the planning process in conjunction with City staff and volunteer members of a neighborhood Leadership Team. The planning process allowed the community to identify key issues, craft a vision statement, prioritize strategies, and form Task Forces to implement the strategies. The Neighborhood Action Plan and list of achievements testify to the collaborative partnership utilized during both the planning and implementation processes.

