The Rockefeller Park
Field Guide
Explore your Rockefeller Park!

Use this field guide to learn about the park and share ideas on how to make it better!

Rockefeller Park is the largest public park in the City of Cleveland at 254 acres. It connects Lake Erie to the neighborhoods of Glenville, St. Clair-Superior, Hough, and University Circle. The park is named for John D. Rockefeller, who donated the funds to purchase this land to celebrate Cleveland’s 100th birthday in 1896.

Rockefeller Park is home to the Doan Brook and is famous for its Cultural Gardens, lagoon, rock outcroppings, greenhouse, stone bridges, playgrounds, and tennis courts.

We created this Field Guide to help you connect with this outstanding park and share what you would like to see and do in the park in the future!

Map Legend

Map legends are keys to identifying where you are and finding your way. Look for these symbols throughout the Field Guide to find what you are looking for.

Compass - Shows the direction North, South, East, and West on a map. Use it to guide your way.

Parking
Information
Activity
Gateway
Scenic
Bikepath
Fishing
Play

Did you know? The central theme of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens is “Peace through mutual understanding.” There are over 30 cultures represented - with new gardens in the works!
Cultural Discovery
Take a trip and tell us about your journey!

List of Gardens
1. Centennial Peace Plaza and Kiosk
2. Latvian
3. Ukrainian
4. African-American
5. Romanian
6. Mexican
7. Serbian
8. Russian
9. Korean (proposed)
10. Albanian
11. Vietnamese
12. Armenian
13. Azerbaïdjan
14. Turkish
15. Native American (proposed)
16. Polish
17. Slovenian
18. Czech
19. Rusin
20. Slovak
21. Italian
22. Greek
23. Lithuanian
24. German
25. Hungarian
26. British
27. Croatian
28. Scottish (proposed)
29. Hebrew
30. Syrian
31. American
32. American Legion Peace Garden of the States
33. Irish
34. Peace Garden of the Nations
35. Colombian (proposed)
36. Uzbek (proposed)
37. Ethiopian
38. Egyptian
39. Chinese Garden (off map)
40. French (proposed)
41. Pakistani (proposed)
42. Lebanese
43. India
44. Finnish
45. Estonian

How did you get to Rockefeller Park?

What did you see? Name 3 things you saw in Rockefeller Park:
1. 
2. 
3. 

What did you think? Draw or write about something that you found or learned in the Cultural Gardens:

What do you wonder? What questions do you have about Rockefeller Park?
What is the Doan Brook watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a particular ocean, lake, river, or stream – like the Doan Brook. Over 63,000 people call the Doan Brook watershed home. It includes parts of Cleveland's Glenville, St. Clair-Superior, Hough, Fairfax, University Circle, Buckeye, and Shaker Square neighborhoods. It flows through Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights before reaching the City of Cleveland and Lake Erie.

The watershed is also home to dozens of mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians, and also to hundreds of birds. In fact, over 200 different types of birds have been spotted here! You can help the health of the watershed by planting trees, making sure you never litter, and cleaning up after your pets.
There are many ways to get to Rockefeller Park. If you could design your own gateway to enter the park, what would it look like?

What makes the park most inviting to you?

What kind of outdoor activities and events would you like to see more of?

What experiences do you want to share with people in the park?
Create your own space in Rockefeller Park!

Fill in this page with everything you’d like to see in the park.

How will you get to the park?

What do you want to do with people at the park?

What makes your park special?

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Complete this page, take a picture of it, and send it to your teacher or email it to us at elise.yablonsky@universitycircle.org or kshefton@famicos.org

Name:

School:

Grade:

Teacher:
Community Heroes
Leading with humanity and dedication.

William Harrison “Bones” Dillard

Harrison Dillard was a lifelong Cleveland and four-time Olympic gold medalist in track and field. He became the only man in the history of the Olympic games to win gold in both the 100-meter (sprints) and 110-meter hurdles, making him the “World’s Fastest Man” in 1948 and the “World’s Fastest Hurdler” in 1952.

Dillard was a sharpshooter for the Buffalo Soldiers, the all-Black U.S. Army 92nd Division that fought in Italy during World War II. After retiring from track, he worked for the Board of Education, the Cleveland professional baseball team, the Cleveland Boxing Commission, as a sportscaster for WABQ, and as a Cleveland sports columnist.

Dillard attended local track meets in his later years. Far away from the races, he savored quiet walks around the neighborhood.

The Harrison Dillard Bikeway

Having fun on your bike means being safe on your bike! Before you ride, start off with the A, B, C’s. Make sure you have Air in your tires, your Brakes are working, and your Chain is moving freely.

While you ride:

- Always wear your helmet.
- Be bright! If riding at night, have a white light or reflector on the front of your bike, and a red light or reflector on your back.
- Be polite! If you pass someone walking while riding your bike, slow down and let them know you are coming by ringing your bell or telling them.
Judge Jean Murrell Capers

Jean (Eugenia) Murrell Capers became the first African-American woman elected to Cleveland City Council in 1949. She was born in Georgetown, Kentucky, and came to Cleveland when she was six years old. She attended Western Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve University) on a full scholarship and graduated from Cleveland Law School (now Cleveland-Marshall College of Law).

She first made a name for herself in Cleveland as a tennis player, winning the Greater Cleveland Tennis Championship in 1938. She served on Cleveland City Council for ten years, famously fighting for a swimming pool in her ward and sponsoring street beautification contests.

During her long career, she served as an assistant Ohio Attorney General and a municipal judge. She was a proud advocate for women in government and established the Black Women’s Forum in 1968. She lived to be 104 and the tennis courts in Rockefeller Park are named in her honor.

Who is your community hero?

Tell us about a person that you think is making a positive difference in your neighborhood. What do they do and how do they impact you and your community?