



Trustees Gardens

The Trustees' public gardens are a living documentary of Massachusetts horticulture and design traditions. Ranging from 1 to 165 acres, they span climatic conditions from the temperate (Martha's Vineyard) to the extreme (the Berkshires). Each property blends great scenic beauty, important ecological habitat and nationally renowned buildings and gardens with plantings that range from rare native species to one-of-a-kind cultivars.

The Trustees' public gardens are aesthetically rich, horticulturally diverse, and open to the public most of the year. Unlike traditional public gardens, visitor experiences at these sites stress the delicate balance between the designed and the natural, between introduced and indigenous plantings, and the impacts of people on place. As such these public gardens are more than an impressive collection of horticultural specimens; they are statements of personal beauty set within a Massachusetts ecosystem that is constantly in flux. The Trustees has increased its focus on restoring, enlivening and welcoming more people to explore and experience its magnificent collections of gardens around the state. To learn more, visit www.thetrustees.org.

STEVENS-COOLIDGE PLACE, NORTH ANDOVER



T. Reichard

DATES: 1792-1962

DESIGNERS: Joseph Chandler, Louisa Bancroft Stevens

ORIGINAL OWNERS: Stevens and Coolidge families, John Gardner Coolidge and Helen Stevens Coolidge

ABOUT: Initially a colonial farmhouse with several additions, the main house became a country farm estate in the late 19th century and was renovated to a Colonial Revival summer home in 1914. It holds noteworthy furniture, artifacts, and art. Visitors who tour the house can enjoy the working estate that is a backdrop to the stunning gardens inspired by deeply rooted family traditions. The walled rose garden, restored perennial garden, greenhouse, serpentine brick wall, and potager garden (French vegetable garden) contain specimen ash, an early 20th century rose and perennial collection, herbs, vegetables, annuals and a pick-your-own cut flower garden.

WHEN TO VISIT: The gardens are open year-round, daily, dawn to dusk and are most vibrant mid-June through September.

GOVERNOR OLIVER AMES ESTATE, EASTON



Trustees

DATES: 1860-1950

DESIGNER: Ames family

ORIGINAL OWNERS: Oliver Ames, Oakes and Blanche Ames, David Ames

ABOUT: 30 miles outside of Boston in the quiet town of Easton, these 19th century Italianate estate grounds include a winding road and path system that traverses rolling hills, meadows, and ponds under the dappled shade of its century-old arboretum. The remains of the estate gardens hold specimen deciduous and coniferous trees as well as early 20th century water garden plants.

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset.

NAUMKEAG, STOCKBRIDGE



Blue Steps, Gross & Daley Photography

DATES: 1885-1926; 1926-58

DESIGNERS: Nathan Barrett, Marion Cruger Coffin, Fletcher Steele

ORIGINAL OWNERS: Joseph and Caroline Choate., Mabel Choate

ABOUT: This architectural and landscape architecture National Landmark began as a family summer cottage, lived in for two generations by the Choate family. The house holds all of the Choate family art and antique collections including significant porcelains, art and furnishings. Starting in 1926, Joseph Choate's daughter, Mabel, and renowned landscape architect, Fletcher Steele, created Naumkeag's striking Modern garden 'rooms,' which just underwent a massive, three-year restoration, including the famous Blue Steps, the whimsical Afternoon Garden (with 17 vibrantly colored Venetian poles), the walled Chinese Temple Garden on the property's highest point, the Peony Terraces, the tree-lined Linden Allée, and Steele's Rose Garden (where floribunda roses pepper rose-graveled paths under Miss Choate's second floor balcony).

WHEN TO VISIT: Open weekends April 2 to Memorial Day, 10AM to 5PM and daily Memorial Day to October 10, 10AM to 5PM.

ELEANOR CABOT BRADLEY ESTATE, CANTON



Trustees

DATES: 1902-1991

DESIGNER: Charles Platt

ORIGINAL OWNERS: Arthur Tracey Cabot, Eleanor Cabot Bradley

ABOUT: This 90-acre country retreat was a family estate that was designed by Charles Platt in 1902. Platt designed the house and grounds to include a formal walled garden and terraces with sweeping views of the Boston hills, surrounded by broad lawns, meadows and fully functional gentleman's farm. After 1945, Eleanor Cabot Bradley continued Cherry Hill's garden tradition, enhancing the property with a camellia house, greenhouses, and a wide variety of specimen ornamental trees and plantings of rhododendron, azalea, and dogwood that prelude its farm buildings and 15 acres of open fields. Another 60 acres of woods and wetlands hold three miles of cart paths and easy walking trails.

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset.

FARANDNEAR, SHIRLEY



Trustees

DATES: 1902-2011

DESIGNER: Arthur Banks

ORIGINAL OWNERS: Charles Goodspeed, Arthur Banks, Goodspeed family

ABOUT: The summer home of accomplished political scientist and professor Arthur Banks and his family, this property's park-like grounds and conservation lands feature open fields (which were formerly an early 20th century family golf course), late 20th century pinetum with 80 specimen conifer trees, perennial gardens, a cranberry bog, 2.7 miles of wooded trails, fields of wildflowers, and "Paradise," the property's natural area where huge hemlocks thrive and grow. The property also features a newly added pavilion with interactive nature wall that serves as an education and gathering space.

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset.

CASTLE HILL ON THE CRANE ESTATE, IPSWICH



Grand Allée, S. Bastille

DATES: 1909-1949

DESIGNERS: Ernest Bowditch, Olmsted Brothers, Arthur Shurcliff

ORIGINAL OWNERS: John Brown, Richard Teller Crane, Jr.

ABOUT: This fish- and wildlife-laden property was well-known by the Native Americans and was owned by John Winthrop, Jr., son of the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Richard T. Crane Jr. purchased the property in 1909 and transformed the former farm and private park into an Italian Revival summer house. The gardens and grounds flourished under the wise eyes of architects and landscape architects from 1909 to 1949. Today the property boasts 100+ year old specimen trees, wildflowers, the remains of early 20th century garden plantings, and the recently restored Grand Allée—the only known, designed landscape of its size and kind still in existence in North America that combines grand scale with decorative arts. The Grand Allée was created by renowned Boston landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff, modeled after the dramatic design of the beautiful Italian and French gardens of Renaissance Europe. The property also features a recently restored Casino Complex, a former pool and entertainment venue “hidden” from view halfway down the Allée, as well as an exquisite Formal Garden, also known as the Italian Garden, the first garden space commissioned by the Crane family and designed in 1910 by the renowned landscape architectural firm, the Olmsted Brothers. It is currently half way through a transformative restoration, with a newly restored beautiful running water feature, wooden pergola, grass ramps, perennial borders, masonry elements and rustic pergola.

WHEN TO VISIT: The grounds are open year-round, daily, 8am to sunset.

LONG HILL, BEVERLY



J. Rousseau

DATES: 1916-1980

DESIGNERS: Mabel Cabot Sedgwick, Marjorie Russell Sedgwick

ORIGINAL OWNERS: Ellery Sedgwick family

ABOUT: The Trustees most horticulturally diverse property, this 114-acre hillside property was originally purchased by *Atlantic Monthly* editor and publisher Ellery Sedgwick for his family's summer retreat. Mabel Sedgwick's garden make Long Hill famous to this day, enriched with rare and unusual plant specimens added by horticulturist Marjorie Russell Sedgwick. Featuring separate garden 'rooms' around the family house, each room contains unique architectural features, linked by a winding path system that highlights rare and unusual species of trees, shrubs, perennials, and groundcovers.

WHEN TO VISIT: Year-round, daily, 8am to 5pm.

MISSION HOUSE, STOCKBRIDGE



S.Sheppard

DATES: 1926-28

DESIGNER: Fletcher Steele

ORIGINAL OWNER: Mabel Choate

ABOUT: The garden at Mission House, a National Historic Landmark in Stockbridge, is one of only three surviving Fletcher Steele-designed masterworks open to the public, one of which is also The Trustees' Naumkeag. The gardens reflect Steele's interpretation of Stockbridge's 18th century garden history, including a kitchen garden with herbs for medicinal and culinary purposes blended with the romance and artistic hues of the Colonial Revival. The garden is a significant case study in preservation choices as changing shade and climatic conditions affect the original design.

WHEN TO VISIT: Gardens open daily, sunrise to sunset

ASHINTULLY GARDENS, TYRINGHAM



W. Hall

DATES: 1937-1996

DESIGNER: John McLennan

ORIGINAL OWNER: John McLennan

ABOUT: This symphonic landscape composition was created over thirty years by composer John McLennan Jr. His gardens and music studio were built in the shadows of his family's mansion, a palatial summer home destroyed by fire in 1952 which remains an evocative ruin overlooking the Berkshire's Housatonic Valley. The garden blends several natural features – rushing stream, native deciduous trees, drumlins and mountain meadows with a designed landscape arranged in a series of sweeping lines and interlocking spaces as intricate as McLennan's musical compositions. Urns, statuary, architectural columns and highly articulated iron gates enhance the garden. Nestled within the hills of the larger 594 acre McLennan Reservation, the designed landscape springs from the surrounding wooded hillsides and meadows that enrich this spectacularly scenic property

WHEN TO VISIT: Open on Wednesdays and Saturdays only from 1-5PM, starting the 1st Wednesday in June through 2nd Saturday in October.

ALLEN C. HASKELL PUBLIC GARDENS, NEW BEDFORD



DATES: 1953-2012

DESIGNER: Allen Haskell

ORIGINAL OWNERS: Allen Haskell and family

ABOUT: In the heart of New Bedford, these six acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, historic buildings, and more than half an acre of greenhouse space display this former nursery's plant collection once visited by the likes of Martha Stewart and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Private residential gardens also feature special plantings including Haskell's Japanese maple, bamboo/grass and hosta collections. The property has provided an unrivaled opportunity for The Trustees to save precious urban green space and to engage South Coast communities through horticulture, recreation, and education. A newly renovated visitor center is in the works.

WHEN TO VISIT: Gardens open daily, sunrise to sunset

MYTOI, MARTHA'S VINEYARD



T. Kates

DATES: 1958-1966

DESIGNERS: Hugh Jones, Julie Moir Messervey, Trustees volunteers

ORIGINAL OWNERS: Mary Wakeman, Hugh Jones

ABOUT: This Japanese-inspired stroll garden surrounds visitors with Japanese and North American garden plantings that sprang from the sandy pine woodlands of Chappaquiddick, offering serenity and a place of contemplation amongst the small (turtle, frog, and goldfish-filled) pond. Almost completely erased by the fierce winds of Hurricane Bob in 1991, today the garden celebrates the rich Japanese gardening traditions of age, renewal and rebirth. Sand, stone and duckboard paths wind through Japanese maples, pines and flowering shrubs carefully trained to articulate the views within the garden. Footpaths lead through a birch walk, camellia dell, stone garden, and a hillside garden, while a rustic shelter overlooks the garden to further enhance the property's meditative quality.

WHEN TO VISIT: Open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset.

TRUSTEES COMMUNITY GARDENS, BOSTON



DATES: 1977-present

DESIGNERS: Several individual amateur and professional local designers

ORIGINAL OWNERS: Boston Natural Areas Network, South End Lower Roxbury Land Trust, City of Boston, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

ABOUT: These community garden plots and urban wilds span several distinct parcels throughout the City of Boston and contain mixed old and new plant materials as well as ethnic foods raised by individual gardeners. Plots are reflective of neighborhood diversity as well as the love and history that each gardener contributes to the communal spaces. The Trustees helps care for these green spaces and run educational programs for their gardeners year-round.

WHEN TO VISIT: These gardens are only open to the public during special events and programs, though the weekends especially will see many gardeners in their plots, welcoming neighbors and visitors alike.

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The Trustees preserves and cares for some of the best of Massachusetts' natural, scenic, and cultural sites for the public to use and enjoy. The organization's passion is to engage more people in culture, agriculture, nature, and healthy, active lifestyles, using its properties, its community spaces, and its many programs as a powerful and compelling platform to connect people to places and each other in our increasingly digitized world. As the Commonwealth's largest conservation and preservation organization and the nation's first land trust founded in 1891, The Trustees celebrates its 125th Anniversary this year and continues its work in protecting the irreplaceable for everyone, forever. Today, The Trustees cares for 116 spectacular and diverse reservations spanning more than 26,000 acres— from working farms, landscaped and urban gardens, and community parks, to barrier beaches, forests, campgrounds, inns and historic sites, many of which are National Historic Landmarks — located within minutes of every resident. Funded by more than 125,000 members and supporters and 1.6 million visitors in 2015, The Trustees invites you to get out, get inspired, and find magic in the moment at a Trustees property near you: www.thetrustees.org.