Rockefeller Park Unit Planning Guide

Interested in creating a mini-unit to explore Rockefeller Park? Here's a sample sequence and additional resources.

1. Focus:
   - What purpose do parks and greenspaces serve in communities?
   - How do maps and guides help citizens access parks and greenspaces?
   - What is urban planning, and why is it important?

   - Gr. 4: A map scale and cardinal and intermediate directions can be used to describe the relative location of physical and human characteristics of Ohio and the United States.
   - Gr. 5: Geographic tools can be used to gather, process and report information about people, places, and environments; the variety of physical environments within the Western Hemisphere influences human activities. Likewise, human activities modify the physical environments.
   - Gr. 6: Geographic tools can be used to gather, process and report information about people, places, and environments. Cartographers decide which information to include and how it is displayed; the variety of physical environments within the Eastern Hemisphere influences human activities. Likewise, human activities modify the physical environment.
   - Gr. 7: Analyzing individual and group perspectives is essential to understanding historic and contemporary issues. Opportunities for civic engagement exist for students to connect real-world issues and events to classroom learning.

3. Experiences/resources
   Lesson 1A: The history of Rockefeller Park: use the following resources to learn the history of Rockefeller Park.
   - [https://www.universitycircle.org/destinations/rockefeller-park](https://www.universitycircle.org/destinations/rockefeller-park)
   - [https://case.edu/ech/articles/r/rockefeller-park](https://case.edu/ech/articles/r/rockefeller-park)
   - [https://case.edu/ech/articles/c/cleveland-cultural-gardens](https://case.edu/ech/articles/c/cleveland-cultural-gardens)
3. Experiences/resources (continued)

Lesson 1B, Grades 6-8: What is Urban Planning, and how does it shape communities? Use the following resources to learn about Urban Planning and its role in a community.

- Schedule a visit from the team from UCI, Famicos, The Trust for Public Land, and Recess Cleveland have prepared a presentation to share with your students about careers in planning and the importance of parks (Contact Arin Miller-Tait at Arin.Miller@universitycircle.org to schedule a visit, available in person or via Zoom as needed)
- These readings can help students understand what planners do:
  - [https://www.planning.org/educators/whatisplanning/](https://www.planning.org/educators/whatisplanning/)
  - [https://www.planning.org/aboutplanning/psa/](https://www.planning.org/aboutplanning/psa/)

Lesson 1: Learn/review map vocabulary and map-reading skills using the map reading lesson (available as a PDF and as an editable Nearpod lesson at [https://share.nearpod.com/e/LsDApGRJrdb](https://share.nearpod.com/e/LsDApGRJrdb) on the UCI educator page at [https://www.universitycircle.org/educator-resources](https://www.universitycircle.org/educator-resources))

Lesson 2: Discuss how parks recognize and commemorate community heroes using the Community Heroes lesson (available as a PDF and as an editable Nearpod lesson (at [https://share.nearpod.com/e/Es3HmBOJrdb](https://share.nearpod.com/e/Es3HmBOJrdb) or on the UCI educator page at [https://www.universitycircle.org/educator-resources](https://www.universitycircle.org/educator-resources))

Lesson 3: Explore the park using the Rockefeller Park Field Guide; learn how parks can shape a community, and how people can shape a park. (For remote learning, students can visit on their own. Please contact Arin Miller-Tait at Arin.Miller@universitycircle.org to discuss a visit when possible – transportation is available).

Lesson 4: What would you like to see in Rockefeller Park? Use page six of the Field Guide to submit your class’s entries into the contest, available for download at [https://www.universitycircle.org/educator-resources](https://www.universitycircle.org/educator-resources)

4. Expansion ideas/additional resources:

Understanding the watershed – explore these resources!

- [https://doanbrookpartnership.org/#](https://doanbrookpartnership.org/#)
- [https://www.neorsd.org/community/educational-resources/educational-resources-kids/](https://www.neorsd.org/community/educational-resources/educational-resources-kids/)
- [https://www.neorsd.org/community/educational-resources/](https://www.neorsd.org/community/educational-resources/)
Rockefeller Park Map Vocabulary

Use the map on the next page to answer the following questions.

1. Grid coordinates help you locate information on the map itself by offering a vertical and horizontal reference point.

   → Using the grid coordinates on the map, at what coordinates would you find a playground?

   → If you were in Glenville, at what map coordinates would you find the nearest parking lot?

2. The map legend is the key to the map - it tells you what the symbols mean. On this map, the symbols represent "amenities," different features that the park offers.

   → According to the map legend, what amenities are located at grid coordinate E7?

   → According to the map legend, what amenities are located at grid coordinate G10?

3. The compass rose shows which way the map is oriented using cardinal directions.

   → In what cardinal direction should you travel to go from Gordon Park to the Lakefront Nature Preserve?

4. The map scale compares a small measurement on a map to the larger distance between actual locations; on the printed map, one inch = 2,000 feet.

   → Find Wade Park Avenue on the map. If you traveled one mile north, what would you find?
Community Heroes:
Leading with humanity and dedication.

Based on what you read about Judge Jean Murrell Capers and Harrison Dillard on pages 7 and 8 of your Rockefeller Park Field Guide, what do you think are the qualities that make someone a community hero? Jot down a few notes here:

Now that you've brainstormed the qualities of a 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?
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?

Text ROCKEFELLER to 216-242-2282 for invites to FREE wintertime activities, like sledding competitions, organized snowball fights, snowball dodgeball, and more with Recess Cleveland in and around Rockefeller Park.