

In Our Backyard

Just steps beyond MAAM's front doors, our neighborhood's parks, waterways, and greenspaces beckon. While you're in the area, MAAM invites you to go out and explore! Use this guide to discover the many natural features that make this neighborhood unique.

THE EMERALD NECKLACE

A backyard for city residents, this 7-mile-long chain of parks and waterways connects people and nature just as landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted intended when he designed it more than 100 years ago. Encompassing the Back Bay Fens, the Fenway Victory Gardens, The Riverway, and other individual parks, the Emerald Necklace is one of the nation's earliest examples of green infrastructure.

1 BACK BAY FENS

The Back Bay Fens section of the Emerald Necklace is an eclectic mix of formal and community gardens, ball fields, and memorials and offers a range of experiences from sporting and gardening to birding and relaxing. Don't miss the elegant Kelleher Rose Garden or visit Shattuck Visitor Center to learn more about Boston's greenspaces.

2 THE FENWAY VICTORY GARDENS

Located within the Emerald Necklace, The Fenway Victory Gardens hold more than 500 gardens for City of Boston residents. Tended by a community of more than 375 members from every neighborhood in Boston, the iconic Gardens are the oldest continuously-operating victory gardens in the United States.

3 THE RIVERWAY

A narrow stretch of the Emerald Necklace, the Riverway follows the meandering course of the Muddy River. The park was designed to look like it had always been there—a natural, not human-made, landscape. The Riverway is also home to some of the most beautiful bridges in the Emerald Necklace.

4 THE GARDEN OF THE HEART OF HEAVEN

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
A beautiful Japanese garden on the campus of the MFA, the publicly-accessible *Garden of the Heart of Heaven* features more than seventy plant species from America and Japan. The garden evokes magnificent scenes from nature by forming the shapes of various landscape elements such as waterfalls, mountains, islands and ocean—the vastness of nature in miniature.

5 RAMLER PARK

Just a few steps from the Emerald Necklace, Ramler Park is an elegant half-acre pocket park quietly nestled in the West Fens. A graceful fountain, a pergola, a formal lawn, lush plantings, and a meandering path provide a moment of respite in a busy neighborhood.

6 KEVIN W. FITZGERALD PARK AND ARBORETUM

The Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park and Arboretum provides a place of recreation, education, and beauty in the heart of a densely populated neighborhood, fostering feelings of repose amidst the constant activity of life in the City of Boston.

7 NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY ARBORETUM

With more than 11 acres of green space in the heart of Northeastern's Boston campus, the Northeastern University Arboretum is devoted to the planting and stewardship of plants grown for research, educational, and ornamental purposes. Highlights include a picturesque koi pond, numerous public art installations integrated into the landscape, and a beautiful tree canopy.

Need directions?



VISIT OUR INTERACTIVE GOOGLE MAP



Species of the Back Bay Fens



Keep an eye out for common wildlife found in the Back Bay Fens!



HOODED MERGANSER



MALLARD



POND SLIDER



GREAT BLUE HERON



BLUE JAY



NORTHERN RED OAK



WEeping WILLOW

Discover more



With **iNaturalist**, discover the many plant and animal wildlife species that call the Back Bay Fens portion of Boston's Emerald Necklace home.



Identify the birds you see or hear during your neighborhood exploration with the free **Merlin Bird ID** app from Cornell University, a global bird guide with photos, sounds, maps, and more.

SPEAK FOR THE TREES

treeboston.org

Learn more about **Speak for the Trees'** work with community members to plant, preserve, care and advocate for trees and to expand the tree canopy in environmentally marginalized Boston neighborhoods.



LEFT: Sandra M. Sawatzky, *The Black Gold Tapestry* (detail), 2008-2017.
 RIGHT: Imani Jacqueline Brown, *What remains at the end of the earth?*, 2022.

SCAN TO ...

Listen to artists talk about their work featured in *Displacement*

Learn more about each artwork in *Displacement*

Access a large-print version of the exhibition text



Displacement, an exhibition of works by contemporary artists, explores the relationship between humans and their environments. Through textiles, sculptures, film, and scents, this exhibition examines human-driven alterations to the sea, land, and air, and the ways in which those systems are responding.

By investigating the historic and current relationship between industrial civilization and the natural world, a range of issues are called into the frame, including migration, adaptation, and extinction. The visual languages of the artists in *Displacement* offer a lens through which the arc of human-environmental dynamics can be assessed and reconsidered.

DISPLACEMENT

ON VIEW JUNE 27-DECEMBER 8, 2024

For the safety of our visitors and the art on our lockers or bins in the lobby, free of charge, not permitted in the galleries. Visitors may use backpacks, umbrellas, food, and beverages are view, bags and oversized items larger than 12",

SAFE FOR YOU, SAFE FOR THE ART

Let your imagination run wild!

The MassArt Art Museum (MAAM) is Boston's only free contemporary art museum, a space to experience works by visionary artists at the forefront of contemporary art. As MassArt's teaching museum, we are committed to educating and empowering the next generation of artists—both on our campus and throughout the world.

- Restrooms**
All-gender option and changing stations are located on 1st floor.
- Have a seat**
Gallery benches or stools are available throughout the museum.
- Free lockers**
Store oversized items in lockers or bins in the lobby.
- Wheelchairs**
Wheelchairs are available upon request.
- No touch**
Unless otherwise noted, please help us protect the art by not touching.
- WiFi**
MassArt
- Photography welcome**
Please no flash. Tag us @MAAMBoston
- Artmaking is encouraged!**
Pencils are available in the lobby, and get creative in the Barkan Family Big Ideas Studio.

A NON-COLLECTING MUSEUM

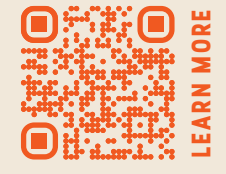
The MassArt Art Museum was renovated in 2018-2020 to embody the ambitions, standards, and professionalism of a museum. Our name does not bind us to a largely static and historical collection. Instead, MAAM is distinctive by acting as a non-collecting *kunsthalle*: a dynamic temporary exhibition space featuring exceptional contemporary artworks. We intentionally focus our attention on the future, constantly exploring new and exciting possibilities in the art world.

THE ONLY ONE

Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) is the only public freestanding art and design college in the U.S., and the nation's first art school to grant a degree. Today, MassArt continues its original mission of providing an inclusive, academically excellent, and rigorous curriculum that educates students to thrive as practicing professionals in their chosen field.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The campus of Massachusetts College of Art and Design is located on the lands of Indigenous tribes, such as the Wampanoag and Massachusetts. We make this land acknowledgment to pay respect to these communities—past, present, and future—and recognize the painful history of erasure and ongoing violence toward Indigenous people in North America and across the world. We acknowledge this part of our history to affirm our values to pursue a more just, compassionate, and equitable learning environment.



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Welcome

OPEN TO ALL
 ALWAYS FREE



MassArt
 Art Museum