Discover Parks & Recreation at https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation

PARKS AND RECREATION

We create and maintain clean, green, safe, and accessible open space in more than 2,300 acres of park land throughout Boston.

To get started, scroll down to the “Get Started” section.

GET STARTED

Popular playgrounds and parks in Boston
How to get a permit to hold an event at a park
Make a donation to Parks
Learn about our recreation programs

Let’s find a playground or park near you! Click on the “Popular playgrounds and parks in Boston” icon.
We put together a list of some of the most popular playgrounds and parks in the City by neighborhood.

Click on the neighborhood that you live in, and a list of popular playgrounds and parks will appear on the screen.

Next, let’s go back to the Parks & Recreation homepage and scroll down to the “Places to visit” section.
Let's click on “Visit the Emerald Necklace” and see what it has to offer.

**EMERALD NECKLACE**

Boston’s Emerald Necklace consists of an 1,100-acre chain of nine parks linked by parkways and waterways.

This linear system of parks and parkways was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted to connect the Boston Common, which dates from the colonial period; and the 1837 Public Garden along the Muddy River and Leverett. Willow, Ward’s and Jamaica ponds through the Arnold Arboretum to the great country park – Franklin Park.

From Boston Common to Franklin Park, it is approximately seven miles by foot through the parks.

**EMERALD NECKLACE PARKS**

- **Boston Common DOWNTOWN**
  - Hear the echoes of 350 years at the most extraordinary history of America’s oldest park.

- **Public Garden DOWNTOWN**
  - The Public Garden was the first public botanical garden in America.

- **Commonwealth Avenue Mall PENWAY/KENMORE**
  - The Mall’s 32 acres were designed in the French boulevard style by Arthur Gilman in 1896.

Click on any of the parks for more details like the address, history of the park, what neighborhood it is in, and any special features & resources.

Let’s click on the “Public Garden” to see what kind of information is available.
PUBLIC GARDEN

The Public Garden was the first public botanical garden in America.

Established in 1837

Two centuries separate the creation of the Boston Common and the Public Garden, and what a difference that period made.

In 1834 the Common was created as America’s first public park. It was practical and natural with walkways built for cross-town travel. In contrast, the Public Garden was the first public botanical garden in America. It was decorative and flowery from its inception, featuring meandering pathways for strolling.

THE VICTORIAN TOUCH

The Victorians ushered in the style of park which featured the gardener’s art. They designed vibrant floral patterns in the garden which utilized new techniques of collecting, hybridizing, and propagating plants. With access to showy annuals and greenhouse-grown

Read more about the Public Garden in this section.

Look! More resources to help you get the most out of your visit!

Let’s go back to the Parks & Recreation homepage and scroll all the way to the bottom of the page to look at the “Related Links” section.

Address and neighborhood of the Public Garden.
## RELATED LINKS

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Click on any of the links to find more recreational activities!

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**Enjoy and have fun exploring!**