

## The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy

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Thinking about a fun place to hang out on a hot summer day or a cool afternoon in the spring with your family or friends? A place where you could have a picnic, watch a performance, play in the sprinklers or go for a peaceful walk. You are probably thinking the Charles River Esplanade, the Boston Common or somewhere outside of the city. But this new place is closer than you think, it's located in downtown Boston. This fun setting is called "The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway" and was named in honor of the **matriarch** (mother) of the Kennedy family.

This new "green" space is a series of parks that extends from the North End all the way to Chinatown in Boston. Where did all this free space come from? Well it's just one of the great outcomes of "The Big Dig". The **Big Dig** is a highway project that began in 1982 to decrease the traffic on some of Boston's major highways. Part of the Big Dig's plan was also to create easier access to Logan Airport, and to get rid of the expressway that separated downtown from the waterfront. Not too long ago the area that is now The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway was a huge green raised highway called I-93 that ran through the city. This raised highway had a lot of traffic. Plus, it blocked the view of the harbor and the many buildings that surrounded it. Now the highway is a tunnel that sits underneath the Greenway. This creates a good amount of space on top for the wonderful parks to lie on.



There are four different sections of the Greenway, there's the Chinatown Park, Dewey Square Park, Wharf District, and the North End parks. Each park has its own uniqueness that makes it special. There's the Chinatown Park with its beautiful entrance gates. The pavement in front of the old Chinatown gate was designed with patterns that embrace the bright and cultural background of the Chinatown neighborhood. The Dewey Square Park has a large open lawn that gives the busy commuters a more relaxing feel. The Wharf District has trees, shrubs, flowers, and a lighting design that surround it. Then there's the North End Park that has the leaning rails, and the reflection pond. The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway is a beautiful place to take a stroll any time you are in Boston.

Every inch of each park was specially designed to give guests a warm welcoming space to relax and enjoy. The next time you plan on spending time with your family and friends take a trip to one of The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Parks and enjoy one of Boston's hidden "green" treasures.