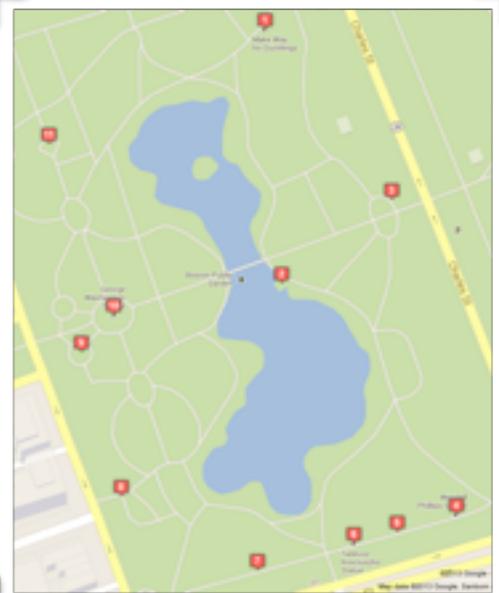


Public Garden



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BOSTON'S PUBLIC GARDEN

Established in 1837, the 24-acre Boston Public Garden was the first botanical garden created for the public in America. The garden is a distinct recreation area from the adjacent Boston Common.

Although the green space has undergone



many changes since its inception, the garden adheres closely to its original design, which was created

by George Meacham. The architect won a competition to create the layout of the park. Visitors can see a variety of elm, chestnut, redwood and weeping willow trees as well as roses, tulips, flowering shrubs and shaded walking paths.

The public garden is also home to many fountains, statues and other memorials. Notable public art work include the Boy and Bird Fountain, the equestrian statue of George Washington and a tribute to victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks who had ties to Massachusetts. Monuments also honor theologian Edward Everett Hale, Civil War hero Thomas Cass, abolitionist Charles Sumner and the first public demonstration of ether, which was accomplished at the nearby Massachusetts General Hospital.

The garden lagoon is the location of the Swan Boats and Mallard Island, the destination of the waterfowl family depicted in the children's story "Make Way for Ducklings." Inspired by the fairy tale opera Lohengrin, the Swan Boats have been a popular pastime since 1877. Before its conversion to a girder bridge, the span that connects the island to the mainland was once the world's shortest suspension bridge. A statue of Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings pays homage to the state's official children's story. Open year round, the centrally located garden is easily accessible from the MBTA Green Line's Arlington Station. The

History and Creation of the Public Garden

The resplendent Boston Public Garden was created in 1837 after Horace Gray led an effort to set aside the land for community recreation. The parallelogram-shaped park is the first botanical garden in the country. Originally part of Boston Common, the park was mostly mudflats, which was colloquially known as the "marsh at the bottom of the common." After the Great Fire of 1794, the land was given to individuals to rebuild seven facilities that produced rope for ships. When these structures were destroyed again in 1810, the owners attempted to sell the land because it had increased in value due to the construction of the Mill Dam and extension of Charles Street. The city purchased the property and proposed selling it for residential development. This proposal drew strong protests from local citizens led by Mr. Gray. A group that leased the park encountered financial difficulties in 1852 and returned the land to the city, which once again broached the possibility of selling the green space. A vote in the city council in 1856 permanently established the land as a botanical garden.

Plans to formally develop the garden were submitted in 1859. The lagoon was created that same year, and the wrought iron perimeter fence was erected in 1862. George F. Meacham created the overall design. Arborist John Galvin and city engineer James Slade laid out the flowerbeds and walkways. The plan included the installation of fountains and statues. The signature suspension bridge was built in 1867. That same year, the city dedicated the first statue, which honored the Unitarian preacher

Edward Everett Hale. Water features include the Triton Babies and the Boy and Bird Fountains as well as the marble and granite Ether Memorial Fountain that was constructed in 1868. The public garden forms the northern terminus of Boston's Emerald Necklace, a series of urban green spaces designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The Boston Public Garden is a setting in the children's story "Make Way for Ducklings" and backdrop for the famous swan boats. The garden can be reached by from the Arlington stop on the MBTA Green Line.

1. Make Way for Ducklings Statue

First published in 1941, "Make Way for Ducklings" is a children's book by Robert McCloskey. The central characters of the award-winning book



is a family of mallards that decide to make their way across town from the Charles River to the island situated in the Boston Public Garden pond. The popular

story was chosen as the official children's book for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In honor of the tale, a public artwork was unveiled in 1987 as part of the garden's 150th anniversary celebration. The United States gave the children of Russia a replica of the procession in 1991.

The bronze figures, the largest of which stands only 38 inches tall, are the work of sculptor Nancy Schön who also created the Copley Square "Tortoise and Hare." The sculptor depicts Mrs. Mallard leading her brood of obedient ducklings in a line as they waddle to their new home. The

ducks are arrayed on a row of cobblestone 35 feet long. During the annual duckling day, the garden invites children to dress in costumes and re-create a portion of the story. The immensely popular Make Way for Ducklings statue is located near the intersection of Charles and Beacon Streets.

2. Swan Boats

Immortalized by Lawrence Homer's "Boston and Sea Poems," the swan boats are one of the most popular attractions in the Boston Public Garden. These whimsical boats have traversed the garden lagoon for more than a century. In 1877, Robert Paget created the vessels by combining a catamaran and paddle wheel that the guide peddled like a bicycle. Drawing inspiration from the Wagnerian fairy tale opera *Lohengrin*, Mr. Paget chose a swan to conceal the propulsion mechanism. In the medieval tale, *Lohengrin* is a Knight of the Holy Grail who attempts to protect the honor of his heroine as he is conveyed across a lake on a boat that is pulled by two swans. The opera is best known for the "Bridal Chorus," which is played at weddings.

The Paget Family originally used eight-passenger catamarans. Today, the human-powered boats can seat up to 20 people for a leisurely 15-minute ride around Mallard Island, which is the destination of the waterfowl family in the popular children's story "Make Way for Ducklings." During the trip, passengers can enjoy a unique view of the colorful public garden and its iconic bridge that was constructed in 1867. The span was the shortest functioning suspension bridge in the

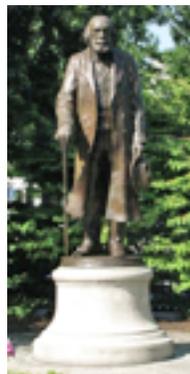


attractions in the Boston Public Garden. These whimsical boats have traversed the garden lagoon for

world until 1921 when it was converted into a girder bridge. The suspension system was retained for decorative purposes. The man-made, four-foot-deep lake is emptied just before winter and replenished in the spring. As a result, the swan boats operate daily from April through September weather permitting. The wheelchair-accessible Swan Boats welcome service animals.

3. Edward Everett Hale Statue

Born in Roxbury in 1822, Edward Everett Hale graduated from Harvard at age 17. He then served as a Unitarian minister in Worcester for several years before returning to Boston. Dr. Hale was a strong advocate for Irish immigrants and a passionate abolitionist. A prolific writer, he is best known as the author of the short story "The Man Without a Country." During his later years, he served as the official chaplain of the U.S. Senate and established the Lend a Hand Society. He was related to American Revolutionary hero Nathan Hale and the deaf/blind political activist Helen Keller.



A bronze statue of Edward Everett Hale was unveiled in 1913. The Bela Lyon Pratt work depicts Dr. Hale

later in life as if he were strolling through the garden. The life-size statue stands atop a granite base. Around the base is a circular array of cobblestones. A stone ring around the memorial bears an inscription describing Dr. Hale as a patriot, man of letters, prophet of peace and a preacher of the Gospel. The

inscription also contains the Lend a Hand Society philosophy. The sculpture is located near the Charles Street entrance to the Boston Public Garden.

4. Wendell Phillips Statue

Wendell Phillips was a Boston lawyer who gave up his lucrative practice to champion the abolitionist cause. A skilled orator in his own right, Phillips was inspired to join the cause after a speech by William Lloyd Garrison in 1835. Two years later at Faneuil Hall, Phillips gave an impassioned speech denouncing the murder of Elijah Lovejoy, an abolitionist minister. His oratory skills earned him the moniker of "The Abolitionist's Golden Trumpet." After the Civil War, Phillips supported equal rights for women and Native Americans as well as the humane treatment of prisoners.

An eight-foot tall statue in his honor was unveiled in the Boston Public Garden on July 4, 1915. The work, by Daniel Chester French, depicts a larger-than-life figure holding a broken chain in its left hand to symbolize freedom and liberation. The right hand, resting on a podium, is clenched as if to emphasize a point. The bronze statue sits atop a granite base in front of a stone backdrop. The granite wall, which is 12 feet high and four feet wide, is inscribed with one of Mr. Phillips most famous quotes.

5. Colonel Thomas Cass Statue

Born in Ireland, Thomas Cass was a successful Boston businessman and member of the school board. When the Civil War broke out, Cass received permission from Governor Andrew to

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