

## About The Trustees

Founded by esteemed landscape architect Charles Eliot in 1891, The Trustees has, for more than 125 years, been a catalyst for important ideas, endeavors, and progress in Massachusetts. As a steward of distinctive and dynamic places of both historic and cultural value, The Trustees is the nation's first preservation and conservation nonprofit, and its landscapes and landmarks continue to inspire discussion, innovation, and action today as they did in the past. We are supported by members, friends, and donors, and our more than 115 sites are destinations for residents, members, and visitors alike, welcoming millions of guests annually.

COVER PHOTO: NAUMKEAG, STOCKBRIDGE: GROSS & DALEY PHOTOGRAPHY



*“For of all the works of man,  
the garden alone...becomes  
more beautiful as the  
generations pass through it.”*

— Fletcher Steele

# Trustees PUBLIC GARDENS

*Where inspiration grows*



Italian Garden, Castle Hill on the Crane Estate, Ipswich  
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## The Trustees PUBLIC GARDENS

The public gardens protected and cared for by The Trustees are a living documentary of Massachusetts horticulture and design traditions. 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. Their masses of color, texture, spatial arrangement, and seasonal diversity consistently surprise and impress.

We invite you to explore these inspiring places as they grow and change throughout the seasons and the years. Many have undergone significant restorations in recent years, thanks to the generosity of Trustees members and supporters. Ranging in size from one to 165 acres, Trustees Public Gardens provide opportunities for quiet reflection, artistic inspiration, and the joy of exploration and discovery for individuals and families alike.

### Fun Fact

Many of our gardens were developed during the so-called “Country Place Era.” From about 1890 to 1930, wealthy Americans showcased their travels and taste by drawing inspiration from European garden design, and transformed their rural land holdings into summer retreats.

## Visit these inspired places, from the Berkshires to Martha's Vineyard

**Naumkeag**, Stockbridge

**The Mission House**, Stockbridge

**Ashintully Gardens**, Tyringham

**Farandnear**, Shirley

**The Stevens-Coolidge Place**, North Andover

**Castle Hill on the Crane Estate**, Ipswich

**Long Hill**, Beverly

**Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate**, Canton

**Governor Oliver Ames Estate**, Easton

**Allen C. Haskell Public Gardens**, New Bedford

**Mytoi**, Martha's Vineyard

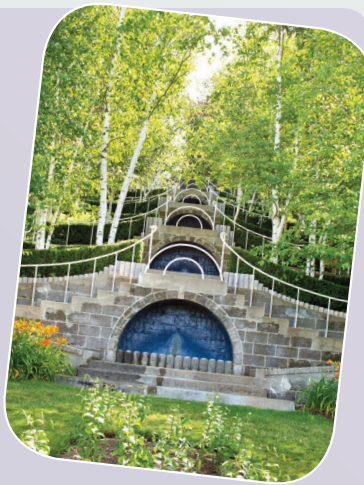
**IMPORTANT:** Please check opening times and accessibility information for each of these locations at [thetrustees.org](https://thetrustees.org) before venturing out for your visit.



## Naumkeag Stockbridge

**1** This National Historic Landmark began as a family summer cottage, lived in for two generations by the Choate family. Starting in 1926, Mabel Choate and renowned landscape architect Fletcher Steele created Naumkeag's striking Modern garden 'rooms,' including the famous Blue Steps, the whimsical Afternoon Garden, the walled Chinese Garden, the Peony Terraces, and Rose Garden.

**NOT TO BE MISSED:** The stunning views of the Berkshire hills from the end of the Linden Allée and bird's-eye views of the gardens from the second floor of the house.



## Ashintully Gardens Tyringham

**3** This symphonic landscape 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, which remains an evocative ruin overlooking the Berkshires' 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.

## Farandnear Shirley

**4** Located on the site of the former summer home of accomplished political scientist and professor Arthur Banks and his family, this reservation features open fields (which had been a family golf course,) a "pinetum" with more than 80 specimen conifer trees, perennial gardens, a cranberry bog, 2.7 miles of wooded trails, and fields of wildflowers.



## The Stevens-Coolidge Place North Andover

**5** In the early 20th century, Helen Stevens and her husband John Gardner Coolidge, a diplomat, turned this family farm into a Colonial Revival-style summer retreat with the help of preservation architect Joseph Everett Chandler. Strongly influenced by French design themes, they added the walled rose garden, greenhouse, serpentine brick wall, and potager. The working fields, orchard, and woodlands served as a pastoral backdrop to the formal gardens. Today the gardens feature a specimen ash tree, an early 20th-century rose and perennial collection, herbs, vegetables, annuals, and a pick-your-own cut flower garden.

**NOT TO BE MISSED:** Locals have a tradition of taking annual photos in front of the magnificent ash tree that has stood just beyond the gardens for over 250 years—watching it change and grow along with their families.

## Castle Hill on the Crane Estate Ipswich

**6** When Richard T. Crane, Jr. purchased this property in 1909, he transformed the former farm and private park into a magnificent country estate for his family.

Today the property is the only known designed landscape of its size and kind still in existence in North America. The recently restored Grand Allée, created by noted Boston landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff, was modeled after the gardens of Renaissance Europe. The property also features the exquisite Italian Garden, designed by the Olmsted Brothers. While you're there, be sure to explore the remains of an Olmsted-designed Wild Garden, a Rose Garden that has been reborn from ruins, and the site of a Bowling Green and Maze that has been host to some creative re-imaginings.

**NOT TO BE MISSED:** The magnificent ocean views from the top of the Grand Allée.



## The Mission House Stockbridge

**2** The garden at The Mission House, a National Historic Landmark is one of only three surviving Fletcher Steele-designed masterworks open to the public (Naumkeag being another.) 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.



## Long Hill Beverly

**7** The Trustees' most horticulturally diverse property, this 114-acre hillside property was originally purchased by *Atlantic Monthly* editor and publisher Ellery Sedgwick as his family's summer

retreat. Mabel Sedgwick laid the foundations for the gardens which were later enriched with rare and unusual plant specimens by horticulturist Marjorie Russell Sedgwick. Separate garden 'rooms' around the house contain unique architectural features linked by a winding path system that highlights its unique collection of plants.

**NOT TO BE MISSED:** The 100-year-old "double" copper beech—two trees that have grown together to form a giant canopy in front of the main house.



## Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate Canton

**8** This 90-acre country retreat was designed by noted architect Charles Platt in 1902. Platt designed the house and grounds to include a formal walled garden and terraces with sweeping views of the Boston area hills, surrounded by broad lawns, meadows, and a fully functional gentleman's farm. When she acquired it in 1945, Eleanor Cabot Bradley enhanced the property with a camellia house, greenhouse, and a wide variety of specimen ornamental trees.

**NOT TO BE MISSED:** The Italianate, latticed-walled garden that was a centerpiece of Platt's vision is now home to a vibrant display garden and surrounded by exuberant plantings of rhododendrons, azaleas, and dogwoods.



## Governor Oliver Ames Estate Easton

**9** These former grounds of a 19th-century estate include a winding road and path system that traverses wooded hills, meadows, and ponds under the dappled shade of century-old arborescent trees. The remains of the gardens hold specimen deciduous and coniferous trees as well as the footprint of an orchid greenhouse.

## Allen C. Haskell Public Gardens New Bedford

**10** In the heart of New Bedford, these six acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, historic buildings, and more than a half-acre of greenhouse space display a plant collection once visited by the likes of Martha Stewart and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. The late Allen C. Haskell operated his renowned nursery on this property for 30 years and assembled a series of gardens that feature his Japanese maple, bamboo, and hosta collections.

## Mytoi Martha's Vineyard

**11** This Japanese-inspired stroll garden on bucolic Chappaquiddick Island offers serenity and a place of contemplation. Paths wind through Japanese maples, pines, and flowering shrubs, highlighting views within the garden. Follow them through a birch walk, camellia dell, stone garden, and a hillside garden.