



## A-to-Z ESPLANADE SCAVENGER HUNT

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Welcome to the Esplanade Association's A-to-Z Esplanade Scavenger Hunt! This scavenger hunt will take you on an adventure through the Charles River Esplanade as you learn about its history, activities, and life along the Esplanade. As you go on your adventure, you will be asked to take photos of your various stops, so please bring a camera.

Once you have finished the scavenger hunt, compile your photos and show them to [kpramik@esplanadeassociation.org](mailto:kpramik@esplanadeassociation.org) for a chance to win Esplanade Association prizes!

Happy hunting!

### LOCATIONS:

#### A. **Alfond Spray Deck**

The Alfond spray deck is located in the western part of the Park next to the Charlesbank playground. The spray deck is an enclosed space for children to play around amongst several sprinklers. The space also hosts numerous benches and some picnic tables. The Charlesbank playground can be accessed through the spray deck as well. The spray deck is open from April to September and is a great place for families to come and cool off during the hot summer months!

TASK: Take a group photo at the Alfond Spray Deck (or outside if it's locked for the season)!

#### B. **Boston University sailing pavilion**

The Boston University (BU) sailing pavilion is a branch of BU's fitness and recreation facility and is found next to the BU Bridge. It is open to members of the BU community as well as the general public. By purchasing a sailing card you become a member and are able to borrow kayaks, paddleboards, and boats for recreational sailing along the Charles River. If you are new to sailing, the BU sailing pavilion also provides both individual and group sailing lessons!

TASK: Take a group photo at the Boston University sailing pavilion!

#### C. **Charles River Bistro**

The Charles River Bistro is located across from the DCR Memorial Hatch Shell and offers a wide variety of cafe-style food and drinks. It is more than just a spot to grab a bite to eat, as it provides the public with regular events such as music performances, sunrise yoga classes and

children's music lessons. There is a community piano in front of the bistro for the public to play, as well as lawn and board games and a little library. The Bistro offers outdoor seating for people to enjoy their food, listen to free music performances, and enjoy a book on a sunny day.

TASK: Take a group photo at the Charles River Bistro!

#### **D. DCR Hatch Memorial Shell**

The DCR Hatch Memorial Shell was built in 1941 with a \$300,000 trust given by Maria Hatch in honor of her brother Edward. However, before the Hatch Shell was built, a temporary shell, which was known as the Music Oval, stood in its place. The music oval was established as part of a 1 million dollar donation from Helen Storrow in honor of her husband James. Her donation not only contributed to the Music Oval, but also contributed to the expansion of the lawn in front of the Hatch Shell, as well as the formation of the Lagoon next to the Hatch Shell. During the summer of 1929, the first performances occurred by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops at the Oval. Inscribed in Bronze on the front steps, are names of famous composers.

From spring to fall there are a variety of performances from musicians across all genres of music- classical, blues, oldies, jazz and rock and roll. The DCR Hatch Memorial Shell is most known for its grand Independence day celebration which features the notable Boston Pops concert as well as firework display to celebrate the 4th of July.

TASK: Take a group photo at the DCR Memorial Hatch Shell!

#### **E. Esplanade Playspace**

The Esplanade Playspace is located near the DCR Memorial Hatch shell and the Charles River Bistro. It was built in 2011, in part through the advocacy and fundraising efforts of the Esplanade Association, and was designed to give children ages 5-to-12 a fun and welcoming play area to be active in the Park. It features a variety of unique playground structures for children to zipline, climb, slide, and swing on. There are also benches within the Playspace for parents to sit and watch their children play.

TASK: Take a group photo at the Esplanade Playspace!

#### **F. Fiedler memorial head**

This statue of Arthur Fiedler is located south of the DCR Memorial Hatch Shell on Arthur Fiedler Field. It was created by artist, Ralph Helmick in 1984. Helmick created Fiedler's head in the sculpture from 83 layered sheets of aluminum varying in thicknesses. The abstract layering of the sheets is meant to reflect Conductor Arthur Fiedler's, vibrant personality.

In 1930, Arthur Fiedler was appointed the 18th conductor of the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra, and is the one who came up with the idea to bring the Orchestra to Boston for the 4th of July, which has been a tradition since 1929. He served as the Boston Pops conductor for 50 years, but is also known for his 1976 US Bicentennial Celebration performance, as well as launching a television series called *Evening at Pops*.

TASK: Take a group photo at the Arthur Fiedler Memorial Head Sculpture!

### **G. Geese**

Canada Geese are a common species found along the Charles River Esplanade. This bird species tends to take over public areas and can occasionally compete with Park visitors for space. These geese eat four pounds of grass per day. Geese can be a nuisance for people who would like to utilize the public spaces the Esplanade has to offer, such as fields, baseball diamonds and lawns. Along the banks of the Charles, you will find Solar power orbs which emit light with the purpose of deterring geese to lay their eggs and once in a while you may even see Geese Patrol walking along the Park.

TASK: Take a photo of a goose!

### **H. The Oliver Wendell Holmes Memorial**

The Holmes memorial consists of a semicircle plaza with a bench and two steps that lie on a granite pedestal that is located between Dartmouth and Exeter streets. Inscribed in the front of the pedestal is the name Oliver Wendell Holmes. This memorial created by architects Parker, Thomas and Rice in 1914, is a tribute to Holmes who was known as a poet, biographer, essayist and physician. Holmes was native to Cambridge MA and attended Harvard College and Harvard medical school. He is known for his famous poem from 1830 which he wrote when he 21, about the USS Constitution called *Old Ironsides*.

TASK: Take a group photo at the Oliver Wendell Holmes Memorial!

### **I. Islands of the Esplanade**

In 1930 the size of the Esplanade doubled. The increase in Park space began when famous American landscape architect, Arthur Shurcliff, designed several lagoons for the Esplanade such as Boat Haven at the eastern end of the Park and the Esplanade Island at the western end of the Park. After the construction of Storrow Drive in the 1950's more land was added to the Park. A longer island was created along with a number of small bridges to connect the islands with the rest of the Park. Shurcliff helped design numerous riverbank paths and boat landings along the Esplanade and created the Storrow Lagoon to be used for pleasure boating, and wintertime skating. Now, the Storrow Lagoon is frequently used by Park visitors for canoeing and kayaking.

TASK: Take a group photo at the Storrow Lagoon!

### **J. James and Helen Storrow Memorial**

This memorial is in honor of James Storrow, who in 1901 led a campaign to build a dam on the Charles River by the Museum of Science. The campaign was successful and the dam was built to control water level along the Charles. James Storrow passed away in 1929 and his wife, Helen Storrow donated 1 million dollars toward beautification and improvement of the Esplanade.

Helen's contribution helped fund the building of the Park lagoons, the Hatch Shell, and the redesigned look of the Park. Two years after Helen Storrow passed away, Storrow Drive was built between the Esplanade and the City. This memorial was built to remember the couple for their significant contributions to making the Esplanade the amazing Park it is today.

TASK: Take a group photo at the Storrow memorial!

### **K. Knotweed garden**

Japanese Knotweed is a common invasive species found throughout Massachusetts, and is one of the most aggressive invasive species in the world. Japanese knotweed can quickly spread through green spaces, competing and killing native species. People who volunteer with Esplanade Association sometimes work to remove Japanese knotweed from the Park! In order to be removed, these species need to be dug out by its roots or covered by black tarps for extended periods of time. If even a little fragment of root is left alive, the Japanese knotweed grow back within a month and begin spreading again.

In an attempt to manage the spread of knotweed, the Esplanade Association has created the "K"not Knotweed garden at the lagoon shoreline on the island across from Clarendon Street. This area was once a quickly spreading patch of knotweed until volunteers pulled the knotweed and covered the area with black tarps. Once the knotweed has been removed, it will be replaced with native species.

TASK: Take a group photo at the Knot Knotweed garden!

### **L. Lotta Fountain**

This dog sculpture and pet fountain is named after Charlotte Crabtree, also known as "Lotta". She was one of the most famous entertainers of the 19th century, dancing and performing across the country. Lotta was also a passionate animal rights activist and a former Vice President of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of cruelty to Animals. When Lotta died in Boston at age 76 in 1924, she was the second largest taxpayer in the City, leaving behind a 4 million dollar estate (now worth 14 million dollars) in a trust to benefit veterans, aging actors, abandoned pets and working animals. To remember her love of animals, the Lotta Fountain was built on the Esplanade by sculptor, Katherine Weems and architect, Edwin Dodge.

In the years following the fountain's construction, it fell into disrepair. In 2017, the Esplanade Association helped renovate the fountain, fixing its plumbing, matching the stone color to what it was in 1939, adding a new bass base, and repairing one of the dog's ears, which had gone missing over the years. The \$250,000 restoration culminated in a grand re-opening of the fountain in June of 2017. The fountain is now a pit-stop and meeting location for many pet owners in Boston.

TASK: Take a group photo at the Lotta fountain!

### **M. Museum of Science**

The Museum of Science is a science museum and indoor zoo located at the eastern-most end of the Park. However, this iconic Boston museum did not always have this name. In 1830, six men interested in natural history founded the Boston Society of Natural History and began displaying specimens at several different facilities. Wanting one location for the public to visit their displays, the society opened the New England Museum of Natural History in 1864, later becoming the Museum of Science. To this day, the Museum of Science is one of the World's largest science centers, as well as Boston's most attended museum. Each year, the museum brings in one-and-a-half-million visitors who enjoy its unique programs, as well as 700 interactive exhibits.

TASK: Take a photo of the Museum of Science from the water!

### **N. New Mural at the Bowker!**

The Bowker overpass serves as a popular biking, running, and walking route on the Esplanade with beautiful views of the river. In July 2017, the Esplanade Association commissioned the mural "Patterned Behavior" from Now and There, a nonprofit that aims to create more public art around Boston to bolster the City's modern identity. Designed by Silvia Lopez Chavez, this first-ever professional mural along the Esplanade was completed at the beginning of September 2017. Patterned Behavior is intended to remain for two years. It takes inspiration from the Esplanade's immediate environment and the many ways this space is enjoyed and used day-to-day.

TASK: Take a photo posing in front of the new mural!

### **O. Otis Grove**

There is a small, inscribed boulder identifying a grove of birch trees on the island near Exeter Street as the Otis Grove. The Grove honors late State Representative William F. Otis and his wife, Chrystene Otis. The couple was killed during a robbery in 1968. Otis grove is the only stand of white birch trees found on the Esplanade.

TASK: Take a group photo at Otis Grove!

### **P. Police Barracks**

The State Police Lower Basin Barracks is located at the edge of the Esplanade nearest the Museum of Science. Known as *Station H-4, SP Boston*, their jurisdiction covers the entire Boston Park system. In addition to officers in cars and on bikes, you can see mounted officers and their horses patrolling the Esplanade.

TASK: Take a group photo outside the barracks!

### **Q. Quercus!**

The genus “Quercus” is the Latin identifier for oak trees. The genus Quercus is native to the Northern Hemisphere and includes deciduous and evergreen species. Oaks have spirally arranged leaves, with lobate margins in many species. Commonly found oak species along the Esplanade include Spanish oak, swamp oak, red oak, black oak, and scarlet oak.

TASK: Take a photo with an oak tree!

#### **R. River view at Longfellow**

The Longfellow Bridge, nicknamed the “Salt-and-Pepper Bridge” crosses the Charles River connecting Kendall Square and Charles MGH. The Longfellow supports foot traffic as well as the Red Line and cars traveling on Route 3. The bridge carries approximately 28,600 cars and 90,000 mass-transit passengers every weekday. The Longfellow footbridge also has a view of the full bend of the Charles River and is a stopping point for many Park goers for stunning sunset views and views of the City.

TASK: Take a photo of the Charles River from the Longfellow footbridge!

#### **S. Stoneman Playground**

The Miriam and Sidney Stoneman Playground is the vision of dedicated parents and volunteers. The playground is a divided play space with areas designed for older and younger children. The toddler playground has climbing structures, slides, swings, and more. The area for the older kids has a challenging climbing structure, monkey bars, a fire pole, tire swing, and more. Parents can relax on the benches and look out on the Charles River as their children play.

TASK: Take a photo on the slide at the Stoneman Playground!

#### **T. Teddy Ebersol Field**

The Teddy Ebersol fields are located between the Longfellow Bridge and the Alford Spray Deck and are designed to foster a love of youth athletics. The fields were built as a result of the partnership between the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Department of Conservation and Recreation and three nonprofits: the Red Sox Foundation, Hill House, and Esplanade Association. The fields are named after Teddy, son of former chairman of the NBC Sports, Dick Ebersol and his wife, Susan St. James. Teddy was an avid young Red Sox fan who died in a plane crash shortly after the Red Sox’s 2004 World Series victory.

TASK: Take a photo standing on home base of the Teddy Ebersol Field!

#### **U. Union Boat Club**

Located behind the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell, the Union Boat Club was founded in 1851 and is celebrated as the longest continuously operating rowing club in Boston and the third oldest rowing club in the nation. UBC is a private athletic and social club with around 700 members. Besides rowing, UBC also has a competitive squash program. The club has a variety of squash

facilities, including five softball courts and one hardball court. Various members of UBC rowed for the US Olympic Team, such as Lawrence Terry, Pete Raymond, and Greg Ruckman.

TASK: Take a photo in front of the Union Boat Club!

#### **V. Volunteer Program**

The Esplanade Association recruits several thousand volunteers each year to help maintain and care for the Esplanade. Some volunteer activities include pruning trees, painting fences and benches, clearing invasive species, and picking up litter.

TASK: Take a photo properly disposing of a piece of trash in one of the Esplanade trash cans!

#### **W. Weeping Willow**

Willows are deciduous trees that belong to the Salicaceae family. The trees originate from China and tends to inhabit temperate areas with sufficient moisture and sunlight. In Chinese culture, the willow is a symbol of immortality and rebirth. Willow trees can grow up to 70 feet tall. On the Esplanade, you can find many willow trees around the Esplanade lagoons.

TASK: Take a photo with a weeping willow!

#### **X. The EXercise course**

Located in the western part of the Park, near the Silber Way footbridge, the outdoor exercise gym is perfect for calisthenics! It has pull up bars, incline benches, and low bars, great for sit ups, crunches, sit ups, and pushups. People coming to exercise in the Park can enjoy the view of the Charles River while getting in an intense workout.

TASK: Take a photo working out on the Exercise Course!

#### **Y. Year**

Here are some notable dates in the history of the Park: The Esplanade was dedicated as the Boston Embankment in 1910. It underwent a major expansion from 1928 to 1936. Summer 1929 was the first year that Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra performed on the Esplanade. The Hatch Memorial Shell was built in 1941, the same year as the boathouse. Community Boating opened the country's first public boating program in 1946. And with 1949 came the initial construction of Storrow Drive. The Esplanade Association has been doing great work in the Park since 2001!

TASK: Take a photo of a sign or memorial with a year on it!

#### **Z. Zeal for the Esplanade!!**

TASK: Take a photo of you and your buddies with big smiles!