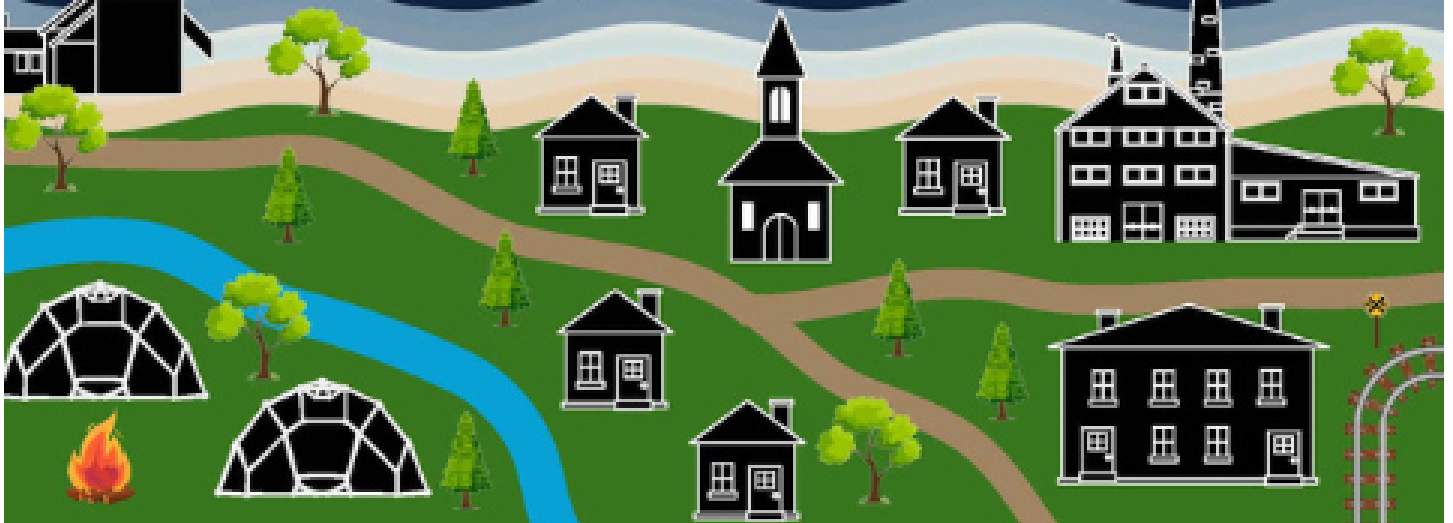
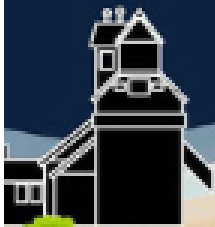
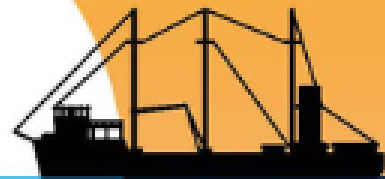


The Making of Milwaukee

Milwaukee is your city

UNIT 5: LEADERSHIP AND GROWTH





The Making of Milwaukee

The Making of Milwaukee Table of Contents – Unit 5

Unit 5: Leadership and Growth; Video Chapters 9 & 15

Video Chapters 9 & 15: Growing Metropolis

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The Making of Milwaukee

Unit 5: Leadership and Growth

[Video Chapter 9: Greater Milwaukee \(14:08 min\)](#)

[Video Chapter 15: Growing Metropolis \(7:56 - 11:48 min\)](#)

Essential Questions:

- What is a county?
- What is a suburb?
- How does Milwaukee County government work?
- How does the county affect my life?
- What is the history of Milwaukee County?
- How did the growth of cities in Milwaukee County affect the City of Milwaukee?
- How can I voice my opinion to improve my city and county?

Video Chapter Overview:

Video chapters 9 and 15 introduce students to the concept of county government and what Milwaukee County represents. Industries in Milwaukee grew rapidly and the population soared. This success led to growth in many areas. Numerous buildings were constructed: public use buildings, and buildings for government, art, culture, entertainment, and work. Many buildings built during the early 1900s still exist today. A lot of exciting things happened in greater Milwaukee and the growth benefitted citizens. Suburban growth also occurred as people, for many different reasons, began to live outside of the city.

Standards:

SS.BH1: Students will examine individual cognition, perception, behavior, and identity.

SS.BH2: Students will investigate and interpret interactions between individuals and groups.

SS.BH3: Students will assess the role that human behavior and cultures play in the development of social endeavors.

SSGeog1: Students will use geographic tools and ways of thinking to analyze the world.

SS.Geog2: Students will analyze human movement and population patterns.

SS.Hist1: Students will use historical evidence for determining cause and effect.

SS.Hist2: Students will analyze, recognize, and evaluate patterns of continuity and change over time, and contextualization of historical events.

SS.Hist3: Students will connect past events, people, and ideas to the present; use different perspectives to draw conclusions; and suggest current implications.

SS.Hist4: Students will evaluate a variety of primary and secondary sources to interpret the historical context, intended audience, purpose, or author's point of view.



The Making of Milwaukee

Growing Metropolis Framework

Learning Goals:

Students will learn what a county is and how Milwaukee County affected Milwaukee's growth.

Objectives:

Students will research the history of a city in Milwaukee County and determine what the differences are in county and city responsibilities.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What is a county?
- Why are there cities other than Milwaukee?
- What is the history of Milwaukee County?
- What does a county government do?
- Why do we say a county government is an invisible government?
- Who represents us in Milwaukee County?
- Why do we have parks throughout the county and the city?
- How do the parks contribute to the county and the city?

Additional Resources:

[Milwaukee County Website](#)
[County Landmark](#)
[Suburbanization](#)
[Oak Creek Law](#)

Vocabulary:

government	leader	legislative
county	election	ordinance
city	per capita	corrupt
council	population	voter
executive	court	municipality
suburb	judicial	neighborhoods

Growing Metropolis Activities Overview

Overview:

Milwaukee's history is not bound to the city limits or boundary lines. However, Milwaukee's city limit boundaries became bound by additional cities developing in Milwaukee County. Many people moved out of the city for various reasons.

Materials Needed:

The Making of Milwaukee student journals (digital or paper)
[The Making of Milwaukee Video Chapter 9, Greater Milwaukee](#) (14:08 min.)
[The Making of Milwaukee Video Chapter 15, Growing Metropolis](#) (7:56–11:48 min.)

Learning Activities Overview:

The activities in this section will help students develop knowledge about what comprises a county, the services a county provides, and the differences between a city and a county.

- **Learning activities** can be taught during or after Video Chapters 9 and 15.
- **A video notetaking guide** encourages students to write, draw, and record images during their viewing of the video. The teacher should strategically stop the video to allow students to write and discuss.
- **My Milwaukee Journal** activates student thinking and background knowledge. It allows students to make connections to Milwaukee history while making personal connections.
- **Meet a Milwaukeean:** Charles B. Whitnall.

Activities in this section:

The ways in which the following learning activities are implemented is the teacher's choice. The goal is for students to discuss and think critically about Milwaukee's history and Milwaukee's governmental structures.

- *What is a county?* Students look at Milwaukee County's growth. The county is often considered an invisible government. Many important services are offered through the county despite the many differences and needs across Milwaukee County. This introduction looks at cities of Milwaukee County and helps define what a county is. Students go to the county website to find answers for the questions about Milwaukee County.
- *Milwaukee County Cities.* Students investigate a Milwaukee County city, other than Milwaukee. Each city's history can be connected back to Milwaukee's development. Each city has a reason for its growth and contributed to the "iron ring" that prevented Milwaukee from growing.
- *City vs. County.* What are the jobs of city government compared to the jobs of the county government? Students should see that county duties affect all cities in the county and are less specific to residents in the county.
- *The Importance of Parks.* Parks play a big role in city and county development and the history of Milwaukee. Students consider current data from the Trust for Public Land to analyze how our parks fare now. There was a document created for use with students but if you would like to go beyond the graph and look at individual data, www.tpl.org offers the most updated park data.

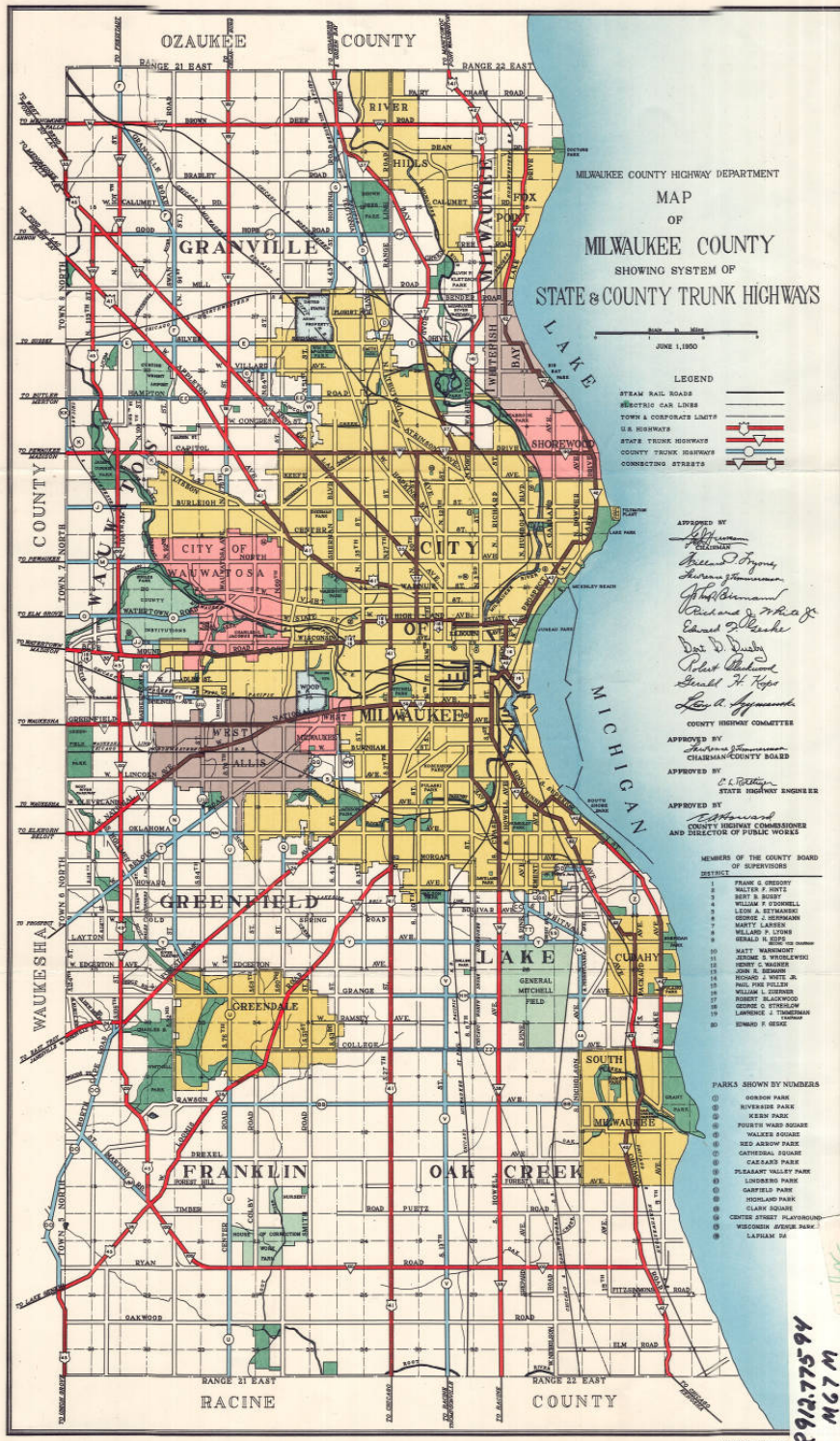


The Making of Milwaukee Video Notes
Chapter 9: Greater Milwaukee
Chapter 15: The Exploding Metropolis

While you watch the video, write words you think are important or make quick sketches of things you see that you want to remember. This could be names, places, dates, things from nature, things manmade, artifacts, quotes - whatever you take away from the video.

The Making of Milwaukee

What is a County?



The City of Milwaukee is a part of Milwaukee County and has the largest population in the state of Wisconsin. Milwaukee County was established in 1834. This was before Milwaukee was a city and before Wisconsin was a state. There are 19 cities in Milwaukee County. A county is a regional government that provides services to all the citizens in that county. Milwaukee County is expected to carry out and enforce the laws of the state, prosecute state criminal laws, maintain judicial court records, manage state elections, and maintain records, such as: birth and death certificates, marriage licenses, and property deeds. Milwaukee County collects property taxes, constructs and maintains county highways, decides how land is used, and maintains parks and recreational facilities.

The Making of Milwaukee

The Suburbs

Using the city map on the prior page, look at the map of the suburban cities around the city of Milwaukee and answer the questions.

How many suburbs are there around the City of Milwaukee?

What are the city names?

Which suburbs border Lake Michigan?

Which suburbs are land locked?

Which suburbs don't border the City of Milwaukee?

The Making of Milwaukee

City Government vs. County Government

A county is a specific region of a state. A county may be broken down into several cities. Milwaukee County is divided into 19 different cities. Milwaukee County as a government is different from the City of Milwaukee. The county government governs the entire county and all the major things that the county shares. Certain taxes are collected for county government from all the people that live in the county. The people that live in a county will have access to all of the resources in that county. Look at the chart below to see some of the differences between the city and county governments.

City Government	County Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run by an elected mayor and the elected city council.• City governments have their own police forces and fire departments.• Cities have their own school systems.• Takes care of garbage collection.• Takes care of city streets.• Has local city libraries.• Takes care of drinking water and waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run by an elected county executive and elected county supervisors.• The county sheriff maintains all of the county highways, county jails, the courthouses, and large events.• The county maintains the county parks in all the cities.• Maintains all court records.• Takes care of the airport.• Runs the Milwaukee County Zoo.• Collects taxes and issues licenses and certificates.

The Making of Milwaukee

City of Milwaukee vs. County of Milwaukee

Using the county website www.county.milwaukee.gov find the following information for where you live or where your school is located.

The leader of a county is called the County Executive. The current County Executive is:

The County Supervisor and district number that represents where I live is:

What committee is your County Supervisor on?

What are the seven county departments?

Choose one of the 10 standing committees on the Board of Supervisor's page.
Committee:

Find the last meeting they had. You may have to go back a month and record some things that were discussed at the meeting.

What is the vision for Milwaukee County?

The Making of Milwaukee

Cities of Milwaukee County

In the mid-1800s, when Juneautown, Kilbourntown, and Walker's Point were battling for control of the city that would become Milwaukee, and after taking the land from Native Peoples, other people arrived in the county. New arrivals from Europe and people from the East Coast established cities, townships, and small governments on their own as early as 1840. Some cities were formed around industry, the availability of farmland, or similar ethnic groups. Some cities became residential, recreational, and vacation spots for wealthy Milwaukee residents. One was established as a Greenbelt community in response to the Great Depression.

These small towns formed their own smaller governments, school districts, policies, and rules. They wanted to govern themselves away from the messy politics and problems of Milwaukee. Statutes in Wisconsin's government prevented these cities from leaving the city, but in 1955, the State of Wisconsin passed the Oak Creek Law making it easier for a city to decide if it wanted to govern itself. Once the law was passed, several cities passed a referendum to leave the City of Milwaukee. This departure created the "Iron Ring" of suburbs around the City of Milwaukee, preventing the city from growing any further.

Bayside

Greenfield

St. Francis

Brown Deer

Hales Corners

Wauwatosa

Cudahy

Milwaukee

West Allis

Fox Point

Oak Creek

West Milwaukee

Franklin

River Hills

Whitefish Bay

Glendale

Shorewood

Greendale

South Milwaukee

City History

Using city websites, city historical society websites, and the Milwaukee County Historical Society website, research the history of one of the cities in Milwaukee County.

City: _____

What year does the city claim to have been started?

Who started that city and why were people there?

Interesting "firsts" for this city.

Interesting landmarks/buildings.



City of Milwaukee vs. Milwaukee County

Look at the duties below. Determine if the answers are duties of the City of Milwaukee or Milwaukee County. You can use your notes or websites to help you.

1. Operating the Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport.

2. Pick up of residential garbage.

3. Running municipal courts and the courthouse.

4. Maintaining and supervising the freeway system.

5. Putting out fires and operating the firehouse.

6. Operating public schools.

The Making of Milwaukee

The Importance of Parks

In the 1800s, industrial growth also meant city growth. More people moved into city centers to be closer to the industry where they worked and to find inexpensive housing. As we have learned in Milwaukee, as cities grew, so did overcrowding, disease, pollution, and poverty. The idea of parks for all people in an urban community provided a way for people to enjoy fresh air, exercise, and the pleasures of the natural world. In 1923, Charles Whitnall released a plan for Milwaukee parks and parkways. One hundred years later, Milwaukee County Parks still ranks high in the United States. Using information from the [Trust for Public Land](#), analyze the park data from three Midwest cities.



	Milwaukee	Columbus, OH	Chicago, IL	Detroit, MI	St Paul, MN
Number of Parks	252	554	1,249	378	274
Percentage of residents that live within a 10-minute walk of a park	91%	71%	98%	83%	99%
Percentage of land used for parks and recreation	10%	8%	10%	6%	15%
Points for features in a park	Basketball hoops 100/100 Playgrounds 84/100 Bathrooms 76/100	Basketball hoops 81/100 Playgrounds 37/100 Bathrooms 31/100	Basketball hoops 52/100 Playgrounds 56/100 Bathrooms 39/100	Basketball hoops 72/100 Playgrounds 83/100 Bathrooms 14/100	Basketball hoops 100/100 Playgrounds 65/100 Bathrooms 100/100
Money Invested in the park per capita (in relation to the population)	\$142	\$98	\$178	\$77	\$246
Equity	Residents in neighborhoods of color have a access to 45% less park space per person than the city average and 68% less than those in white neighborhoods	Residents in neighborhoods of color have access to 5% more park space than the city average and 15% more than those in white neighborhoods.	Residents in neighborhoods of color have access to 21% more park space than the city average and 12% more than those in white neighborhoods.	Residents in neighborhoods of color have access to 26% less park space per person than the city average and 38% in white neighborhoods.	Residents in neighborhoods of color have access to 33% less park space per person than the city average and 32% in white neighborhoods

Use the chart on the previous page to answer the questions below. If you would like to go beyond the questions or cities in the chart, or to see if the information has changed, go to the website for [Trust for Public Land](#), to analyze additional data.

The data from this chart was taken from the list of the 100 largest cities in the United States. Using numbers 1-5, (1 is the highest) rank these cities based on the data provided. Why did you rank them in that order?

What data on this chart would give a city a lower park score? Why?

What do you need to take into consideration when looking at this data? Do you have any questions? Do you think this data has changed over time? Will it continue to change?

The Making of Milwaukee

Milwaukee Park System

Leaders of Milwaukee have realized the importance of parks since before Milwaukee was a city. Even before settlers arrived for 13,000 years Indigenous Peoples have been using the land in many ways. Solomon Juneau was one of the first Milwaukee leaders to save space for citizens to enjoy. German immigrants brought their traditions of beer gardens to Milwaukee. In the 1880s and 1890s, the city of Milwaukee formed the first Parks Commission to place rules on parks and make sure they stayed clean. The socialist leaders of Milwaukee set up many parks because they believed fresh air was important for keeping people healthy and fit. Over 100 years Milwaukee Park System has grown and changed to meet the needs of a growing and changing city.

Do you use parks in Milwaukee? What do you like to do at the park?

Do you think parks should have rules? Why or why not?

Is it important for the city and the county to spend money on the park system? Why or why not?

The Making of Milwaukee

What is a Good Park?

Go to the [Milwaukee County Parks](#) Website and click on the Explore for a list of the 154 parks and parkways in Milwaukee County. Choose one of these parks from the list and analyze the map. Then answer the questions about that park.

What is the name of the park?

What is the address of the park? _____

Is the park in the City of Milwaukee? _____

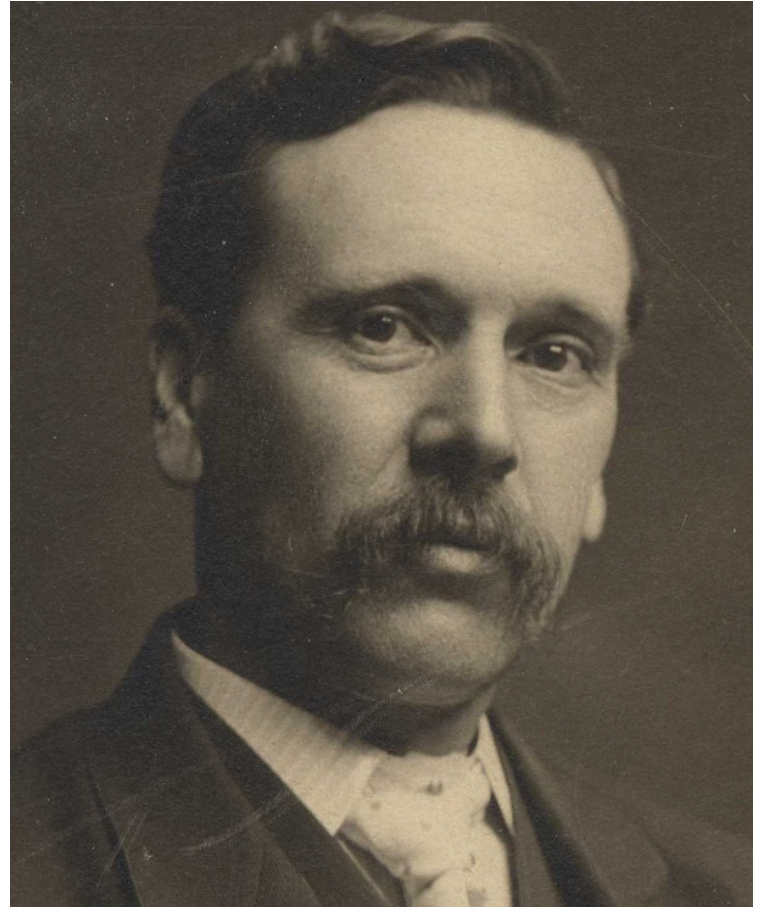
What kind of activities can you do in this park?

Would you like to change anything about this park? What would you change?



Meet a Milwaukeean: Charles B. Whitnall

The next time you are in a Milwaukee County park you can thank Charles B. Whitnall. Charles Whitnall was ahead of the times when it came to planning amazing green spaces for people. He dreamed for people to be in places where they could get away from the city and enjoy flowers and trees, lakes, and streams. As the Secretary of the County Parks Commission, Whitnall didn't just plan public recreation, he was a steward for the environment and protecting the Earth. He was able to protect wetlands, control flooding, and restore waterways. He also recognized the importance of automobiles and included miles of roads near the parks that people could use to take leisurely drives. He knew plants well and was trained by his family in their successful floral business. He is considered the father of the Milwaukee County Park System. One of the largest parks in the system was named for Charles Whitnall.



In what ways are the County Parks important to Milwaukee County?

How was Charles B. Whitnall a steward for the environment and the Earth?



The Making of Milwaukee

Unit 5: Leadership and Growth Engaging in Inquiry

Choose one county park in Milwaukee County and share all of things you can do in that park using a Google slide show or another presentation.

Create and design a park in the city.

Choose a park from another city and compare what is available in that park compared to a Milwaukee County park.

Choose one county park in Milwaukee County and do a research project on it.

Who is currently in charge of the Milwaukee County parks and what do they do for their job?

Research the wildlife you can find in a Milwaukee County park.

What kinds of rules do parks have? Share and explain why parks have rules.

Build a timeline of the history of Milwaukee County parks.



The Making of Milwaukee

Children's Literature Connections

Albano, Laurie Muench. (2007). *Milwaukee County Parks*. Images of America

A book comprising of historic photos of Milwaukee County Parks. (MPL 977.594 A326)

Farell, Alison. (2019). *The Hike*. Chronicle Books

A picture book about children going for a hike. (MPL PIC FAR)

Kalizewski, Katherine. (2013). *Socialism and City Planning: The Work of Charles Whitnall in Early Twentieth Century Milwaukee*. Cornell University Press.

An adult read about the work of Charles Whitnall (MPL 333.77 K1455)

Mortimer, Nanci J. (2017). *Electric Angel*. Wooden Press.

A young girl and her family go to a park in Chicago to listen to an orchestra play there. (MPL PIC MOR)

Partridge, Elizabeth. (2022). *Parks for the People – How Frederick Law Olmsted Designed America*. Viking.

Frederick wanted to make America a healthy and happy place and decided to design parks. (MPL 92 O496P)

Weber, Joe. (2024). *The Parks Belong to the People : The Geography of the National Park System*. University of Georgia Press.

A photographic view of the United States Park System and what the citizens have. (MPL 363.68 W374)

Wishinsky, Frieda. (1999). *The Man Who Made Parks*. Tundra Books.

A picture book of park designer Frederick Law Olmsted. (MPL 927.173)