



City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

# Guide to the Parks and Recreation Department Engineering Division photographs

Finding aid prepared by Joseph Melanson  
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<b>Repository:</b>	City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
<b>Title:</b>	Photographs
<b>Collection No.:</b>	4400.003
<b>Dates:</b>	1965-1984
<b>Quantity:</b>	3.0 Cubic feet (9 document cases)

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## Historical note

The Boston park system is intimately tied to the early development of the city. The creation of city streets was beginning to make a substantial impact on the landscape. At the same time, city officials were looking for ways to keep the urban environment a healthy one. The parks system was thought of as a way to avoid diseases that were associated with tenement housing and other close living and working conditions. A sense of being in nature was also thought to be very beneficial to the human well being.

This idea is very evident in what has come to be called 'the emerald necklace.' It's designer, Frederick Law Olmsted sought to provide Bostonians with an uncompromised sense of being in a park, while going from one part of the city to another. What may be less evident is that many smaller parks around the city are also intimately linked to the development of the city. Olmsted and other early landscape architects were involved in the creation of parks all over the city.

The Park Act passed in Boston on June 9, 1875 created a municipal commission consisting of three members appointed by the Mayor of Boston. The commissioners were allowed to acquire land for park projects within the city. Plans, designs, and goals changed and evolved over time and by the end of the 19th century park locations and designs were very similar to what we can see today.

This collection of photographs represents views of improvements to those same parks conducted 100 years later. The parks are still providing the respite that was intended for those living and working in the city one hundred years ago. These photographs represent the work that is making that possible.

The photographs were intended to provide documentary evidence, in a standard form, of work done by contractors and architects. The city's vendors submitted the photographs to the Engineering Division of the Parks and Recreation Department as a record of their work. The photographs show pre-construction, work in progress and work completed views.

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## Scope and Contents note

The photographs in this collection represent visual documentation of various improvements to active and passive recreation facilities in Boston. The Parks and Recreation Department, Engineering Division administered the improvement projects. The photographs record work done by contractors and architects between 1968 and 1984. They were a part of the City of Boston Archives accession #99013, which also contained maps and plans.

The original order of the collection was adhered to with some exceptions. Originally, the collection consisted of three record cartons. Folders were arranged in one record carton showing a complete alphabetic arrangement. The other two cartons contained a single, complete alphabetic arrangement. There were also two folders of materials marked "to be filed."

The folders marked "to be filed" were integrated into the collection and the three cartons were merged to form one complete alphabetic arrangement. The photographs were kept in chronological order within the folders. Some

of the folder titles were shortened, when necessary, to give definitive location as the folder title. Some paperwork was extracted from the file folders and placed at the end of the series.

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**Series I: Allston/Brighton**

Box	Folder	
1	10	Brighton Square, 1979 October 30-1980 May 15
2	16	Cassidy Playground, 1969-1970 June 24
4	42	Fidelis Way, 1978 November 1-1980 May 15
5	50	Hano Street Playground, 1974 March 30
6	63	Joyce Park, 1975 October 28
6	64	Kevin Barry Hardiman, 1979 September 17-1980 February 9
7	71	McKinney Playground, 1969-1970 August 27
7	79	Oak Square, 1974 September 16-1975 October 7
8	89	Ringer Playground, 1969-1977 May 13
8	91	Rogers Park, 1967 November 2-1975 October 28
9	96	Smith Playground, 1969-1970 June 24
9	112	Portsmouth Street, 1965

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**Series II: Back Bay**

Box	Folder	
2	21	Commonwealth Avenue, 1969 August 8-1974 November 27
3	23	Copley Square, 1968 August 1-1969 November 24
3	24	Copley Square (continued), 1968 August 1-1969 November 24
3	25	Copley Square (continued), 1968 August 1-1969 November 24
3	30	Dartmouth Street, 1969 July 18-1974 August 30

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**Series III: Boston Proper**

Box	Folder	
1	7	Boston Common, 1971 June 21-1979 October 15
1	8	Boston Common - Fence, 1973 August 10-1974 June 15
1	9	Boston Common - Frog Pond, 1970 June 15-1970 October 23
7	77	Myrtle Street Playground, 1973 April
8	84	Phillips Street Park, 1975 November 29
8	86	Public Garden, 1973 August 10-1974 June

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**Series IV: Charlestown**

Box	Folder	
4	38	Edwards, 1977 November 1-1978 October 20
6	62	John Harvard Mall, 1978 January-1978 December 28
8	85	Phipps Street Cemetery, 1974 August 15-1975 June 2
9	107	Caldwell, 1978 July-1979 November 23
9	108	Cook, 1979 June 19-1979 November 23

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**Series V: Dorchester**

Box	Folder	
1	14	Byrne, 1978 May
2	19	Clifford, 1971 June 7-1983 December 5
3	27	Corbett Park, 1975 September 22-1976 February 16
3	29	Cronin, 1973 September 15-1973 November 30
4	33	Donovan, 1978 February 20-1978 October 17
4	34	Dorchester Playground, 1970 October 20
4	35	Downer Avenue Playground, 1976 May-1976 July 19
4	43	Franklin Field, 1975 April-1984 October 26
5	44	Franklin Park, 1971 July 8-1984 May 31
5	46	Garvey, 1978 April 5-1978 August 16
5	47	Garvey Playground, 1971 March 27-1977 October 27
5	48	Gibson, 1971 July 15-1972 August 22
5	49	Hannon, 1969 December-1973 September 30
6	53	Hemenway
6	54	Hemenway, 1975 September 22-1975 December 1
6	56	Howes Playground, 1969 December-1970 September 29
6	57	Howes Playground, 1970 November 29-1973 June 1
7	74	Mount Bowdoin, 1975 September 22-1976 February 16
7	75	Mount Pleasant Avenue, 1970 August 10-1970 October 30
8	90	Roberts Playground, 1970 June 16-1978 July 21
8	95	Savin Hill, 1970 May 16-1976 February 16
9	100	Thetford Playground, 1971 July 15-1971 August 23
9	104	Walsh, 1970 May 16-1971 April 27
9	105	Winthrop Playground, 1970 October 30-1972 July 7
9	106	Woodcliff Street Play Area, 1974 September 19-1975 May

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**Series VI: East Boston**

Box	Folder	
1	4	American Legion

1	12	Brophy Park, 1974 December 1-1975 June 2
4	37	East Boston Stadium, 1978 March 9-1978 July 21
7	72	McLean Playground, 1971 October 13-1972 July 2
7	78	Noyes Playground, 1970 September 29-1973 December 3
8	83	Paris Street Playground, 1971 September 15-1973 August 9
9	98	Sumner Street, 1975 December 1-1976 July 6
9	113	Unidentified

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**Series VII: Fenway**

Box	Folder	
1	5	Back Bay Fens Rose Garden, 1979 September 17-1980 February 9
4	40	Evans Park, 1979 September 17-1980 February 9

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**Series VIII: Hyde Park**

Box	Folder	
1	3	Amatucci Playground, 1975 September 22-1976 February 16
8	87	Readville & Walker, 1977 November 14-1979 May 30
8	88	Readville Street Playground, 1973 September 17-1978 July 21
8	92	Ross Playground, 1974 October 18-1978 October 17
8	93	Ross Playground (cont.), 1974 October 18-1978 October 17

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**Series IX: Jamaica Plain**

Box	Folder	
1	11	Brookside Avenue, 1971 May 12-1971 November 12
6	60	Jamaica Pond, 1977 July 3-1980 February 9
6	61	Jefferson, 1977 December 22-1984 May 18
7	76	Mozart Playground, 1970 May 16-1975 August 4
7	81	Olmsted Playground, 1974 September 16-1975 October 7
8	94	Rossmore/Stedman, 1977 March 9-1977 September 27
9	97	South Street Mall, 1983 December 7

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**Series X: Mattapan**

Box	Folder	
1	2	Almont, 1969-1970 October 20
9	103	Walker, 1970 May 16-1984 June 1

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**Series XI: North End**

Box	Folder	
2	18	Charter Street, 1971 August 17-1973 June 1
3	26	Copps Hill, 1974 March 30-1974 May 2
3	31	DeFillipo Playground, 1971 August 17-1973 June 1
9	110	Paul Revere, 1977 November 10-1978 September 25

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**Series XII: Roslindale**

Box	Folder	
1	1	Adam's Park, 1976 May-1979 August 31
4	41	Fallon Field, 1970 June 15-1979 November 23
5	51	Healy, 1973 September 28-1978 November
5	52	Healy, 1973 September 28-1978 November

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**Series XIII: Roxbury**

Box	Folder	
2	17	Ceylon Street Park, 1970 August 10-1972 May 3
2	22	Connolly, 1971 February 27-1971 November 1
3	28	Crawford Playground, 1984 April 10
4	39	Eustis Street, 1970 November 22-1971 June 7
6	55	Highland Park, 1970 March 27-1971 November 28
6	65	Lambert Avenue, 1970 August 1-1973 December 15
7	69	Little Scobie Playground, 1971 May 15-1971 November 1
7	70	McLaughlin Playground, 1970 May 16-1978 May 13
7	73	Mission Hill Playground, 1969 December-1973 June 1
7	80	O'Day Playground, 1974 June 17-1974 September 2
8	82	Orchard Playground, 1969 December-1984 May 18
9	101	Union, 1979 May 29-1979 November 23
9	109	Parker Tremont, 1977 March 9-1977 May 13

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**Series XIV: South Boston**

Box	Folder	
1	13	Buckley Playground, 1970 May 5-1970 December

2	20	Columbus, 1970 May 5-1978 June 30
4	32	Doherty, 1975 September 22-1978 September 25
6	59	Independence Square
7	68	Major Lee Playground, 1974 August 1-1978 October 17
9	99	Sweeney Playground, 1971 June 10-1971 December 1
9	102	Thomas Park, 1970?-1970 December

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**Series XV: West Roxbury**

Box	Folder	
1	6	Billings, 1970 May 16-1978 June 30
4	36	Draper, 1970 May 16-1975 February 16
6	58	Hynes Playground, 1970 May 16-1975 August 5

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**Series XVI: Various locations**

Box	Folder	
9	111	Various locations, before 1984 May-June

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