Rose F. Kennedy GREENWAY

Self-Guided Tour
Fall 2026 Edition

ROSEKENNEDYGREENWAY.ORG
@ROSEKENNEDYGREENWAY

THE GREEN WAY

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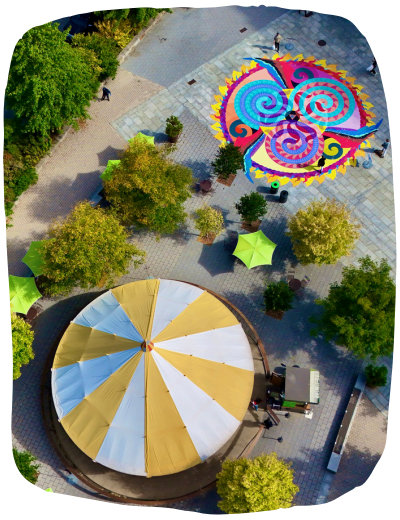
Welcome to the Rose Kennedy Greenway

This self-guided tour is your invitation to wander, discover, and experience the Rose Kennedy Greenway at your own pace. Along the way, you'll learn a little about the park's history, the neighborhoods that surround it, and the people who care for this special stretch of green in the heart of downtown Boston.

The Greenway is one of the Commonwealth's most beloved public spaces, welcoming millions of visitors each year. What was once an elevated highway is now a vibrant ribbon of gardens, lawns, fountains, and gathering places that connect the North End, Waterfront, Financial District, and Chinatown. The park is cared for by the Greenway Conservancy, a nonprofit dedicated to making the Greenway a welcoming, restorative place for everyone — from daily commuters and office workers to families, tourists, and longtime neighbors.

As you explore, you'll find plenty of places to play, relax, and be surprised. Kids (and grown-ups) love the park's six fountains and the whimsical Greenway Carousel at the Tiffany & Co. Foundation Grove. Throughout the year, the park hosts free community programs and pop-up experiences, and you'll often come across contemporary public art — from murals to large-scale sculptures — woven into the landscape.

You may also meet one of the Greenway's Park Rangers, friendly stewards who help keep the park safe, welcoming, and easy to enjoy. Whether you're here for five minutes or an entire afternoon, we hope this tour helps you see the Greenway not just as a place to pass through, but as a place to belong.



THE GREENWAY

Before you begin...

KEY INFORMATION ABOUT THE GREENWAY

It's hard to imagine now, but where you're standing was once the site of a massive elevated highway called the Central Artery. Built in the 1950s, it was meant to carry about 7,500 cars a day. By the early 1980s, nearly three times that number were passing through daily, and the roadway had become one of Boston's most infamous traffic bottlenecks — loud, congested, and cutting neighborhoods and communities off from one another.

That gridlock sparked one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects in American history: the Central Artery Project, better known as "The Big Dig." From 1991 to 2007, the highway was relocated underground, and the elevated structure was replaced with tunnels, bridges, and new connections, including the Ted Williams Tunnel to Logan Airport and the iconic Zakim Bridge over the Charles River. The project was controversial, complicated, and costly — but it also gave Boston something extraordinary in return.

After the highway was moved underground, the space was set aside for the public. That decision led to the creation of the Rose Kennedy Greenway, the park you're exploring today: a living reminder that cities can change course, heal old divides, and turn concrete into community. As you begin your tour, you're not just walking through a park — you're walking through one of Boston's most dramatic transformations.

The elevated highway that once occupied the space where The Greenway lives today in the North End

The “Big Dig”

SHAPING THE GREENWAY FROM THE GROUND UP

“The Big Dig” involved the replacement of the Central Artery with the I-93 tunnel, on which the Rose Kennedy Greenway was later constructed. During the project, workers undertook a massive excavation effort, removing an astounding 16 million cubic yards of dirt. To put this into perspective, this quantity of dirt could fill a stadium to its rim 16 times! Additionally, an immense amount of concrete, totaling 3.8 million cubic yards, was poured. This quantity is equivalent to laying a sidewalk 3 feet wide and 4 feet thick all the way from Boston to San Francisco and back three times!

Before and after the Central Artery Project

Vent Stacks

SUPPORTING THE TUNNEL WITH VISIBLE STRUCTURES

As you explore the park, you'll notice several structures along the Greenway called vent stacks and intake structures. These are part of the highway tunnels below and play an important safety role, helping to ventilate the tunnels in the unlikely event of a fire. You'll see some of the most notable vent stacks at:

- Dewey Square Air Intake Structure Building: This building houses large fans which bring in air to circulate through the tunnels, and then that air gets pushed out the vent stacks.
- Chinatown in Mary Soo Hoo Park: This area serves as the site of the Museum of Fine Arts mural scrim. A community mural is also currently painted on this vent stack.
- Across from Al's South Street Cafe in the Leather District: Another vent stack is positioned in close proximity to this cafe.
- Intercontinental Hotel: Interestingly, the hotel was constructed around one of these vent stacks, integrating it into its architecture.

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy

THE GREENWAY NAMESAKE

The Rose Kennedy Greenway is named for Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, matriarch of the Kennedy family. She was an author, activist, and philanthropist, and she encouraged her children to live active, engaged lives. Some of her children, including Senator Ted Kennedy and President John F. Kennedy, went on to become well-known leaders in politics and public service.

Senator Ted Kennedy played a key role in supporting the vision for the Big Dig and the early fundraising that helped make the park possible. Today, the Greenway honors both Rose Kennedy's legacy and the family's long-standing commitment to public life and community.

Senator Ted Kennedy

Rose F. Kennedy

The Greenway Conservancy

PARK CARE, MAINTENANCE, AND PROGRAMMING

The Rose Kennedy Greenway is cared for and maintained by the Greenway Conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping the park beautiful, welcoming, and engaging for each and every one of its visitors. Since its founding in 2004, the Conservancy has overseen everything from day-to-day maintenance and gardens to public programs and improvements throughout the park.
Having its own team of professional horticulturists, park rangers, and maintenance staff allows the Conservancy to respond quickly to the needs of the park and create a space that's vibrant all year long. This hands-on care ensures that visitors can enjoy The Greenway's gardens, lawns, fountains, and public art in a safe and welcoming environment.

2025 Greenway Conservancy Staff

Public Art

BRINGING UNIQUE INSTALLATIONS TO PUBLIC SPACE

The Conservancy's Public Art Program has paved the way for The Greenway to become a premier destination to see evolving works of contemporary art in Downtown Boston. The Public Art Program brings innovative, site-responsive art to the city through free, temporary exhibitions that engage people in meaningful experiences and dialogue with art, ideas, and eachother. The Conservancy supports artists in creating bold new work that explores the possibilities of 21st-century Boston.

SONG/LAND/SEA, 2024.
Lani Asunción

Tuħmağatipi, *2022.*
Erin Genia

Horticulture

ORGANIC AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

The Greenway is an urban landscape shaped by science, creativity, and careful stewardship. Across the park, you'll find a rich mix of trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, and spring ephemerals, all selected to thrive in a dense city environment. A walk through The Greenway is an opportunity to see how thoughtful plant design can bring nature into the heart of downtown.

The Greenway is among the few public parks in the country managed entirely with organic practices. That means our horticulture team maintains the gardens without synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, or fungicides, relying instead on soil health, plant diversity, and ecological systems to keep the park vibrant. This approach helps protect Boston Harbor from polluted runoff, supports healthier soils, and creates a safe environment for people, pets, and wildlife.

Gardens in Dewey Square

Volunteers planing bulbs

Horticulture

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Greenway plays an important role in strengthening Boston's urban ecosystem. Our plantings provide habitat, nectar, and pollen for native bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, while trees and shrubs offer food and shelter for both resident and migratory birds.

Throughout the park, you may notice areas where traditional lawn has been replaced with a turf blend grass-micro-clover. Soft landings have been planted beneath trees to support beneficial insects, which are essential to pollination and to bird populations that depend on caterpillars for food.

Our diverse tree canopy also helps manage stormwater and cool the city during hot summer months. To further reduce environmental impact, the horticulture team uses electric vehicles and battery-powered equipment whenever possible, continuing to evolve how urban landscapes can be cared for responsibly and beautifully.

Soft Landing in the Wharf District

Electric vehicle used by the Horticulture Team

Programs and Events

ACTIVATING THE GREENWAY ALL YEAR LONG

One of the best ways to experience The Greenway is through its programs. Throughout the year, the park hosts more than 400 free events, creating space for people to move, connect, relax, and discover something new — right in the middle of downtown.

You might stumble upon a morning fitness class before work, a lunchtime market, live music drifting across the lawns, or a family-friendly activity popping up on a weekend afternoon. From seasonal festivals to community gatherings and visits from the park's favorite food trucks, these moments turn everyday green space into a shared neighborhood living room.

Whether you're seeking out a favorite event or discovering something new along the way, the Greenway's programs are designed to meet people where they are and make the park feel welcoming in every season.

EVENTS

FITNESS

MARKETS

FOOD TRUCKS

Let's get going! Let's get going! Let's get going! Let's get go

Chinatown

This guide will begin at the south end of The Greenway near Chinatown!

Welcome to Chinatown!

Boston's Chinatown is both a lively business district and a close-knit residential neighborhood — a place where food, culture, and community come together every day. The streets are filled with family-owned restaurants, local shops, and cultural organizations that give this neighborhood its unmistakable character.

As you walk through the area, you'll pass beneath the Chinatown Trade Gate, a colorful landmark gifted by the Taiwanese government in 1982. The Greenway Conservancy works closely with Chinatown residents and community partners to help protect access to green space here, adding shade trees, water features, and plantings inspired by East Asian landscapes to keep the neighborhood cooler and more welcoming.

Chin Park on The Greenway

The Chinatown Parks

MARY SOO HOO PARK

This park honors **Mary Soo Hoo**, a beloved neighborhood advocate who opened Chinatown's first hair salon. Her family continues to play an active role in the community today. In 2024, guided by resident feedback, the Conservancy made a series of updates to the park — adding more seating, new plantings, and play features for children — creating a space that better supports everyday gatherings and family life.

Mary Soo Hoo Park

Events in Chin Park

AUNTIE KAY & UNCLE FRANK CHIN PARK

Renamed in 2019, this park celebrates the legacy of **Auntie Kay and Uncle Frank Chin**, longtime community leaders who encouraged civic participation and helped strengthen Chinatown's voice in city affairs. In 2023, the Conservancy completed a lighting project to improve safety and comfort after dark.

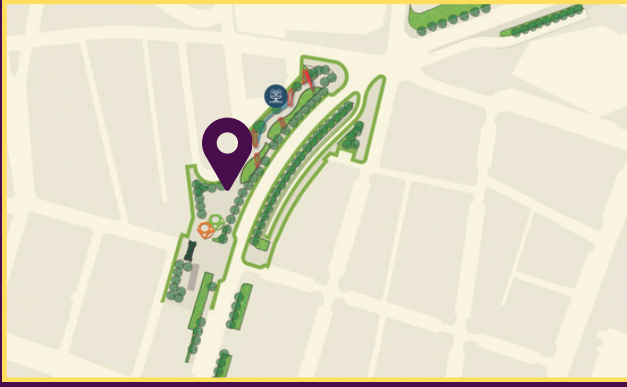
During the warmer months, the park becomes a hub for neighborhood life, hosting programs like Films at the Gate, featuring Chinese-language movies, and the Chin Park Farmers Market — favorite traditions that bring neighbors together.

PUBLIC ART SPOTLIGHT

because you are the sun; because you are the thread, 2026

Vivian Tran (she/her)

Vivian Tran is an interdisciplinary artist based in Boston, MA. Her work often references familiar symbols and actions intrinsic to everyday life. Working primarily in video installation and sculpture, Tran constructs quiet and minimal scenes that are suggestive of narrative, often interweaving moments across time and space.



Inspired by Vietnamese street vending culture and the labor of the artist's grandfather, who once sold ice by tricycle, *because you are the sun; because you are the thread* is a large-scale outdoor installation comprising two interactive, pedal-powered flipbooks from Boston-based artist Vivian Tran. Two tricycles are installed facing each other, each with a large-scale flipbook apparatus connected to its pedals. As passersby ride the trikes, they become the flipbook's protagonist, animating sequences of horizon imagery which the artist collected via video stills from tv shows popular in Vietnam in the 1960s-2000s.

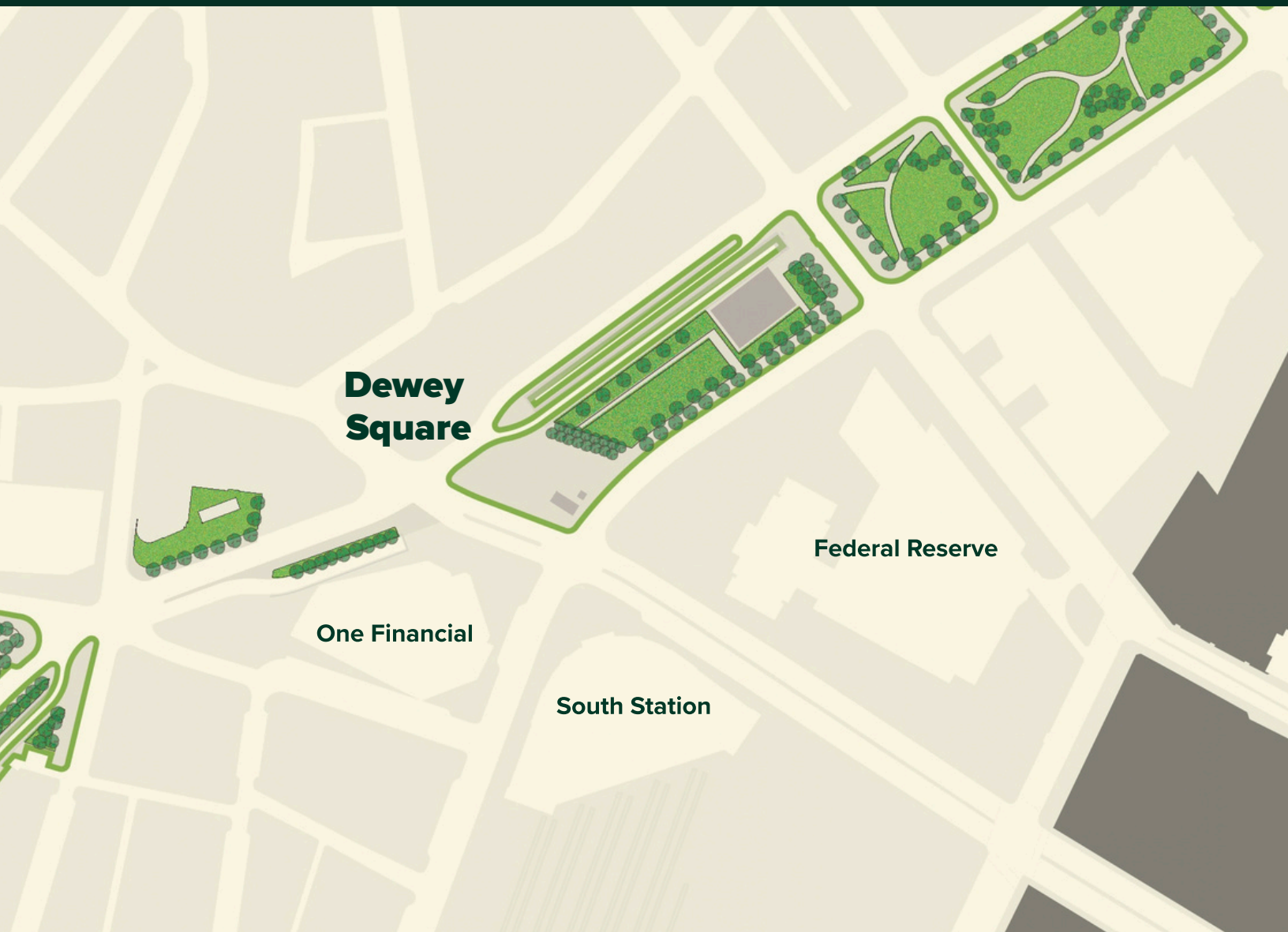
Centered in front of the moving images, riders produce an animation in which their body becomes a thread, seaming together scattered moments across time and place. Though each person produces a unique visual, they cannot see the image they create themselves. In this way, the installation functions via interdependencies: it cannot be fully seen without another's presence. The act of understanding becomes contingent on witnessing another's movement, on inhabiting space together.

viviantran.ca | **@viviantranart**

Photo Credit: Jacob Chang-Rascle

Dewey Square

From Chinatown, head north up Surface Road towards South Station and Dewey Square.



Welcome to Dewey Square

HORTICULTURE FEATURES

Dewey Square is a place to see how creative gardening can thrive in the middle of the city. The Demonstration Gardens here highlight a range of urban growing techniques and plant choices that support both people and pollinators.

As you explore, you'll find a Pollinator Garden buzzing with bees and butterflies, an Edible Garden with raised beds full of seasonal crops, a Rain Garden designed to help filter stormwater before it reaches the harbor, and a small Orchard featuring native fruit trees.

Demonstration Gardens on Dewey Square

A permeable surface beneath the trees in the Plaza supports healthier tree growth, improves urban water management, and creates a safer, more accessible, and easier-to-maintain landscape.

Along Atlantic Avenue, topiary artist Michael P. Gibson crafted 6 unique topiary designs in our boxwood beds, providing a sense of wonder, inviting visitors to experience the landscape in a new way.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dewey Square is a lively gathering spot for the downtown community. On weekdays, the park fills with the sights and smells of the Greenway's Food Truck Program — a lunchtime tradition for nearby workers and visitors alike. The square is also home to our beer garden partner, Night Shift Brewing, where people can unwind and connect in an outdoor setting.

Throughout the year, this space hosts a wide range of community events, from casual meetups to seasonal celebrations, making Dewey Square a place where everyday moments turn into shared memories.

Food Trucks

Dewey Square History

THE AIR INTAKE STRUCTURE

This structure is part of the highway tunnel system below the park, but above ground, it has become one of the Greenway's most recognizable landmarks. It also serves as Boston's largest outdoor mural space, with new artwork appearing every one to two years. In recent seasons, the Conservancy has partnered with lighting and projection designers to bring the mural to life after dark. Over the years, eight different murals have transformed this spot, each adding a new layer to the story of Dewey Square.

Dewey Square Mural in progress

Occupy Boston (2011)

OCCUPY BOSTON

From October through December 2011, Dewey Square was the home of Occupy Boston, a local chapter of the nationwide movement calling attention to economic inequality and the influence of corporations in politics. The gathering drew national attention to this part of the Greenway and shaped public perceptions of public space.

After the movement concluded, the square was reimagined and rebuilt, creating the welcoming gathering place you see today — a reminder that this park continues to evolve alongside the city and its communities.

PUBLIC ART SPOTLIGHT

"The Midnight Ride", 2026

Rixy (she/her)

Rixy is a New England-based artist whose work celebrates surrealism, social connection and collective imagination. Her bold, visionary large-scale public murals energize walls across Boston, Cambridge, Lawrence and beyond.

Drawing upon elements of fantasy, manga and anime, practices of creative worldbuilding, and a vibrant palette, The Midnight Ride brings into dialogue multiple histories of activism in Boston, blending iconography and public narratives in ways that create and encourage new points of access, imagination, and critical reflection. The artist asks viewers to consider what their own "Midnight Ride" might be in our current moment: What is the work you engage in outside the hours of 9am-5pm that helps create the world we want to live in?

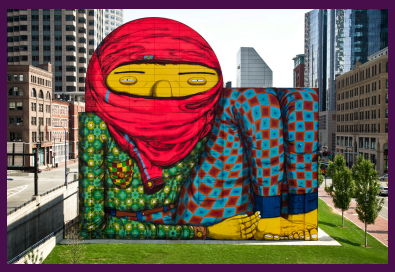
Rixy was selected by a panel of ten Boston-based arts and cultural leaders through the first-ever Open Call hosted by The Greenway in partnership with Embrace and Everyone 250 to celebrate and reflect upon the nation's 250th anniversary. Entitled The Midnight Ride, Rixy's mural responds to this moment with a fresh and futuristic approach that invites viewers to reflect upon the past 250 years of Boston's history while also collectively envisioning the next 250 years for our city.

rixyfz.com | **@rixyxir**

Photo Credit: Steve Osemwenkhae; Martha Swann-Quinn

PUBLIC ART HISTORY

PREVIOUS MURALS IN DEWEY SQUARE



The Giant of Boston
Os Gemeos, 2012

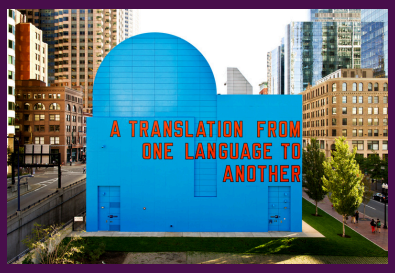
Carving Out Fresh Options
Shara Hughes, 2018

Salt and Light (Part II)
Matthew Richie, 2013

Resonance
Super A, 2019

Seven Moon Junction
Shinique Smith, 2014

Summer Still Life with Lobsters and Fern
Daniel Gordon, 2021



A TRANSLATION FROM ONE LANGUAGE TO ANOTHER
Lawrence Weiner, 2015

Breathe Life Together
Rob “Problak” Gibbs, 2022

Spaces of Hope
Mehdi Ghadyanloo, 2016

your spirit whispering in my ear
Jeffrey Gibson, 2024

Fort Point Channel

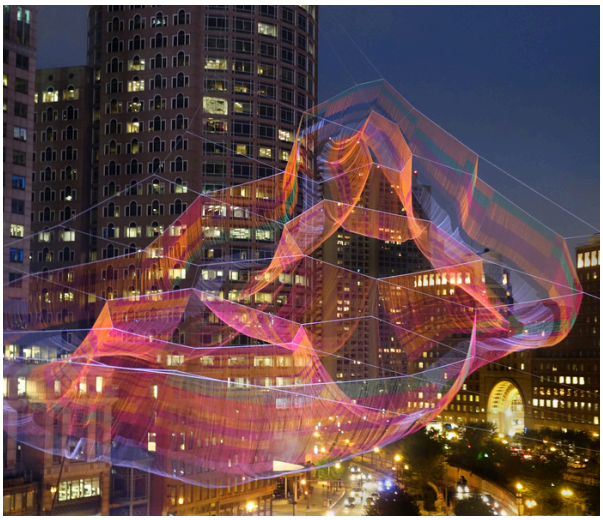
From Dewey Square, follow Atlantic Avenue north towards the Wharf District. The Fort Point Channel area of the park includes the parcels between Congress Street and High Street.

What makes Fort Point unique?

URBAN GREENSPACE

Fort Point is the Greenway's largest continuous stretch of lawn — a place many people use as a quiet pause in the middle of a busy day. Its open layout offers room to relax, read, meet a friend, or simply enjoy a moment of calm while walking through downtown. Just south of Seaport Boulevard, you'll also find *Big Hoops to Fill,* a public art installation by Ja'Hari Ortega, adding a creative spark to this peaceful landscape.

Ja'Hari Ortega with her installation, Big Hoops to Fill
Photo Credit: Mel Taing.



As If It Were Already Here, *Janet Echelman, 2015*

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

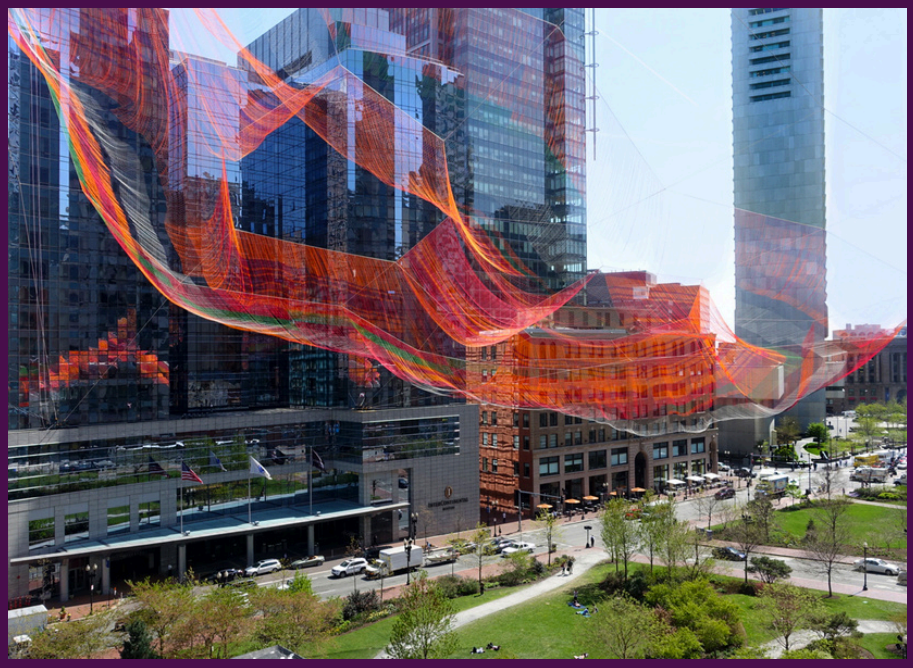
Across the street, the InterContinental Hotel was designed around an existing vent stack from the I-93 tunnel below. It's a small but fascinating example of how new buildings in this area have adapted to the city's underground infrastructure — a reminder that much of what makes the Greenway possible is happening just out of sight.

PUBLIC ART HISTORY

As If It Were Already Here, 2015

Janet Echelman (she/her)

Hand-spliced Ultra-high-molecular-weight polyethylene (UNMWPE) and braided high-tenacity polyester fibers with colored LED lighting



In 2015, the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy brought to Boston a monumental sculpture, *As If It Were Already Here*, from internationally renowned local artist, Janet Echelman. This incredible installation created a must-see art experience for visitors from near and far from May 3 to October 25, 2015. The sculpture for Boston above the Rose Kennedy Greenway spans the void where an elevated highway once split downtown from its waterfront. Knitting together the urban fabric, it soars 600 feet through the air above street traffic and Pedestrian Park. The sculpture's form echoes the history of its location. The sculpture was made by hand-splicing rope and knotting twine into an interconnected mesh of more than a half-million nodes. When any one of its elements moves, every other element is affected. Monumental in scale and strength yet delicate as lace, it fluidly responds to ever-changing wind and weather. Its fibers are 15 times stronger than steel yet incredibly lightweight, making the sculpture able to lace directly into three skyscrapers as a soft counterpoint to hard-edged architecture. Its is a physical manifestation of interconnectedness and strength through resiliency.

echelman.com | **@janetechelman**

Photo Credit: Melissa Henry

PUBLIC ART SPOTLIGHT

Big Hoops to Fill, 2025

Ja'Hari Ortega (she/her)

Ja'Hari Ortega is a multidisciplinary Boston-based artist, educator, and advocate who uses a vernacular language to capture the pulse of her city.

Big Hoops to Fill is a large-scale sculpture designed by Boston-based artist, sculptor, and jewelry maker Ja'Hari Ortega (she/her). The artwork features two outsized golden bamboo hoop earrings –also known as "door knocker earrings" – that function as interactive swings. Cast from fiberglass with steel interior supports, the earrings hang from a swing set frame that echoes the one the artist grew up playing on in Roxbury, MA.

Ortega's sculpture draws upon the cultural weight of bamboo hoop earrings, an iconic style of jewelry worn by many women of color that originated from early hip-hop culture and fashion. As journalist Ivette Feliciano observes, these earrings "symbolize resistance and bear cultural significance [especially for] immigrant communities rooted in Indigenous and African traditions."

@ja_hari713

Photo Credit: G. Ortiz

Rowes Wharf Plaza

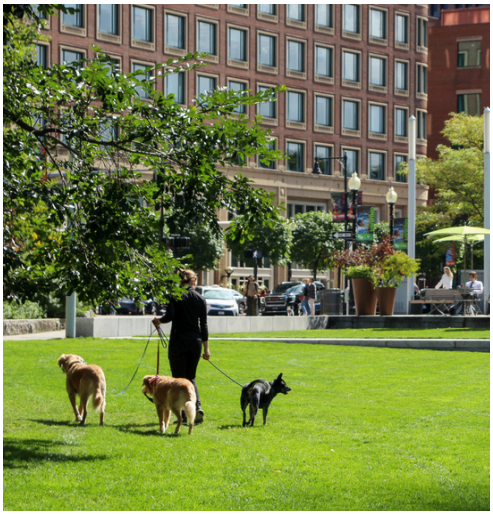
Cross High Street to visit Rowes Wharf Plaza, one of The Greenway's prime event spaces.

Rowes Wharf Plaza

WELCOME TO THE WHARF DISTRICT

Rowes Wharf Plaza is the gateway to the Wharf District section of the park. As you explore the plaza, look down at the engraved tiles beneath your feet — you'll find quotes from immigrants who arrived in Boston between the 1800s and 2003, each one a small piece of the city's shared story.

In 2023, this history came to life through Salt Soaked, a site-specific performance by Vimoshka Dance Company created as part of the Conservancy's Momentum Dance Series. The piece drew on the words etched into the plaza, reflecting the challenges, hopes, and new beginnings that have shaped this waterfront community.



Rowes Wharf Plaza Lawn

Harbor Fog, *Ross Miller, 2009*

HARBOR FOG

Harbor Fog is the only permanent art installation on The Greenway, designed by Ross Miller and installed in 2009. The sculpture mimics a boat and navigational buoys, with motion-activated fog, lights, and a horn. Harbor Fog also pays homage to the historic importance of Boston's Harbor throughout the city.

Rowes Wharf Plaza

THE POLLINATOR RIBBON

One of Rowes Wharf's most vibrant features is the Pollinator Ribbon, a colorful corridor filled with native plants, including species from Martha's Vineyard. This living pathway is designed to attract and support local bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, creating a lively, ever-changing ecosystem right in the heart of the city.

As you walk along the ribbon, you might notice pollinators busy at work among the blooms, or pause to take in the textures, colors, and scents of the plants. It's a small but meaningful way the Greenway connects visitors to the rhythms of nature and supports biodiversity downtown.

Rowes Wharf Gardens

Wharf District

Follow The Greenway north, and make your way through the Wharf District area of the park. There is so much to explore!

Wharf District

LIGHT BLADES

One of the Wharf District's standout features is the Light Blades installation. These tall, colorful blades can be customized to celebrate special days or bring attention to important causes throughout the year. Recently, the Conservancy has paired the Light Blades with art installations, including a 2024 project by Lani Asunción called SONG/LAND/SEA, which added vibrant vinyl designs to the blades.

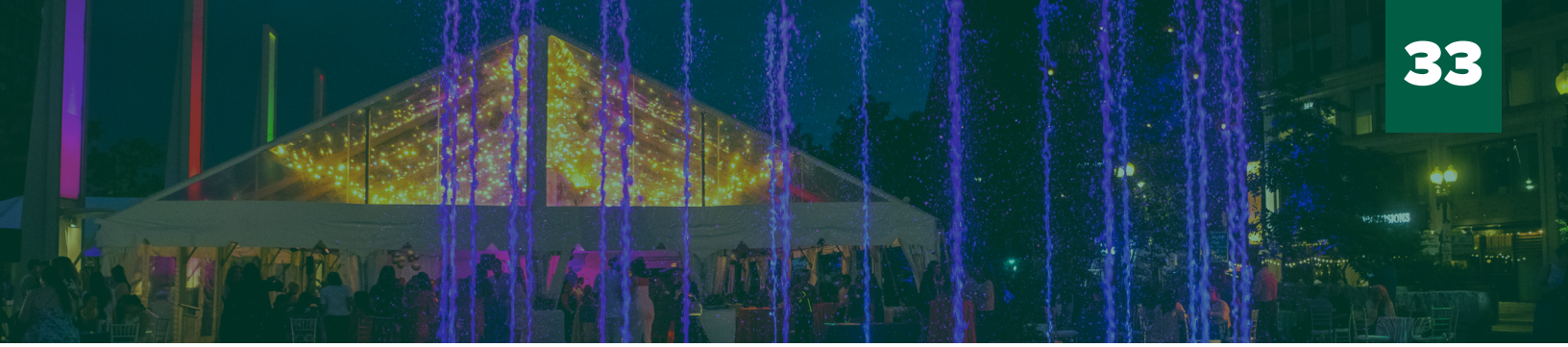
Light Blades during movie night in the Wharf District

Greenway Benches

TAKE A SEAT

The Wharf District is also a great place to pause and enjoy the surroundings. Do you love spending time here? You can make your visit even more memorable by dedicating a bench with a personalized plaque — a wonderful way to leave a lasting mark on the park. In 2023, the Conservancy added dozens of new benches in this area, including traditional seating and swinging benches in the North End section, giving plenty of options to find the perfect spot to rest, reflect, or watch the city go by.

DEDICATE A GREENWAY BENCH



Rings Fountain

FUN FOR ALL AGES

Rings Fountain, created by the team behind the famous Bellagio Fountain in Las Vegas (WET Design), is one of the Greenway's most playful summer attractions. The fountain usually opens around Memorial Day and runs through mid-October, delighting visitors with a nightly light show that makes the water dance in colorful patterns. While it wasn't originally designed as a splash pad, it has become a favorite spot for kids and adults alike to cool off on warm summer days — especially given its prime location near other Boston attractions.

Rings Fountain

Rings Fountain during annual Gala on The Greenway

BEHIND THE SCENES

The fountain is carefully designed to handle city life and weather. An anemometer measures wind speed and adjusts the water display as needed, keeping the show safe and beautiful. Maintenance is made easy thanks to an underground vault that allows quick access for repairs. Each winter, the team performs a thorough winterization process to protect the fountain so it's ready to delight visitors again the following season.

Greenway Carousel

Head north and cross Milk Street, another fun surprise lies just ahead!

The Greenway Carousel

BRINGING JOY TO ALL AGES

Head north and cross Milk Street — just ahead, you'll find a delightful surprise: the Greenway Carousel. Opened in 2013, this hand-carved carousel features characters inspired by the air, sea, and land animals of Boston Harbor, as well as the imaginative drawings of children from across the city. Local artist Jeff Briggs brought these creatures to life, creating a one-of-a-kind ride full of whimsy and local spirit.

The carousel runs from March through New Year's Eve, and visitors can also take home coloring books featuring the unique animals for a little extra magic.

The Greenway Carousel

Birthday party at The Greenway Carousel

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Carousel is available for birthday parties and special gatherings throughout the year, offering a memorable experience for kids and families. More information on booking is available on the Greenway's website.
This project was generously supported by individual donors and foundations, funding not only the carousel itself but also the surrounding pavilion, helping make this a lasting community treasure.

Armenian Heritage Park

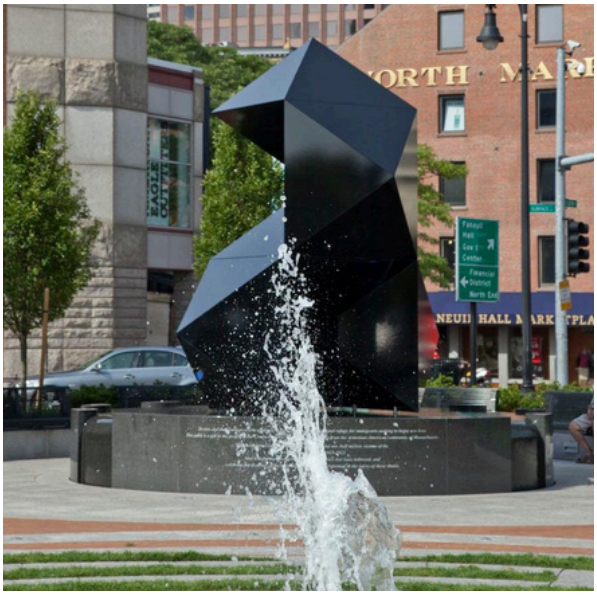
Cross Mercantile Street to enter Armenian Heritage Park, a peaceful half-acre space operated by the Armenian Heritage Foundation.

Armenian Heritage Park

CELEBRATING CULTURAL HERITAGE

This park honors the experiences of immigrants to Boston and beyond. A gift from the Armenian-American community to the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, it was designed and built by the Armenian Heritage Foundation. The Greenway Conservancy now helps care for the park under an agreement with the Foundation, keeping it welcoming and vibrant for all who visit.

Armenian Heritage Park Labyrinth



Abstract Sculpture

LABYRINTH AND SCULPTURE

The park's geometric design tells a story of journey, resilience, and hope. At its center, an Abstract Sculpture — a split rhomboid dodecahedron — is reconfigured each year to take on a new shape, symbolizing renewal and change. A single jet of water rises from the center of the Labyrinth, representing hope and rebirth, while the surrounding circle bears inscriptions of Art, Science, Service, and Commerce, honoring the contributions of immigrants to the city and beyond.

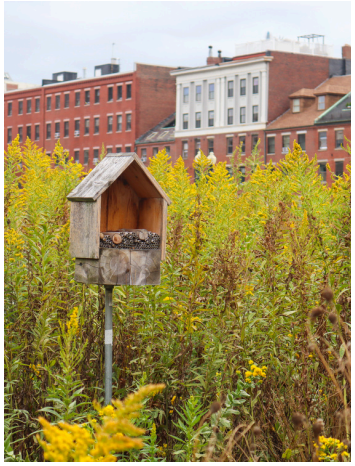
Take a moment to explore the sculpture, read the inscriptions, and walk the labyrinth. Spend a few quiet moments here and connect with the history around you.

Wildflower Meadow

From Armenian Heritage Park, follow Surface Road north to reach the Greenway Wildflower Meadow.

Greenway Wildflower Meadow

A HAVEN FOR NATIVE SPECIES



Wildflower Meadow

The Greenway Wildflower Meadow is a vibrant patch of color and life right in the heart of the city. Home to dozens of native wildflowers, this meadow is carefully nurtured by the Greenway's horticulture team and dedicated volunteers, who tend to the plants throughout the year.

Beyond its beauty, the meadow plays an important role in supporting native pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. Each season brings new blooms, and visitors can watch the meadow grow and change, providing a living reminder of how nature thrives even in an urban environment.

Take a stroll through the meadow, notice the variety of plants and pollinators at work, and appreciate the care and thought that goes into keeping this space both beautiful and ecologically healthy.

Zipline at The Greenway Meadow

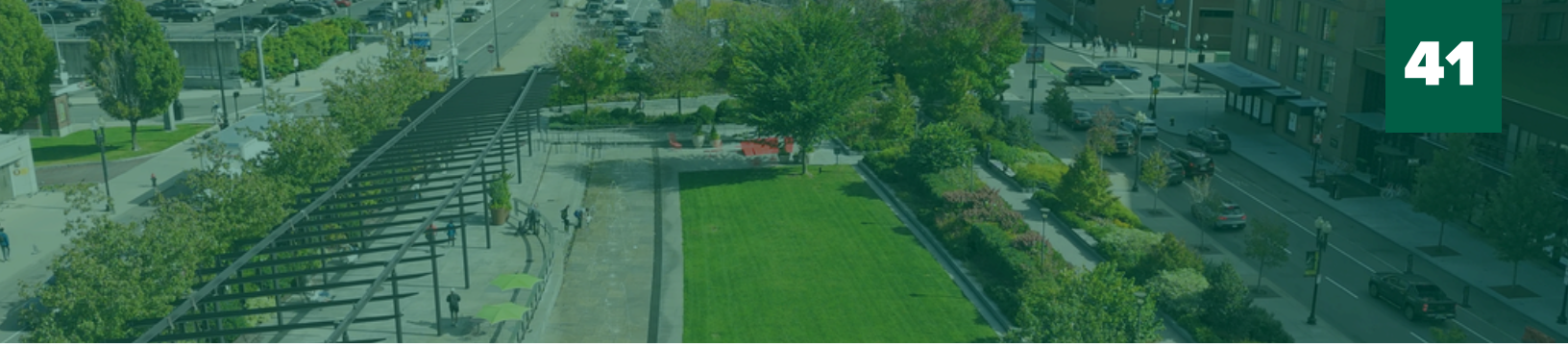
ACTIVATING THE SPACE

This area of the Greenway has a rich history of bringing creativity, nature, and play together. Over the years, it has hosted public art installations, special horticulture projects, and program pilots, including:

- A **zipline** for adventurous visitors
- Sunflower plantings as part of the Roxbury Sunflower Project public art installation
- The Greenway Meadow (planted in fall 2018 and spring 2019) to extend the Pollinator Ribbon and support native pollinators

North End

Head north from the Wildflower Meadow along Surface Road, and you've reached the North End!



The North End

FRONT PORCH OF THE NORTH END

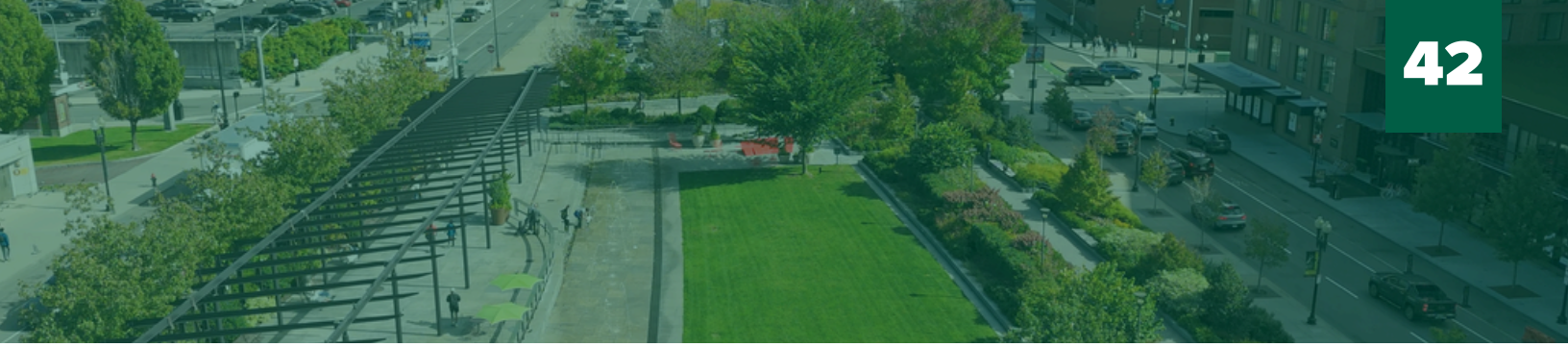
The North End area of the park has been designed to evoke the ambiance of a European garden or park. A prominent feature is the pergola, also known as the Front Porch of the North End, which serves as an architectural scaling element, providing a welcoming place to sit while offering a scenic view of the lawn. The parks also feature water fountains that are operational from around Memorial Day until mid-October.

North End pergola and fountains

CAROLYN LYNCH GARDEN

The Carolyn Lynch Garden is designed with an array of bright colors, seasonal blooms, and a rich diversity of textures, heights, and personalities. This garden is dedicated to Carolyn Hoff Lynch, an avid gardener and a leading philanthropist.

Carolyn Lynch Garden



North End History

THE FREEDOM TRAIL

The Freedom Trail, a historic 2.5-mile path through downtown Boston, runs through the North End, seamlessly blending history with nature. This trail, marked by a distinctive red line of bricks, leads visitors past significant landmarks of the American Revolution, offering a picturesque journey through the area!

Freedom Trail crossing through The Greenway

Leaning Rail

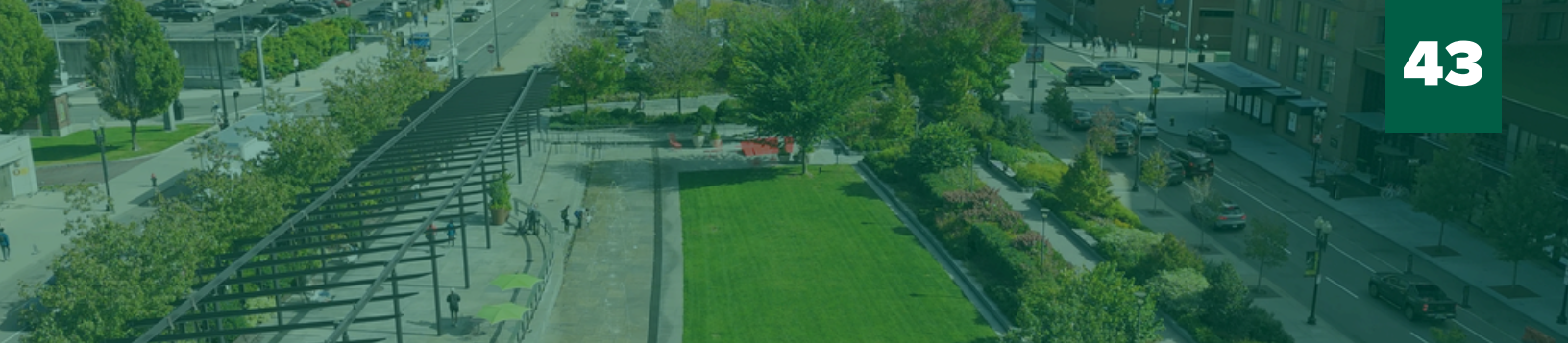
LEANING RAIL

The leaning rail hosts a timeline of moments in Boston history dating back to the 17th century.

ZIPPORAH POTTER ATKINS

This stone marks the site of the home of Zipporah Potter Atkins, the first-known Black woman to own a home in Boston in 1670. In the summer of 2024, a recreation of her house was installed on the lawn as part of a public art installation, *Going to Ground,* by artist LaRissa Rogers, celebrating her legacy and bringing a piece of Boston's history to life for visitors.

Going to Ground, *LaRissa Rogers, 2024*



North End History

Mill Pond Line

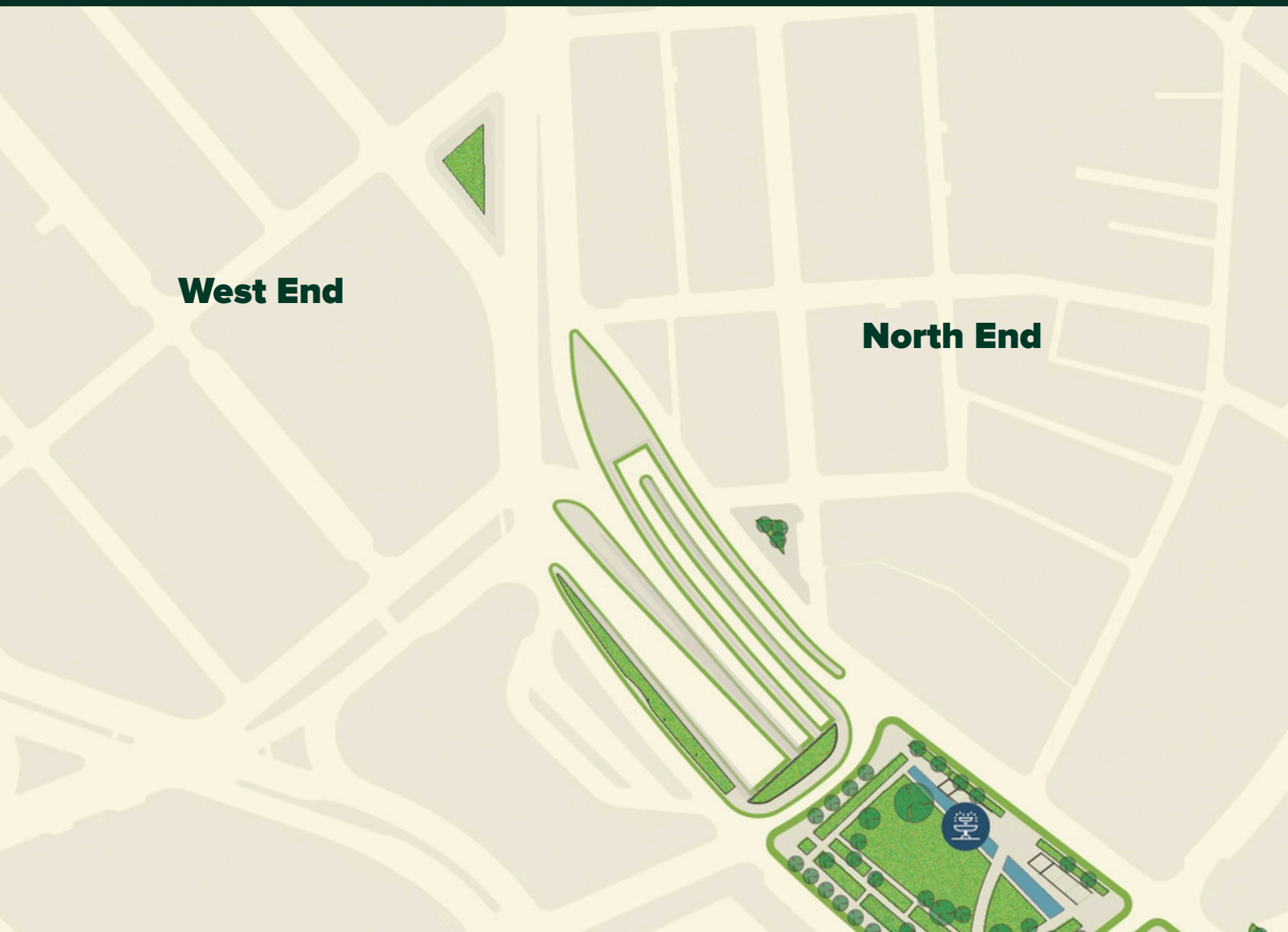
MILL POND LINE

The Mill Pond Line marks the location of the historic Mill Pond's retaining wall. Built in the 1700s, the pond harnessed the tides to power a grist mill, playing an important role in early Boston's growth.

Much of Boston's downtown, including the land beneath the Greenway, was originally tidal marshes, ponds, and waterfront. In the 1800s, the Mill Pond was filled in to create new land for development — a reminder of how the city has been reshaped over time. Today, the granite marker lets visitors trace the outline of this lost waterway and imagine the city as it once was.

North Meadow

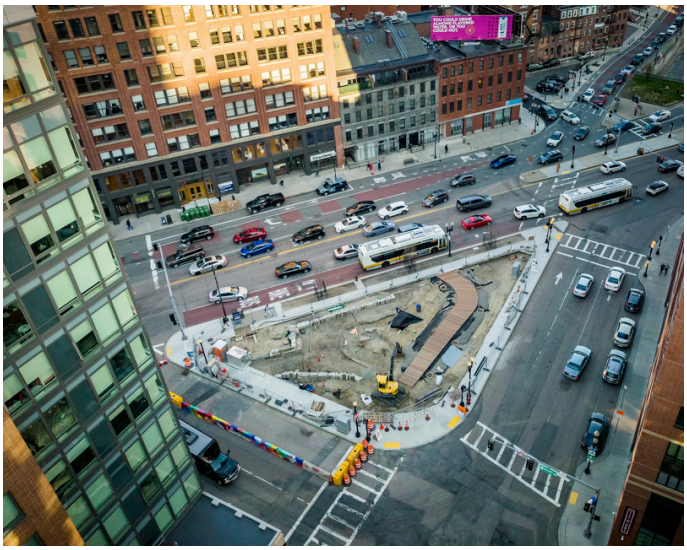
One more stop! Follow Surface Road north past City Winery, and you'll arrive at North Meadow, a small but special corner of the Greenway.



North Meadow on The Greenway

OUR NEWEST ADDITION

North Meadow is the Greenway's newest section, opening in 2022. Because of the tunnel beneath, much of the meadow had to be built by hand, giving it a uniquely crafted feel. This area helps link the Greenway to a broader network of parks and green spaces, including the Esplanade and the Charles River, while offering glimpses of Charlestown across the water.



North Meadow during construction

Completed North Meadow

As the northernmost point of the Greenway, North Meadow points visitors toward Boston's West End. From here, your journey can continue to explore the city — just around the corner are TD Garden and North Station, welcoming millions of visitors each year.

Thank you for joining us on this tour of The Greenway!

If you would like to learn even more, be sure to visit our website (ROSEKENNEDYGREENWAY.ORG) and follow us on Instagram (@ROSEKENNEDYGREENWAY).

Be sure to also follow our Public Art Instagram for updates on upcoming installations and news (@GREENWAYPUBLICART)

ABOUT THE GREENWAY CONSERVANCY

The nonprofit Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy has sole responsibility for managing all aspects of the Rose Kennedy Greenway, including horticulture, programming, public art, maintenance, and capital improvements. Approximately two thirds of the park's annual budget is generously provided by private sources, including gifts from supporters like you. Visit **rosekennedygreenway.org/give** to learn how to make a gift today. Thank you for exploring The Greenway!

Public programming on The Greenway is made possible with major support from:

Mass Cultural Council

THE GREEN WAY