

Emerald Necklace Fun Facts



FRANKLIN PARK

- Franklin Park is named for Boston-born patriot Benjamin Franklin and at 527 acres is the largest park in the Emerald Necklace and in Boston. It houses the largest urban forest at 220 acres.
- Franklin Park is home to the William J. Devine 18-hole golf course, the second oldest public course in the country, tennis courts, a famed cross country course, basketball courts, as well as baseball, lacrosse, soccer and cricket fields.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson lived in a small cabin in the 1820s atop what is now named "Schoolmaster Hill".
- Duke Ellington performed at the Elma Lewis Playhouse in Franklin Park every summer between 1966-1978.

ARNOLD ARBORETUM

- In 1872 the Arnold Arboretum was founded on a portion of land in Jamaica Plain willed to Harvard by Benjamin Bussey. Bussey Hill is a favorite destination spot in the Arboretum today.
- Peter's Hill, the highest point in the Emerald Necklace, provides a glorious view of the Boston skyline.
- The second Sunday in May is Lilac Sunday and it is the only day of the year that the Arboretum is open for picnicking.
- 265 acres of rolling land includes meadows, forest and ponds, including 4,000 different varieties of woody plants and 15,000 trees, shrubs and vines along with world-renowned horticultural collections.



JAMAICA POND

- Jamaica Pond is a glacial kettle hole formed tens of thousands of years ago and is 65 feet deep at its deepest point. It is the largest and purest body of water in the City of Boston. Jamaica Pond was the first reservoir in America.
- The Tudor Ice Company harvested ice from Jamaica Pond for export and distribution throughout the Caribbean, Europe, and India from 1826 to 1892. In 1880, there were 22 icehouses storing 30,000 tons of ice.
- The area around Jamaica Pond was once a summer home to the Wampanoags Native Americans of Mattapan. Jamaica is derived from an Indian name meaning "abundance of beavers".



OLMSTED PARK

Olmsted Park was originally named Leverett Park but was renamed in 1900 to honor Frederick Law Olmsted.

Almost 30 acres of woodlands – the second largest in the Necklace, after Franklin Park – enrich the visitor's experience of this park. Olmsted preserved these areas of pre-existing forest for their rugged beauty and as backdrops to views of Leverett and Ward's Ponds.

In 1890, Frederick Law Olmsted began dredging the Muddy River in Olmsted Park. He transformed the river into a winding stream, converted a large swamp into Leverett Pond, and Ward's Pond was connected with a small out-flowing stream.



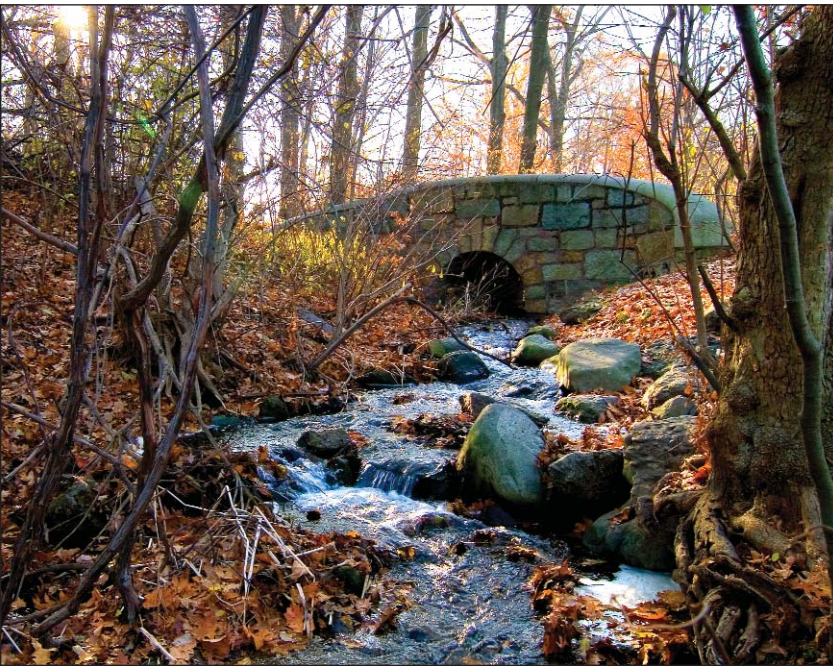
RIVERWAY

To create the Riverway, Olmsted rerouted the Muddy River, then carefully planted and sculpted the banks into the beautiful green space it is today.

This park contains a historic Bridle Path, once used by equestrians, as well as several of Olmsted's famous trademark bridges.

Through the Riverway, the Muddy River wends its way past internationally-known medical, cultural and educational institutions to the Back Bay Fens and ultimately, the Charles River.

This park is the perfect alternate route to the crowded sidewalks along Brookline Avenue and the surrounding roads and a wonderful place to just come and relax.



BACK BAY FENS

Two streams, Stony Brook and the Muddy River, empty into the Back Bay Fens and then into the Charles River.

The Fens was changed from a tidal estuary to freshwater in 1910 after the Charles River was dammed.

Arthur Shurcliff added the Rose Garden in 1920. In 1975, the Rose Garden was renamed the Kelleher Rose Garden after James P. Kelleher, Superintendent of Horticulture at the Boston Parks Department.

The Victory Gardens in the Back Bay Fens were established in 1941 to help grow food for the War effort. Still thriving today, it is the last remaining of the original victory gardens in existence.



WITH GRATEFUL THANKS

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Emerald Necklace
CONSERVANCY

891 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
T: 617-522-2700 F: 617-522-0000 www.emeraldnecklace.org