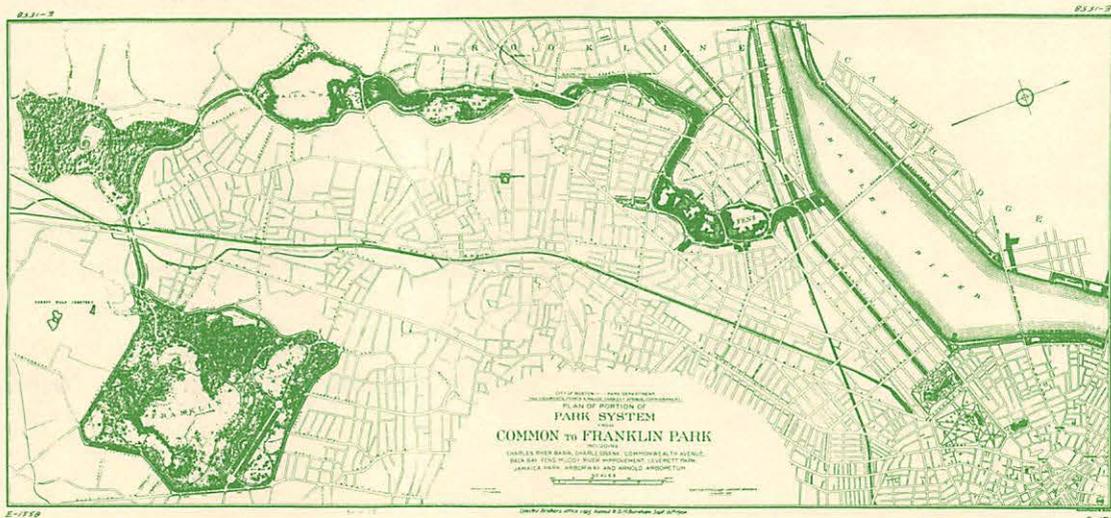


Olmsted's "Emerald Necklace" for Boston

One of the boldest and most comprehensive projects undertaken by the Olmsted firm was the design of the Boston Park System: a 5-mile linear greensward of linking parks, ponds and parkways.

In 1881, Olmsted presented the Boston Parks Commission with his vision for the park system.



BACK BAY FENS

"Scenery of a winding, brackish creek within wooded banks; gaining interest from the meandering course of the water; numerous points and coves softened in their outlines by thickets and with much delicate variety in tone and color through varied, and, in landscape art, novel forms of perennial and herbaceous growths, the picturesque elements emphasized by a few necessary structures, strong but unobtrusive"

MUDDY RIVER

"The natural sequence upon slightly higher ground to the last in following up a fresh-water course bordered by passages of rushy meadow and varied slopes from the adjoining upland; trees in groups, diversified by thickets and open glades"

*UPPER VALLEY OF
THE MUDDY RIVER*

*"A chain of picturesque fresh-water ponds,
alternating with attractive natural groves and
meads, the uppermost being -- "*

JAMAICA POND

*"A natural sheet of water, with quiet, graceful
shores, rear banks of varied elevation and
contour, for the most part shaded by a fine
natural forest growth to be brought out
overhangingly, darkening the water's edge and
favoring great beauty in reflections and flickering
half-lights"*

THE ARBORETUM

*"(Independent of its imposed features)
Rocky hill-sides, partly wooded with numerous
great trees, and a hanging-wood of hemlocks of
great beauty. Eminences commanding distant
prospects in one direction seaward over the city,
in the other across a charming countryside to blue
distant hills"*

*WEST ROXBURY PARK
(FRANKLIN PARK)*

*"Complete escape from the town. Open country.
Pastoral scenery. A lovely dale gently winding
between low wooded slopes, giving a broad
expanse of unbroken turf, lost in the distance
under scattered trees"*