

ART IN THE PARK GUIDE

SKETCHING SPRING LAKE PARK



Grab your sketchbook and drawing supplies or whatever materials you have at home and get outside! Look closely at natural and man-made features such as water, fountains, and bridges in Spring Lake Park and around your own neighborhood then try recording your observations onto paper!

Seeing Like an Artist

Artists have keen observational skills and are great at noticing large shapes that make up structures as well as natural details like bodies of water and tree lines. There are many ways to capture nature. Try focusing on details or a whole landscape. Either way you will gain a deeper appreciation for the natural public spaces that surround us!

Consider the following:

- **Perspective** - If you are sketching a landscape or structures situated in a landscape, you will want to consider the foreground (what is closest to you), middleground, and background. Objects that are closest to you will appear bigger and those farther away will appear smaller. You will also want to find the horizon line (where the sky meets the land or treetops). Check out Youtube for lots of one-point perspective drawing tutorials. You can also show perspective by drawing objects closest to you with a heavier or darker line.
- **Color** - You may think of green, blue, or brown when imagining landscape colors, but if you look closely, you will see that there are many more colors to include in a landscape to make it more realistic. For example, a sky can be many different colors other than blue and water reflects the color of the sky. Depending on the sun, trees may be back-lit and appear dark and shadowy or even golden. Take time to observe before choosing colors and shades.
- **Form** - What are the general shapes of the land, trees, water, and structures you are sketching and can they be broken down into multiple smaller shapes to make sketching simpler?
- **Detail** - Our parks are full of detail. You will find textures like grass, leaves, or gravel and patterns like bricks and rippled water. Choose how much and which details you want to focus on. When creating a landscape, the details are in the foreground and tend to become patterns and solid shapes as the scene recedes.
- **Broadening your perspective** - The more you look closely, the more you see and appreciate. Practice close-looking to improve your enjoyment of the world around you. [Check out this painting of a NJ landscape by George Inness for more inspiration!](#)