

What values have shaped Chicago?

Common Core Anchor Reading Standard 2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

This is a section from the Wacker Manual, the required textbook for 8th grade students in Chicago in 1913.

What is the Plan of Chicago?

It is a plan to direct the future growth of the city in an orderly, systematic way.

What is its object?

To make Chicago a real, centralized city, instead of a group of overcrowded, overgrown villages.

What does it mean?

That by properly solving Chicago's problems of transportation, street congestion, recreation, and public health, the city may grow indefinitely in wealth and commerce. It is realized that this is in significance only in connection with Chicago's actual social, intellectual, and moral upbuilding.

The ideal of a city must rise above mere commercial and industrial supremacy, taking the higher ground of becoming an attractive, larger home for its residents of all classes, as well as for the stranger.

Because it affects the happiness and prosperity of all our citizens, and of millions yet to have a home among us, the Plan of Chicago should, in some measure and in some degree, be not only a study of our children but of every citizen.

Each citizen has duties to perform towards his city and rights to claim from it. Unless in some measure he knows those duties and those rights, he can never act a just and independent part.

Neglect of the citizen to give some of his time, some of his thought, and some of his money for the public good, if widely distributed, would mean a disaster to the community.

Chicago today stands at the threshold of a great future.

What are we, as citizens, to do to promote the future well-being of our city?

First, we are to study the Plan of Chicago that we may understand it. When that is accomplished, we are to make it clearly and distinctively our ideal.

We are to look forward to carrying out the Plan of Chicago in the broad spirit that an injury to one is an injury to all, and that the well-being of one promotes the well-being of all.

What is the main idea of this passage?

Underline at least 3 sentences that support it.

According to this passage, what values are important to planning?

Extended Response

Based on this reading and your own experience, how are the values of Chicago today different from or the same as the values of the Burnham Plan?