Touted as the “cornerstone of a strong community” by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, the Oriole Park Branch Library provides its community with tools and resources for learning and knowledge. A visitor might easily walk into its grand entrance and perceive it as any other library with its stacks and reading rooms. However, there is something special about this library; it is a green building and provides a new level of education to its patrons.

While under construction, the Chicago Department of the Environment turned to EduTracks to create an education program as part of the LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification process.

Located in the library’s main lobby, the LEED display informs visitors about the LEED Rating System and how the use of extensive natural daylight throughout the library saves money on electricity, and that the building’s energy comes from power generated by renewable sources. The adjacent Green Building Concepts display educates visitors on topics such as energy and water conservation and green building materials. In addition to the Oriole Park project, EduTracks completed education programs for Budlong Woods and West Englewood libraries in Chicago.

With the aid of these displays, visitors now have an experiential knowledge of a green building and its benefits to the community.

— Kelly Kenney, Chicago Department of the Environment