



TOOLKIT FOR YOUNG KIDS

Frederick Law Olmsted is the founder of American landscape architecture and is known for creating beautiful parks that we still love today, such as Central Park in New York City or the Emerald Necklace in Boston. Check out these activities.

Coloring Page

Get creative! Here's one for students K-4— or the young at heart! Introduce your younger kids to Olmsted through coloring pages. Chicago artist David Lee Csicsko is responsible for the charming FLO head that the Olmsted Network uses. Download a black and white version of this iconic portrait and color your own FLO. [Download now!](#)

Design Your Perfect Park

Frederick Law Olmsted designed some of our nation's best-known and most-loved parks and green spaces. Imagine your own perfect park: What would you put in it? What are the most important things a park needs to be enjoyed by everyone? Sketch it out!



Park in a Box

Make your own mini park in a box! All you need is a shoebox, paper, glue, paints, paintbrushes, Scotch tape and any other material you might use to bring your park to life. Paint the park onto the back of the inside of the shoebox and then fill with other elements, like cardboard cut-outs of children playing or leaves.

Virtual Field Trips

You don't have to go too far to have a park adventure! Check out these virtual field trips that can bring the park to you. The National Park Service has scavenger hunts, word games, matching pictures and more Junior Ranger Activities you can find online.

- [National Park Foundation Virtual Visits](#)
- [NPS Parks Through Your Screen](#)

Blueprinting

With many different park designers working on the same projects, there was a need for multiple copies. The Olmsted firm embraced the latest technology— blueprints. Learn how blueprints work and make your own with these instructions. [Learn more!](#)



Landscape Watercolors

Create a landscape with watercolors! The Olmsted firm's draftsmen often created watercolor paintings to show clients what the completed landscape would look like. [Learn more!](#)

Organize a Park Clean-up

This is a terrific opportunity for students to give back to their communities. Contact a local park superintendent to see how you might help.

Good Neighbors Program

The Good Neighbors Program is the award-winning education program created by the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in conjunction with the National Association for Olmsted Parks. Rangers facilitate students' understanding of urban design and community building. It is a hands-on, whole-child curricular unit provided to third graders in the greater Boston area. The program can be adapted to local circumstances. [Read more!](#)

Olmsted Mask

Print this photographic portrait of FLO on cardstock, trim around the image and glue a tongue depressor or a popsicle stick on the back to create your own mask for Halloween or use during a lesson on the importance of Olmsted and his vision of parks for all people. [Print here!](#)

Books

Check out your local library or bookstore for these great reads about FLO!

- Parks for the People: How Frederick Law Olmsted Designed America. Elizabeth Partridge. 2022.
- A Green Place to Be: The Creation of Central Park. Ashley Benham Yazdani. 2019.
- The Man Who Made Parks: The Story of Parkbuilder Frederick Law Olmsted. Frieda Wishinsky. 2009.
- Parks for the People: A Story about Frederick Law Olmsted. Julie Dunlap. 1994.