The tour is a circuit route of approximately 3 miles and can be covered at a leisurely pace in 2 hours. The tour begins and ends at Copley MBTA Station.

**BOSTON’S BACK BAY GREEN SPACES**

**Copley Square**

Cross Berkshire St. and enter the First Lutheran Church's Courtyard. The First Lutheran Church (chartered 1839) is significant in the history of modern sacred architecture. (1957, Pietro Belluschi) A bench in its wisteria-covered pergola provides an opportunity for contemplative respite.

**Garden at 27 Commonwealth Ave.**

Continue on Berkeley St., passing Alley 422 on the left. Stop and look into the private walled garden at the corner of Commonwealth Ave.

Alley 422 is an example of the many alleys in the Back Bay area that originally facilitated deliveries to the townhouses. Beyond the alley, a brick wall enclosing a garden featuring topiary, rose-of-sharon, and roses. A conservation restriction ensures that the garden will remain open space in perpetuity.

**Commonwealth Avenue**

Turn left at Commonwealth Ave. and walk one block to Arlington St.

Boston architect Arthur Gilman designed Commonwealth Ave. (1855) in the manner of Haussmann’s Paris Boulevards. Today formal townhouse gardens feature clipped hedges enclosing bulbs, perennials and annuals. Trees include small ornamentals such as Japanese maple, dogwood and magnolia.

**Public Garden**

Cross Arlington St. and turn right to enter the Public Garden.

The Public Garden (1837) was the first botanical Garden open to the public in the United States. The 24-acre garden was redesigned in 1857 by George Meachum. Set on the central axis of the Haffenreffer Walk, the garden features Victorian style bedding of seasonal bulbs and annuals. Curvilinear paths circulate throughout the garden. Significant features include labeled specimen trees, public art, the lagoon and swan boats.

**Commonwealth Avenue Mall**

Return to Arlington St. and cross over to enter the Mall on Commonwealth Ave. Walk 3 blocks to Dartmouth St.

This wide green promenade is the narrowest part of the Emerald Necklace and connects the Public Garden with the Fens. A grand allée of mixed species trees shades the promenade. It is a contemplative setting for its public monuments and memorials.

**Old South Church**

Turn left onto Dartmouth Street. Continue to Boylston St. Turn right to view the front garden at Old South Church.

The Gothic Old South Church is a National Landmark (1875). Church members maintain the constantly changing front garden that features ornamentals and vegetables side by side.

**Thank you to our Sponsor**

NELDHA is an independent non-profit membership organization. NELDHA’s mission is to further the education of landscape designers, historians, preservationists and conservationists, to promote their professions, and to communicate to the public NELDHA’s commitment to landscape design, history, conservation, preservation, and stewardship of the land.
Corner of Clarendon Street

Walk on the Trinity Church side of St. James Ave. to the corner of Clarendon St.

Across St. James Ave, the 60-story John Hancock Tower is the tallest building in New England. Its glass walls present an iconic reflection of Trinity Church. The reflection of adjacent trees creates an interesting illusion of an allée around the building’s facade.

Trinity Church Cloister Garden

Turn left at Clarendon St. and walk up the steps at the rear of Trinity Church to view its arcade garden.

The Romanesque Revival courtyard offers a quiet oasis in the busy square. Its predominantly white and green perennial garden is at its best from spring through summer. The garden’s focal point is a statue of St. Francis beneath a dogwood tree (Cornus florida.) Sweet autumn clematis (Clematis paniculata) and roses climb a sunny wall.

Clarendon Street Playground

Exit the arcade and turn left onto Clarendon St. Cross Boylston St. and continue on Clarendon St. to Commonwealth Avenue. The playground is on your left.

The playground is a popular destination for families and serves as a venue for neighborhood events. In addition to play structures, it features a unique amphitheatre and a variety of shade trees.

Marlborough Street

Continue down Clarendon St. Turn right at Marlborough St.

Marlborough St. (1860s) retains more of its residential character than do other streets in the Back Bay area. The narrow house lots display a variety of landscape designs in the front gardens lining both sides of the street.

First Church of Boston Amphitheatre

Walk to the corner of Berkley St.

The First Church of Boston’s (incorporated 1630) modern architecture (1972, Paul Rudolph) incorporates the 1868 façade of its Gothic predecessor destroyed by fire in 1968. The raised garden beds and amphitheatre at the building’s entrance serves as a venue for outdoor services and events.

*Public restrooms are located in the Boston Public Library.

Please note that many of our old city streets and sidewalks are brick and cobblestone, with some uneven spots.