

THE BACK BAY FENS



The neighborhood is aptly named for this large parkland and urban wild, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted as one of the last components in Boston's Emerald Necklace park system.

Built on wetlands, the Fens was originally designed by Olmsted to be flushed by the tides twice daily, but the damming of the Charles River in 1910 produced a freshwater marsh that rendered many of his plantings unsupportable.

Today, only two of the early bridges, the park's general boundaries and some trees remain of Olmsted's design. The space is home to the Rose Garden, whose spectacular roses are in full bloom in June, playing fields and courts, and the Fenway Victory Gardens, 7 acres which represent our nation's last remaining original victory gardens created during World War II.