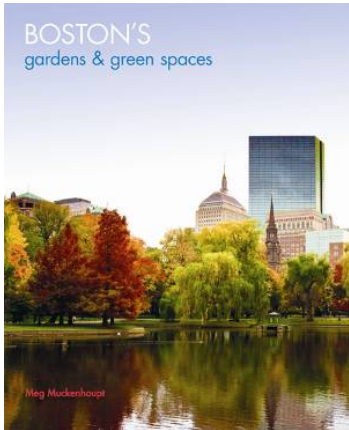


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LOCAL AUTHOR REVEALS HOW BOSTON'S GARDENS HAVE GROWN  
*Boston's Gardens & Green Spaces* by Meg Muckenhoupt



**BOSTON, MA**—April is National Garden Month and there's no better time to explore Boston's ever-expanding network of gardens, parks, and public spaces. Over the last two decades, Bostonians have been finding (or creating) new places to build parks, adding to the wealth of Boston's existing treasured gardens and green spaces.

"Boston's history is written in its land," says Lexington-based environmental journalist Meg Muckenhoupt, author of *Boston's Gardens & Green Spaces*, an illustrated introduction to the origins and reinvention of public space in the Greater Boston area.

"The Boston Common was originally used to graze sheep, marshal troops, and hang unpopular people. Many of Boston's most famous green spaces were constructed in the interest of public health. Today, ingenious Bostonians are growing cutting-edge rooftop greenery, building sculpture gardens, and tending urban wilds. These green spaces not only add to the character of the city, but they support populations of birds, insects, and

other creatures who've lived here for millennia. Most important, they provide a place where we can feel closer to the earth."

If you're looking for an April outing and want to venture beyond the Emerald Necklace, try one of the many sites covered in Muckenhoupt's *Boston's Gardens & Green Spaces*:

- Enliven your senses at the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**. While its breathtaking courtyard blooms year round, the museum decorates its second floor balconies with nasturtium vines to celebrate Isabella Stewart Gardner's birthday in April.
- Dig up some practical tips at the **New England Wild Flower Society's Garden in the Woods**. Plants from all over the region are identified by habitat, and the staff can handle any kind of question. April 15 is opening day.
- Get off the beaten path and follow Muckenhoupt into the urban wilds. "I have a soft spot for out-of-the-way places in the city that aren't supposed to look neat and tidy. In particular, I'm fond of **Belle Isle Marsh** and **Allendale Woods**."
- Explore the sprawling 250-acre **Forest Hills Cemetery**. Built thirty years before the Emerald Necklace, the cemetery is the final resting spot of such celebrities as Eugene O'Neill, Reggie Lewis, and e.e. cummings. Not only an elegant park and arboretum, it is home to the **Forest Hills Cemetery Contemporary Sculpture Path**, which showcases over 160 years of memorial art and commissioned sculpture.
- Discover some of the city's newest creations: Birders and flower lovers will enjoy **Ramler Park** in the Fenway. Art lovers will be intrigued by **Eastport Park's** artworks. Or wander through **Danehy Park** in Cambridge, a degraded former dump that was transformed into a work of art. "It shows me that while we may not be able to restore ravaged spaces to a 'natural' condition, we can bring land back to life," says Muckenhoupt.

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*Boston's Gardens & Green Spaces* by Meg Muckenhoupt

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*Boston's Gardens & Green Spaces* is now available in bookstores and online.

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