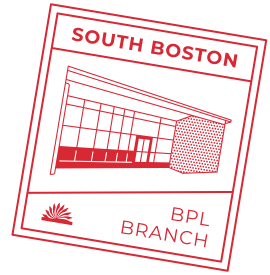
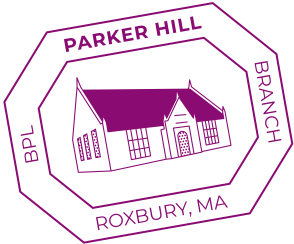
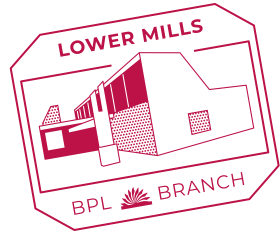
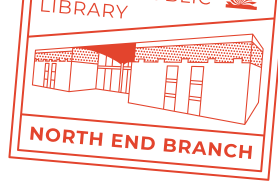


BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PASSPORT





THIS PASSPORT enables its bearer to travel freely between all 26 locations of the Boston Public Library.

Whether you travel by foot, wheel, rail, or any other means, you are a literary citizen of Boston.

"Built by the people and dedicated to the advancement of learning"

Welcome to this citywide adventure!

This passport outlines 25 individual routes connecting every branch of the Boston Public Library for you to explore.

The routes are mostly based on walking or cycling; however, some routes require public transportation, such as trains or buses.

Each page contains one route between two branches. These routes work in either direction.

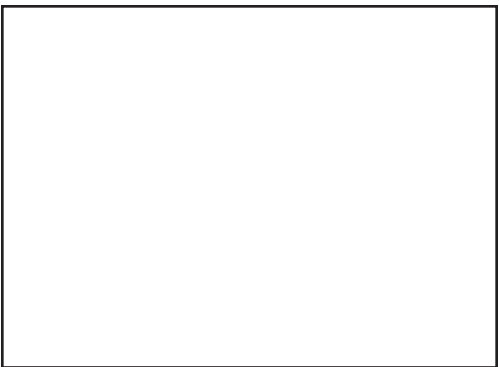
On the page following each segment, you'll find space for notes about your exploration! Fill them with observations.

When you arrive at a branch, let a staff member know and they will stamp your passport to certify your completion of that segment.



How to use your BPL Passport

DRAW YOURSELF HERE



Last name

First name

Home branch

Date issued

Issued by
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

"I always felt, if I can get to a library, I'll be okay."

– MAYA ANGELOU

Find walking routes connecting branches on the pages in between them

- p.6 **A FANUEIL**
419 Faneuil St.
Brighton, MA 02135
- p.10 **B BRIGHTON**
40 Academy Hill Rd.
Brighton, MA 02135
- p.14 **C HONAN-ALLSTON**
300 N. Harvard St.
Allston, MA 02134
- p.18 **D CENTRAL**
700 Boylston St.
Boston, MA 02116
- p.22 **E WEST END**
151 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02114
- p.26 **F CHARLESTOWN**
179 Main St.
Charlestown, MA 02129
- p.30 **G NORTH END**
25 Parmenter St.
Boston, MA 02113
- p.34 **H EAST BOSTON**
365 Bremen St.
East Boston, MA 02128
- p.38 **I CHINATOWN**
2 Boylston St.
Boston, MA 02116

- p.42 **J SOUTH BOSTON**
646 E. Broadway
South Boston, MA 02127
- p.46 **K SOUTH END**
685 Tremont St.
Boston, MA 02118
- p.50 **L ROXBURY**
149 Dudley St.
Roxbury, MA 02119
- p.54 **M UPHAMS CORNER**
500 Columbia Rd.
Dorchester, MA 02125
- p.58 **N GROVE HALL**
41 Geneva Ave.
Dorchester, MA 02121
- p.62 **O FIELDS CORNER**
1520 Dorchester Ave.
Dorchester, MA 02122
- p.66 **P ADAMS STREET**
690 Adams St.
Dorchester, MA 02122
- p.70 **Q LOWER MILLS**
27 Richmond St.
Dorchester, MA 02124
- p.74 **R CODMAN SQUARE**
690 Washington St.
Dorchester, MA 02124



- p.78 **S MATTAPAN**
1350 Blue Hill Ave.
Mattapan, MA 02126
- p.82 **T HYDE PARK**
35 Harvard Ave.
Hyde Park, MA 02136
- p.86 **U ROSLINDALE**
4246 Washington St.
Roslindale, MA 02131
- p.90 **V WEST ROXBURY**
1961 Centre St.
West Roxbury, MA 02132
- p.94 **W JAMAICA PLAIN**
30 South St.
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
- p.98 **X EGGLESTON SQUARE**
2044 Columbus Ave.
Roxbury, MA 02119
- p.102 **Y CONNOLLY**
433 Centre St.
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
- p.106 **Z PARKER HILL**
1497 Tremont St.
Roxbury, MA 02120

Notes & Doodles

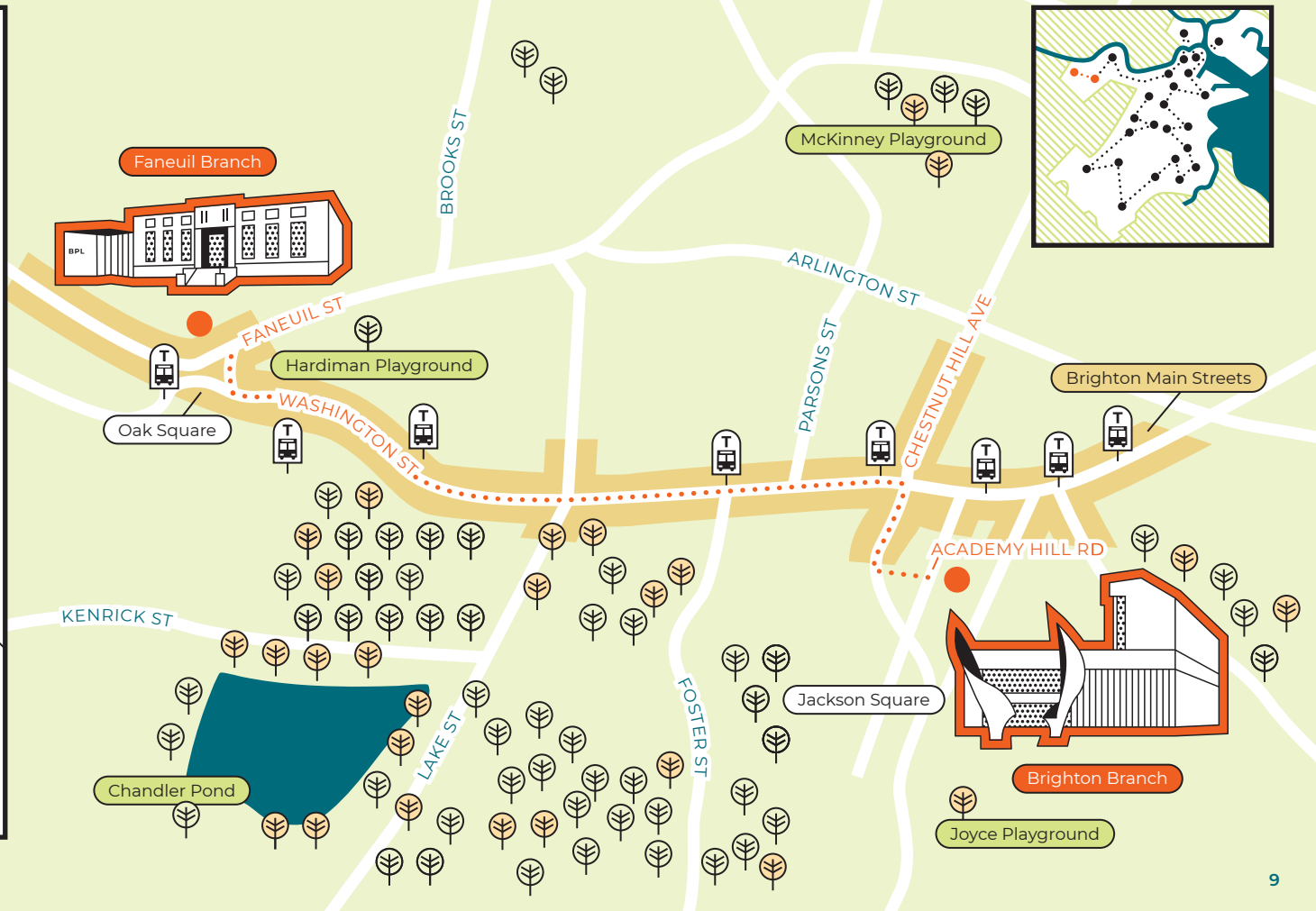


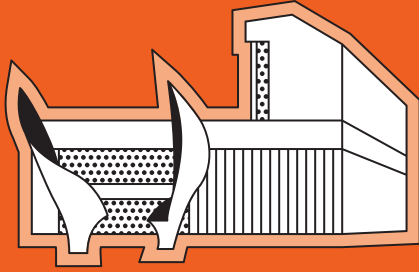
Prior to Allston-Brighton's first English settlement in 1647–49, the Oak Square area was a Native American settlement — Faneuil Street, where the branch is located, existed as a Native American trail long before English settlement. Library service in Oak Square began in 1914. The current building opened in 1932, and has an art deco architectural design, which is being preserved during a \$14m renovation.



FANEUIL → BRIGHTON

0.9 miles
20 min walk



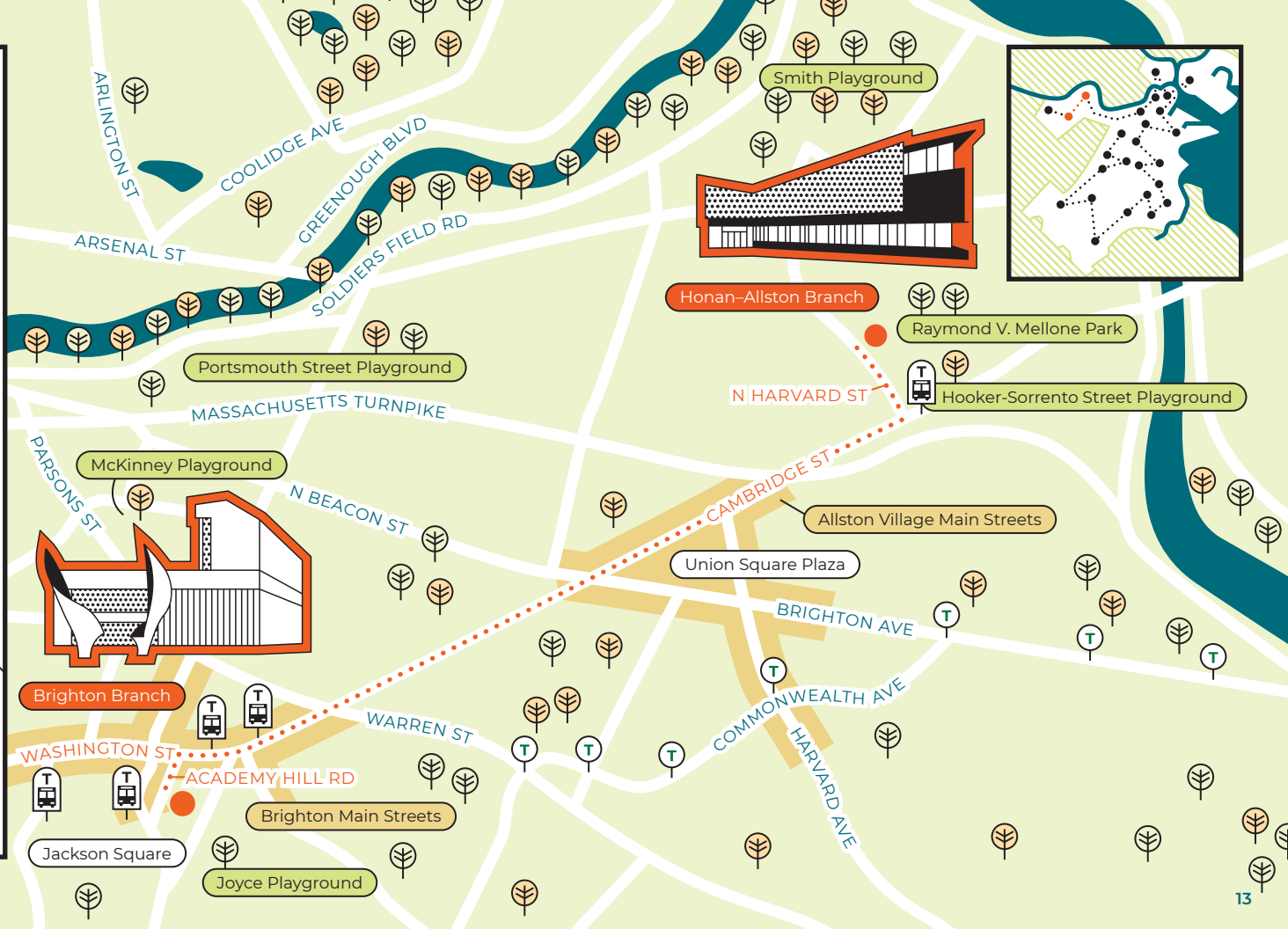


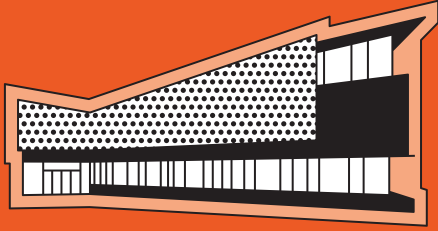
The Brighton Social Library became a branch of the Boston Public Library when the town of Brighton was annexed to Boston in 1874. That same year, the branch's collection moved from the town hall to a building named for notable Brighton resident James Holton. The current branch building opened on the same site in 1969. Easily accessible by bus routes, the Brighton branch features a children's room that opens up to an outdoor seating space surrounding the building.

Notes & Doodles

BRIGHTON → HONAN-ALLSTON

1.7 miles
35 min walk

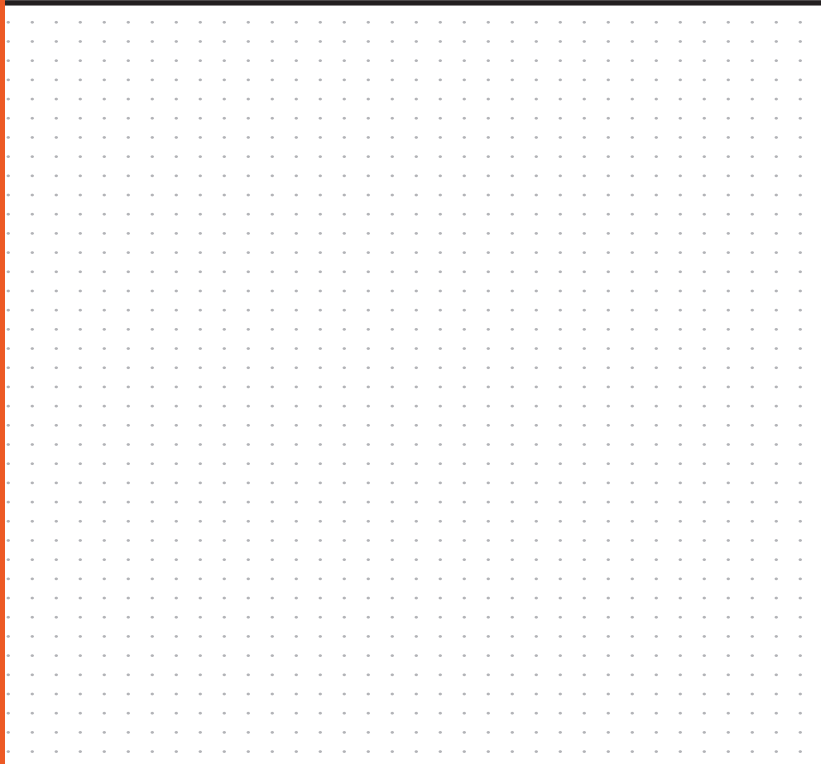




The Honan-Allston Library is one of only two branches named after a person — late City Councilor Brian Honan. He was beloved in the community and instrumental in the creation of the branch. He passed away unexpectedly at the young age of 39.

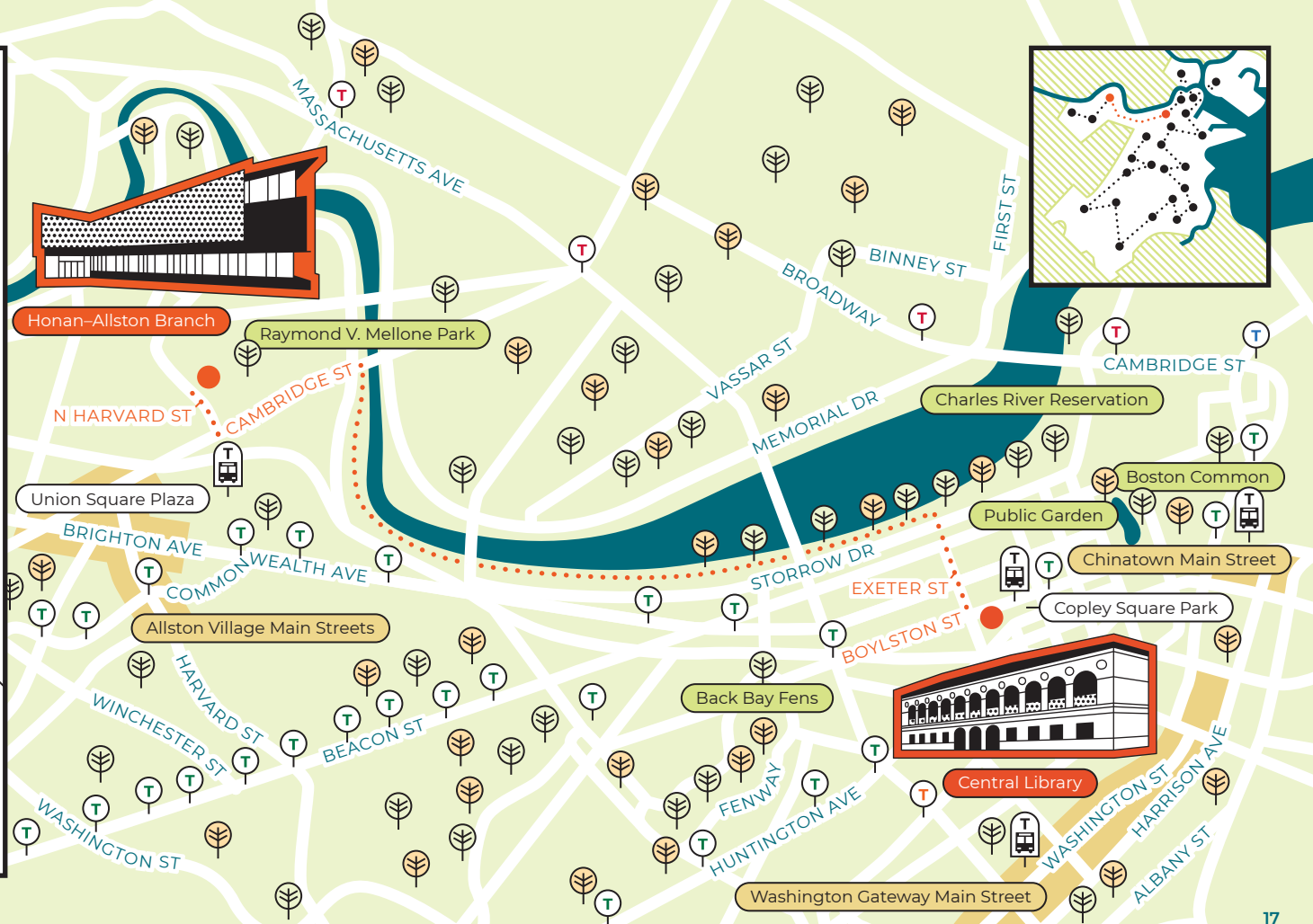
Behind the Honan-Allston library are statues of four granite lions, which were found under the construction site of the Harvard Education Portal up the road. Named by the children of the branch, their names are Rusty, Lionel, Hermione, and Courage (who you can find hiding among the leaves.)

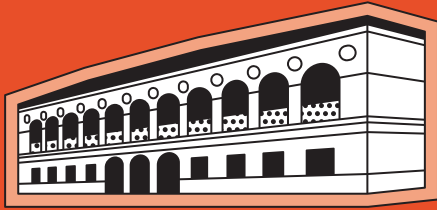
Notes & Doodles



HONAN-ALLSTON → CENTRAL

3.4 miles
70 min walk





The Central Library in Copley Square is made up of two unique buildings: the McKim and Boylston Street buildings.

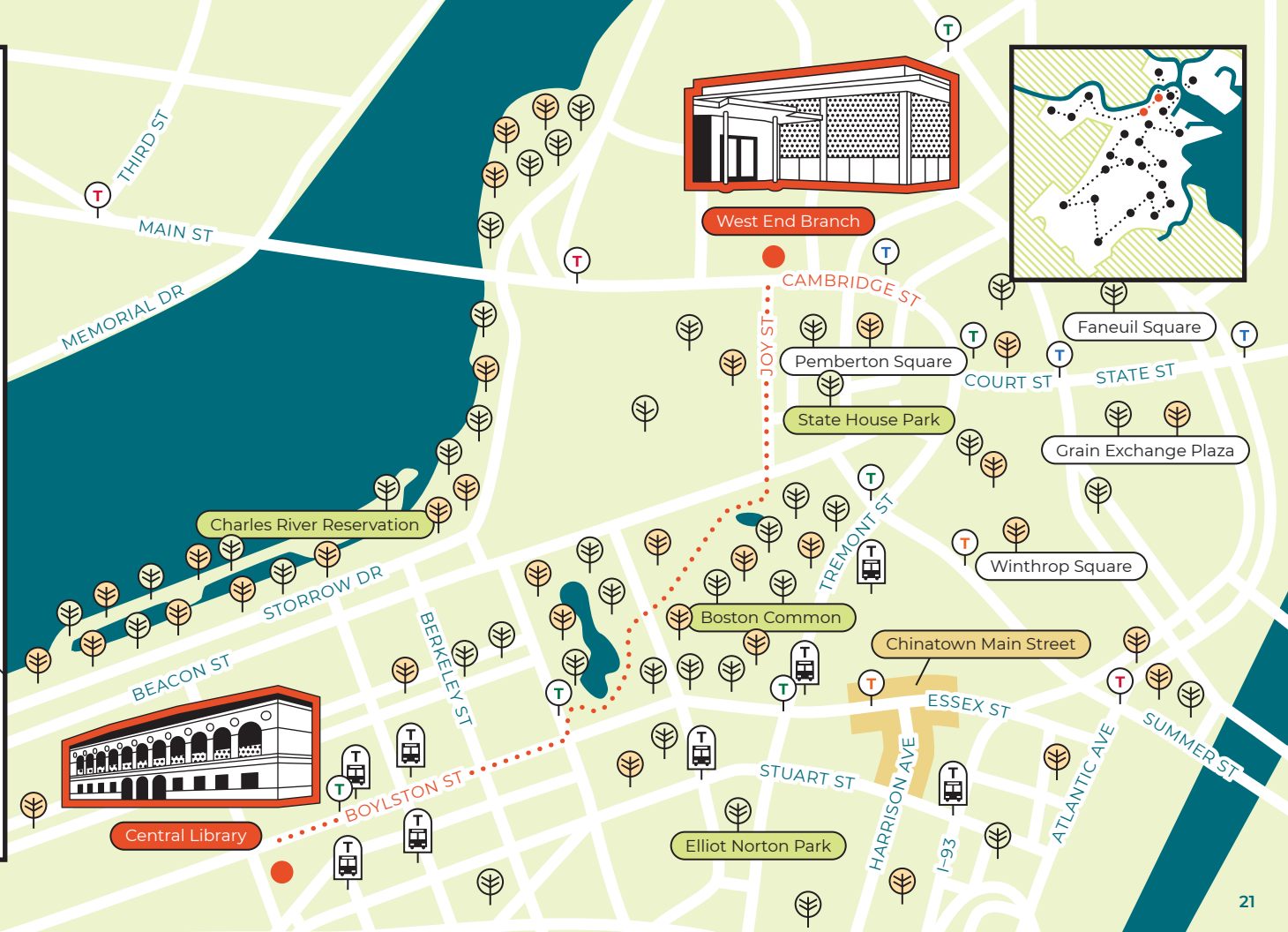
Opened in 1895, the historic McKim building is an architectural masterpiece, created in partnership with some of the greatest craftspeople, painters, and sculptors of the 19th century. At its opening, Oliver Wendell Holmes declared, "This palace is the people's own!"

The Boylston Street building, opened in 1972, brought the size of the Central Library in Copley Square to nearly one million square feet of space, and was completely renovated in 2016. The building is designed as a grid of nine squares, with the central square mirroring the open courtyard of the McKim building.

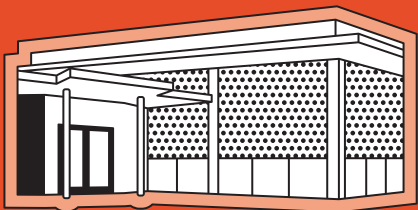
Notes & Doodles

CENTRAL → WEST END

1.2 miles
26 min walk



Notes & Doodles

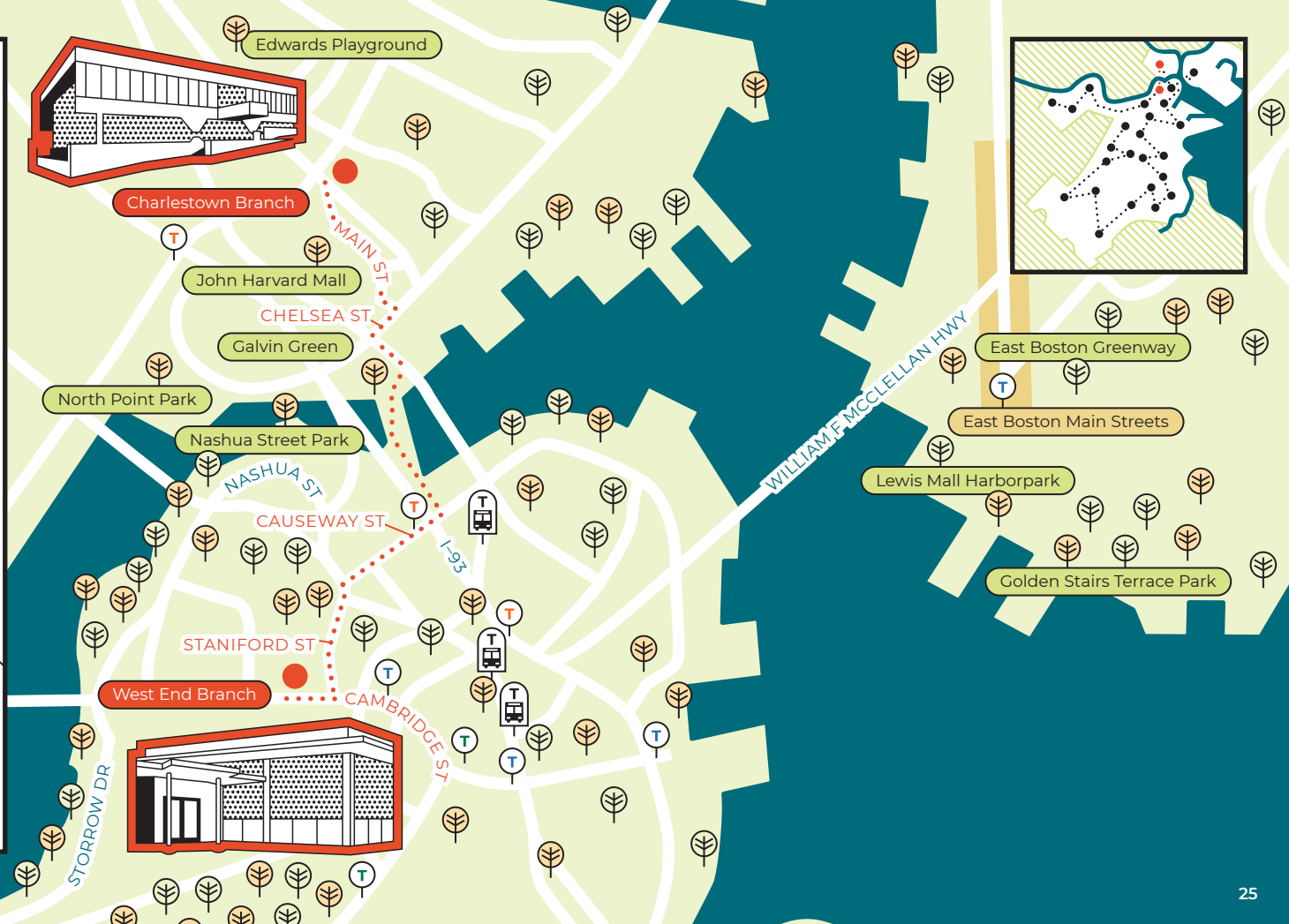


Library service in the West End neighborhood began on February 8, 1896, when the Old West Church on the corner of Cambridge and Lynde Streets was converted for library use. Located in its current spot since 1968, the West End branch has the only operating food pantry in the Boston Public Library system.

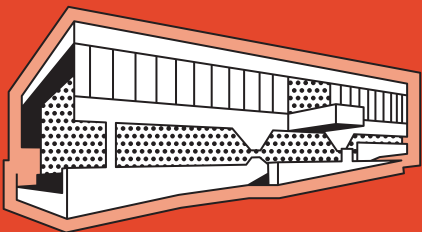


WEST END → CHARLESTOWN

1.3 miles
27 min walk



Notes & Doodles

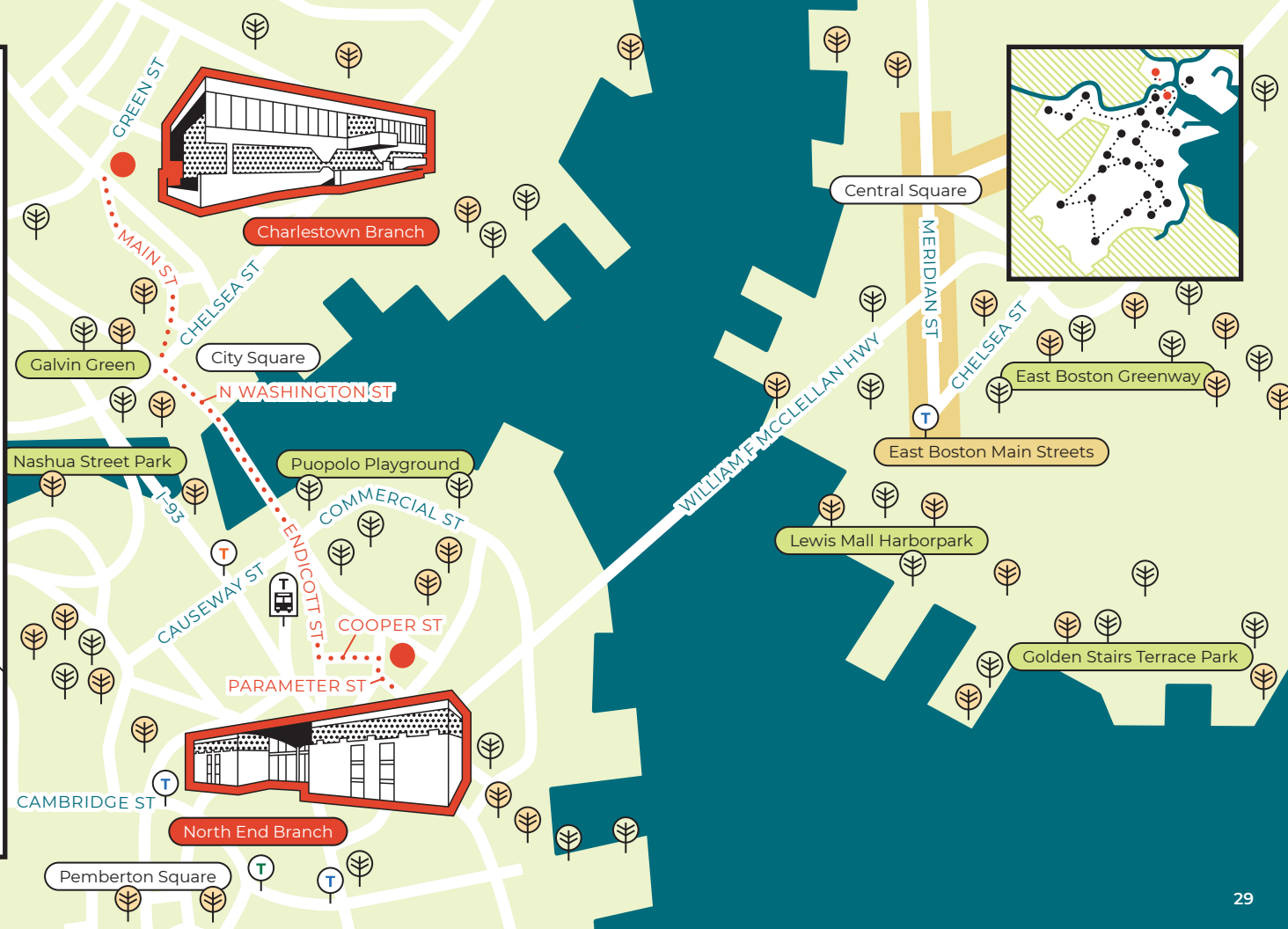


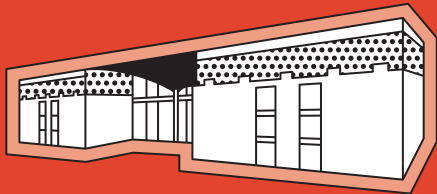
Charlestown is the oldest neighborhood in Boston. Originally called Mishawum by the Massachusetts tribe, Charlestown's streets were originally laid out in 1629. On January 7, 1862, the Charlestown branch opened in the Warren Savings Bank building with 6,000 volumes, and today, hosts a historic collection of Charlestown materials.



CHARLESTOWN → NORTH END

1.1 miles
23 min walk





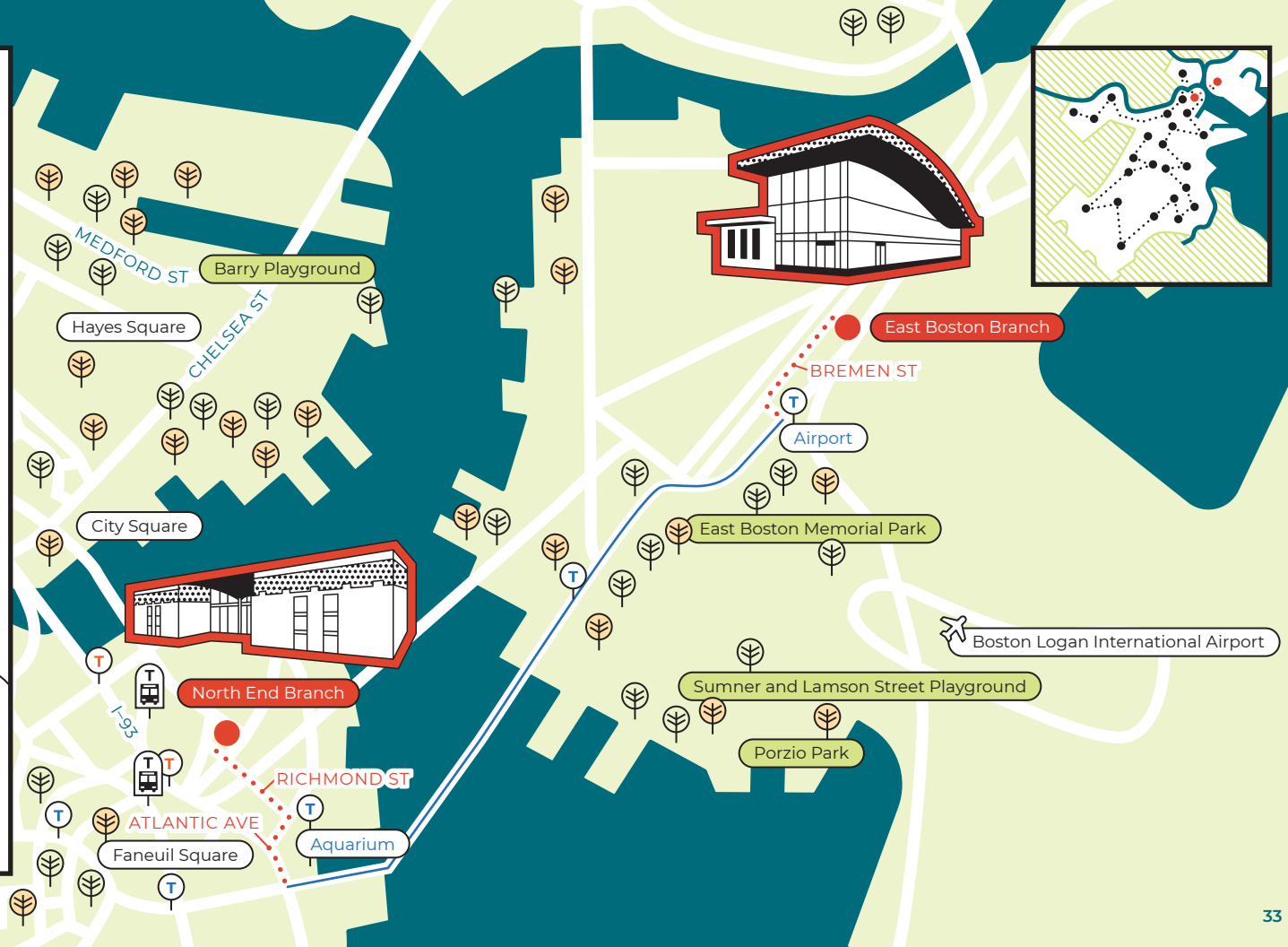
The library's white marble bas-relief includes a bust of Dante Alighieri, which is the work of Luciano Campise, an artist known in Italy and Boston for such works as the bust of Garibaldi in Syracuse, Italy and that of Verdi in the old Boston Opera House.

Behind the Dante sculpture is located a 14-foot-long glass-enclosed diorama of the Ducal Palace in Venice. Sixteenth century Venetian figures, made of plastic wood by Miss Louise Stimson of Concord, enliven the canal facade of this palace modeled in plaster by Miss Henrietta Macy, who died in Venice in 1927. The diorama was given to the library in 1936.

Notes & Doodles

NORTH END → EAST BOSTON

0.6 miles
19 min trip



Notes & Doodles



East Boston has the honor of being the home of the nation's first branch library, which holds as part of its collection a congratulatory telegram from President John F Kennedy on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. The branch also has a reading porch that opens up onto the beautiful Bremen Street Community Park.

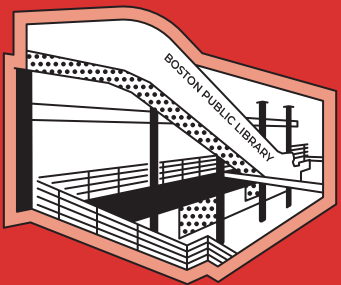


EAST BOSTON → CHINATOWN

0.9 miles
24 min trip



Notes & Doodles

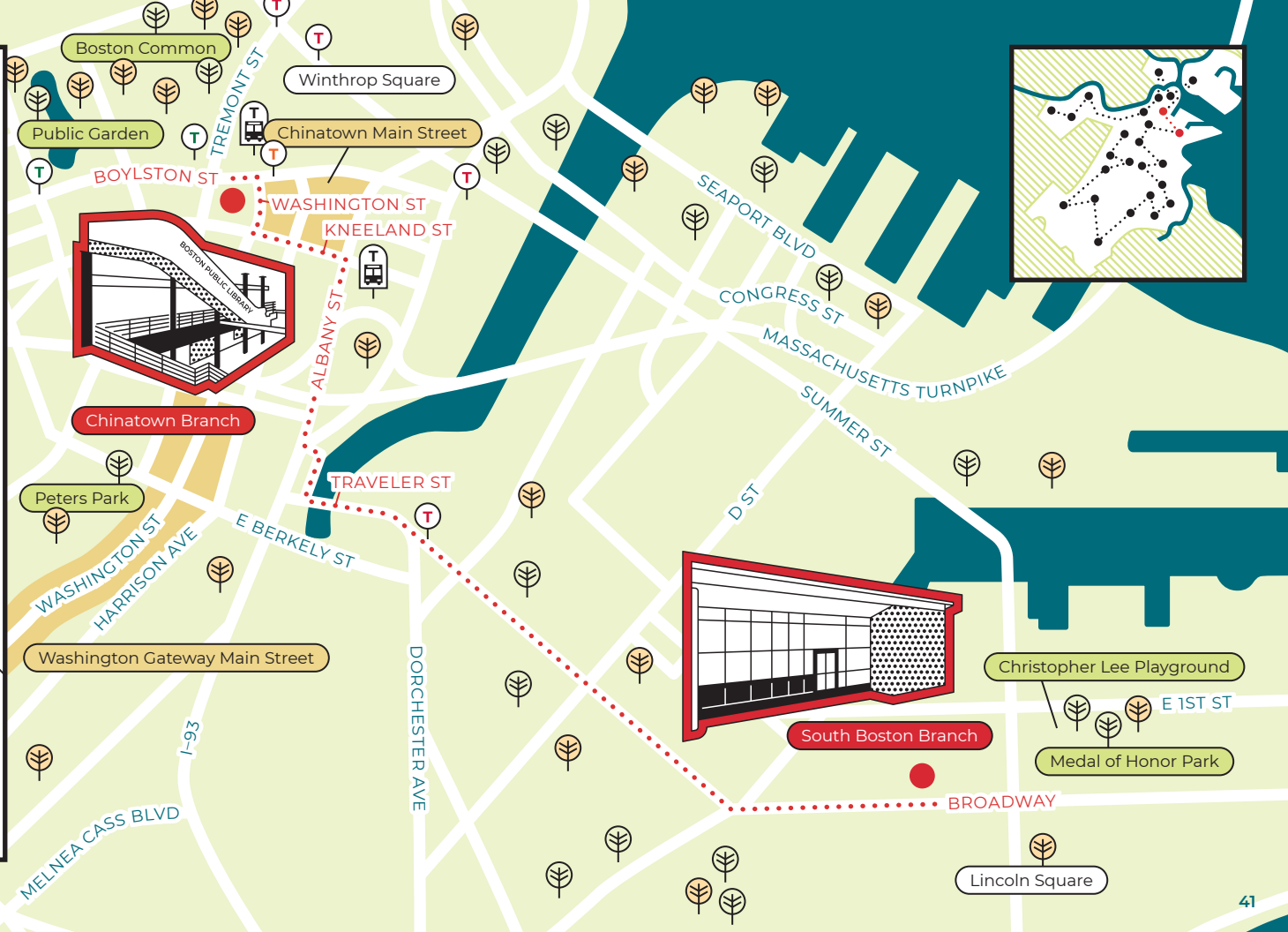


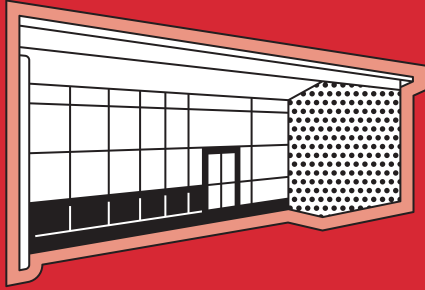
The temporary Chinatown branch opened in February 2018, fulfilling a long-term community goal to restore library services to the neighborhood after more than 50 years. The branch provides a community gathering space, a place to study and learn, and access to computers and the internet.



CHINATOWN → SOUTH BOSTON

2.2 miles
44 min walk





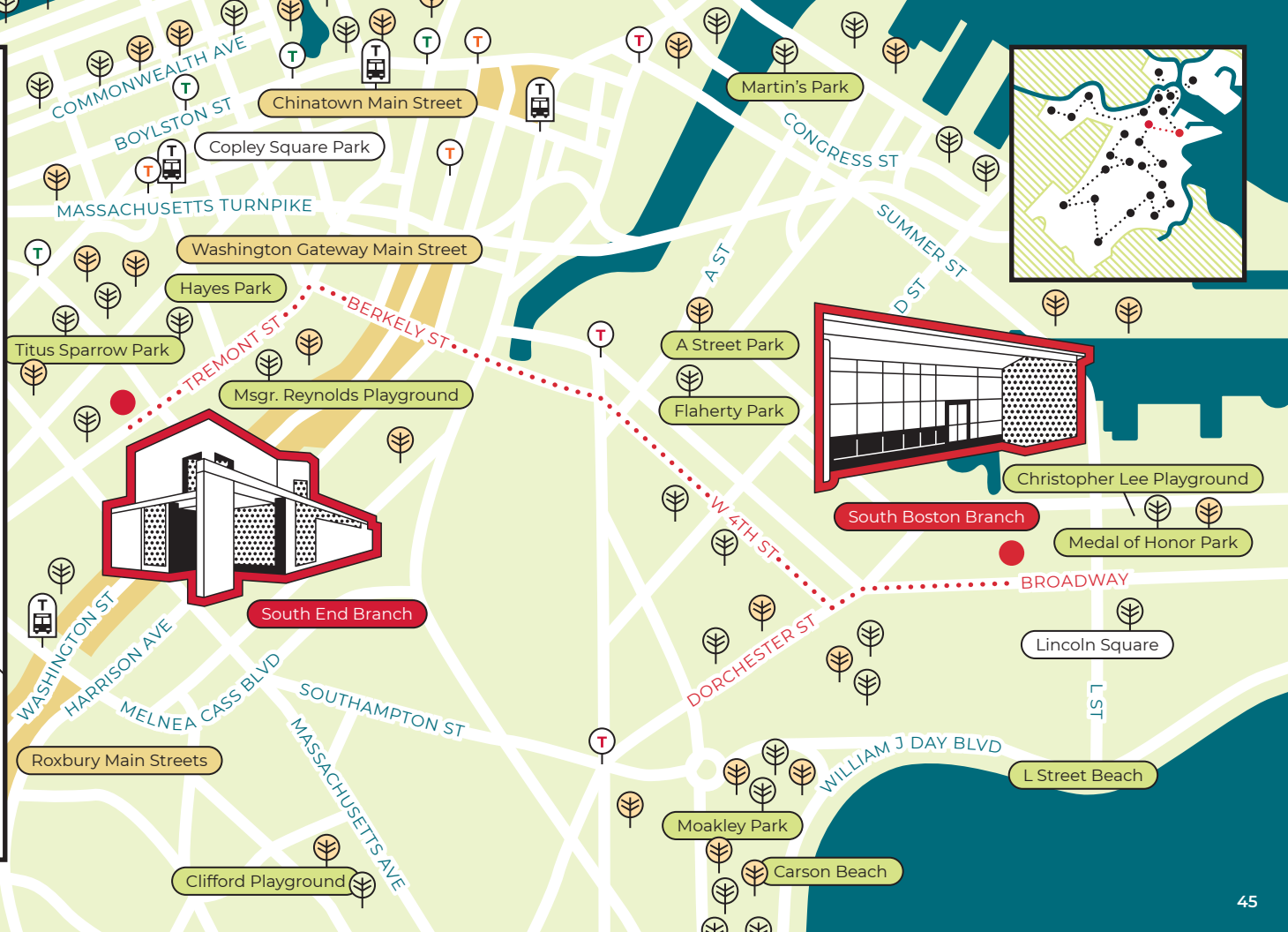
The South Boston Branch first opened in April 1872 in the Masonic building at 372 West Broadway, and was only the second branch library established in the United States. In 1948, the branch closed when the Masonic building was sold and was relocated in June 1950 to a storefront at 385-8 West Broadway, until that location was destroyed by fire in May 1957.

The current branch has a great mid-century vibe as well as a beautiful new courtyard.

Notes & Doodles

SOUTH BOSTON → **SOUTH END**

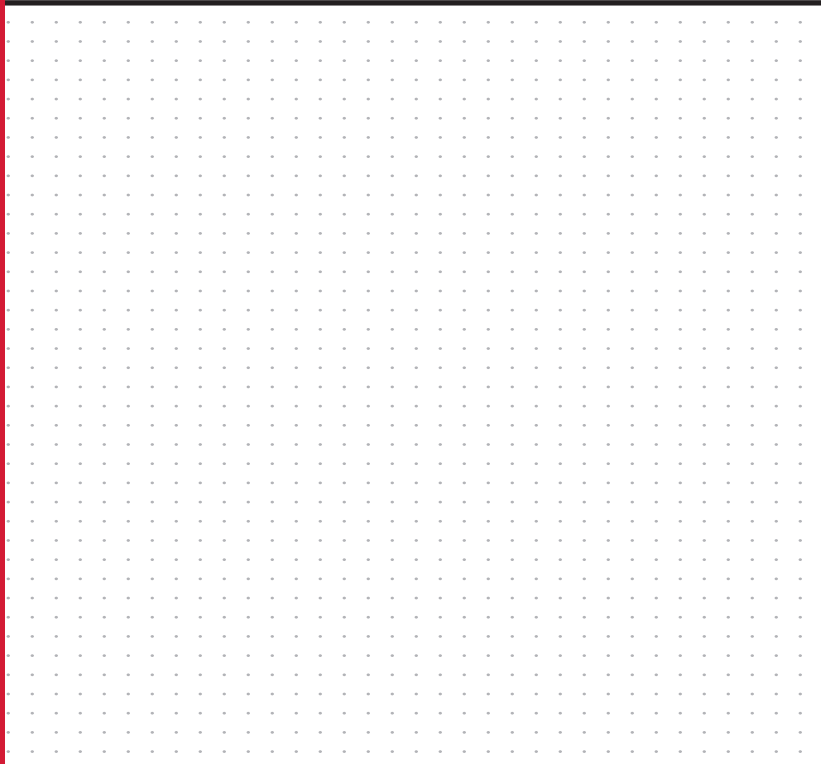
2.3 miles
47 min walk





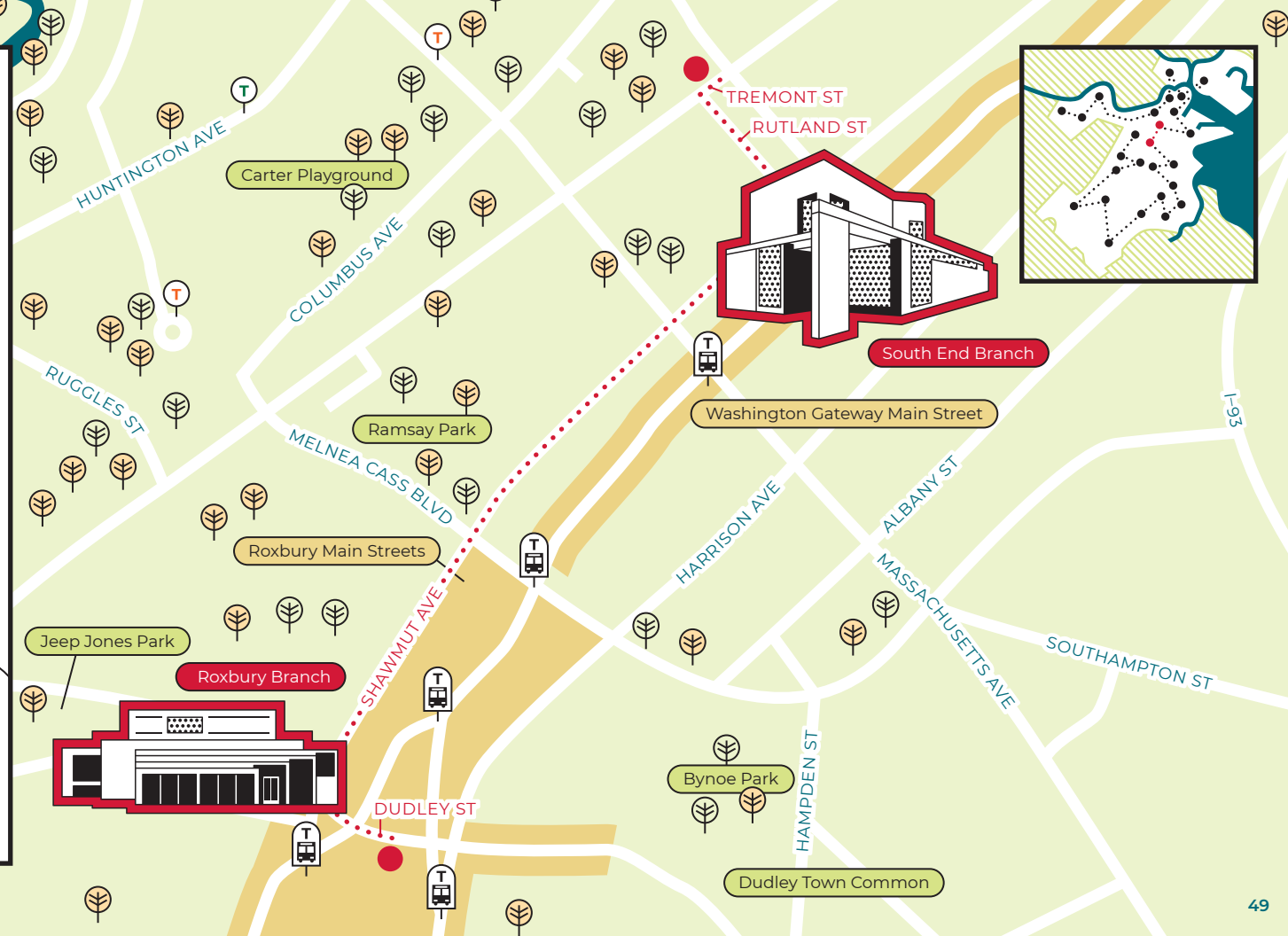
The South End Branch opened in 1877 inside the Mercantile Library Association building. The branch relocated to English High School in 1879; moved to Every Day Church at 397 Shawmut Avenue in 1904; then again in 1923 to the John J. Williams Municipal Building at Shawmut Avenue and West Brookline Street. On June 7, 1971, the South End Branch opened in its present location, a new building on the site of the original Mercantile building.

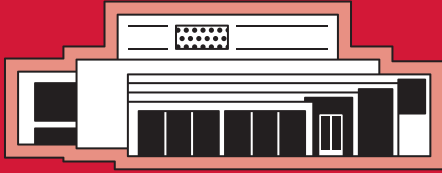
Notes & Doodles



SOUTH END → **ROXBURY**

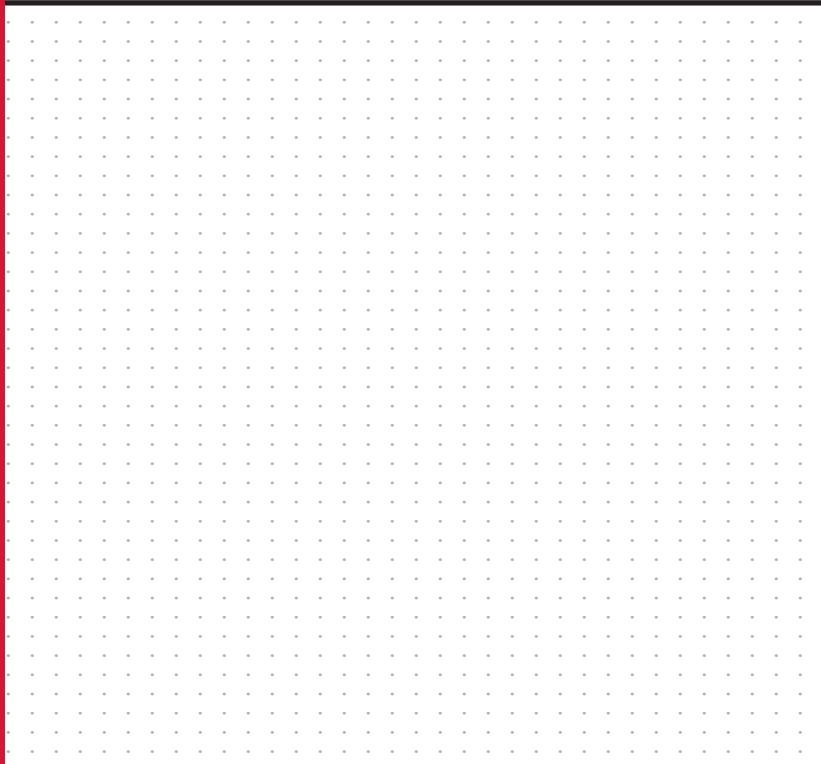
1.1 miles
26 min walk





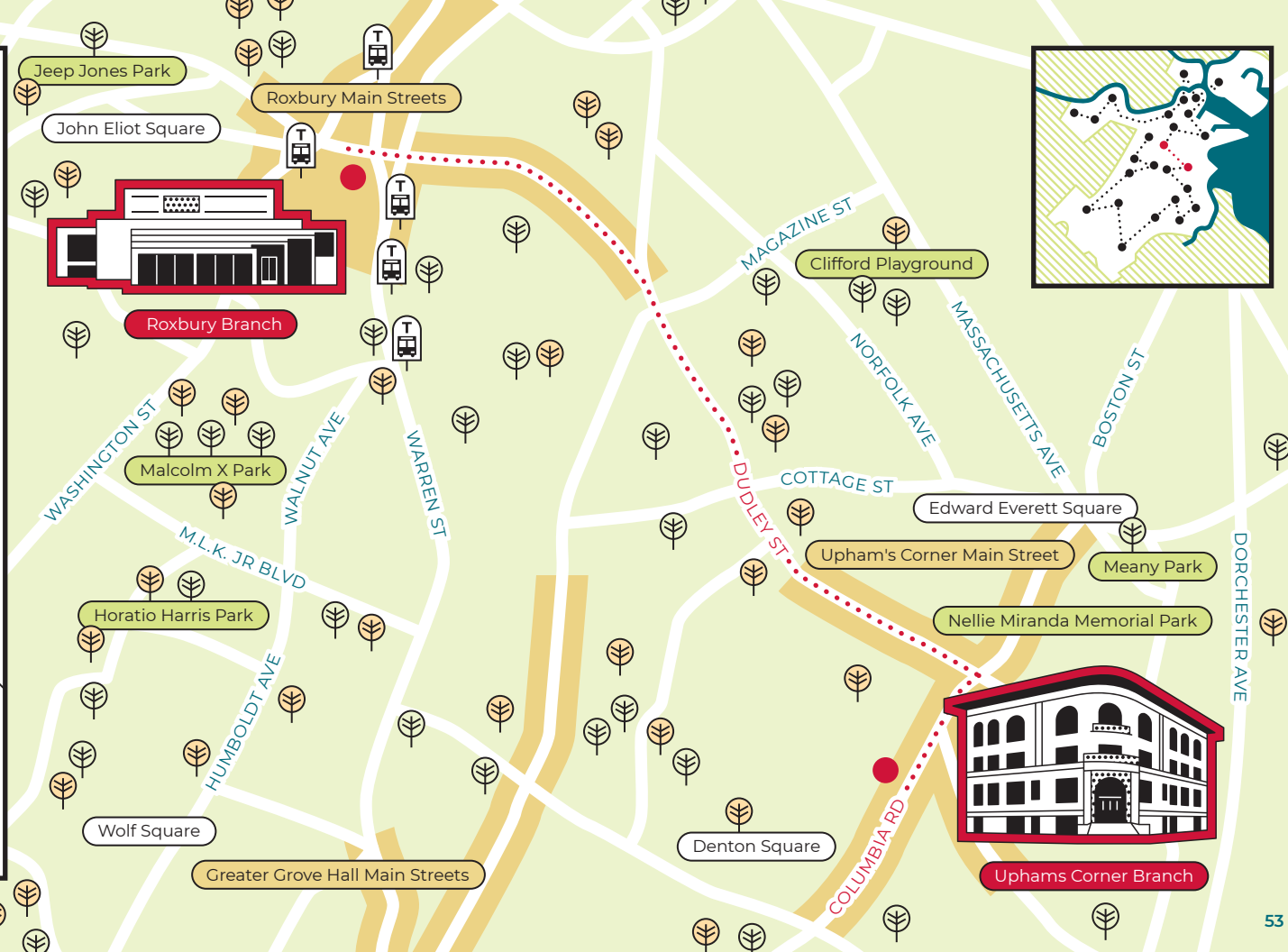
The Roxbury branch was reopened during the COVID-19 pandemic, after a complete renovation. In order to make the library more welcoming, the front door was moved from Warren Street to its current location, placing it firmly in the heart of Nubian Square. Roxbury is the only branch in the BPL system that has a completely operational kitchen.

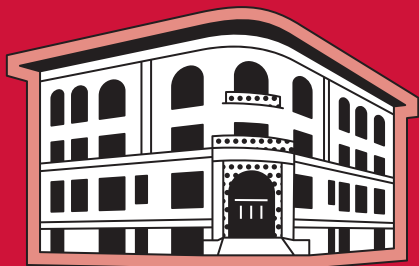
Notes & Doodles



ROXBURY → UPHAMS CORNER

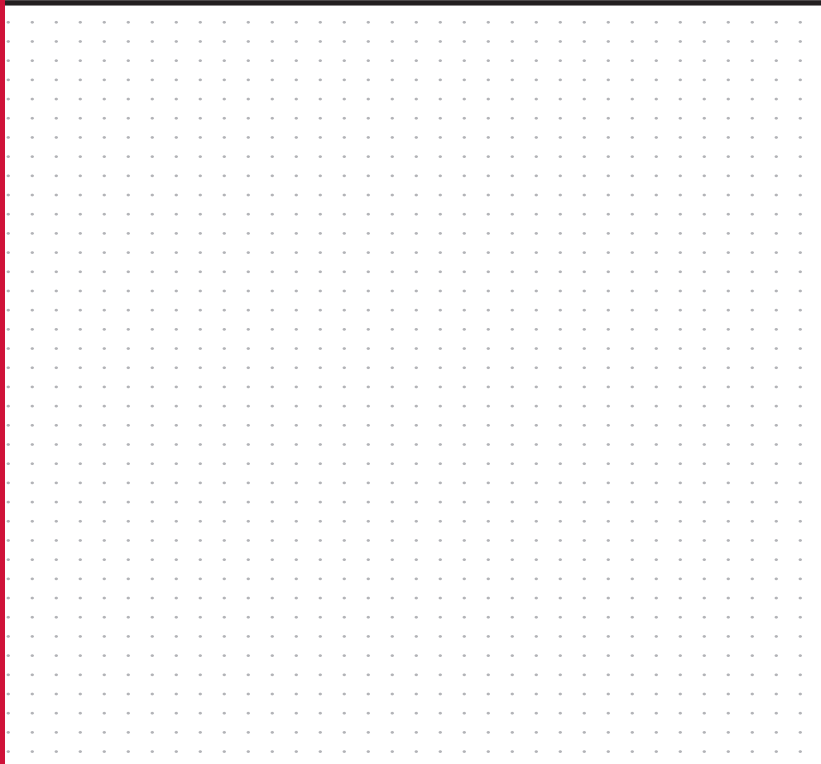
1.6 miles
35 min walk





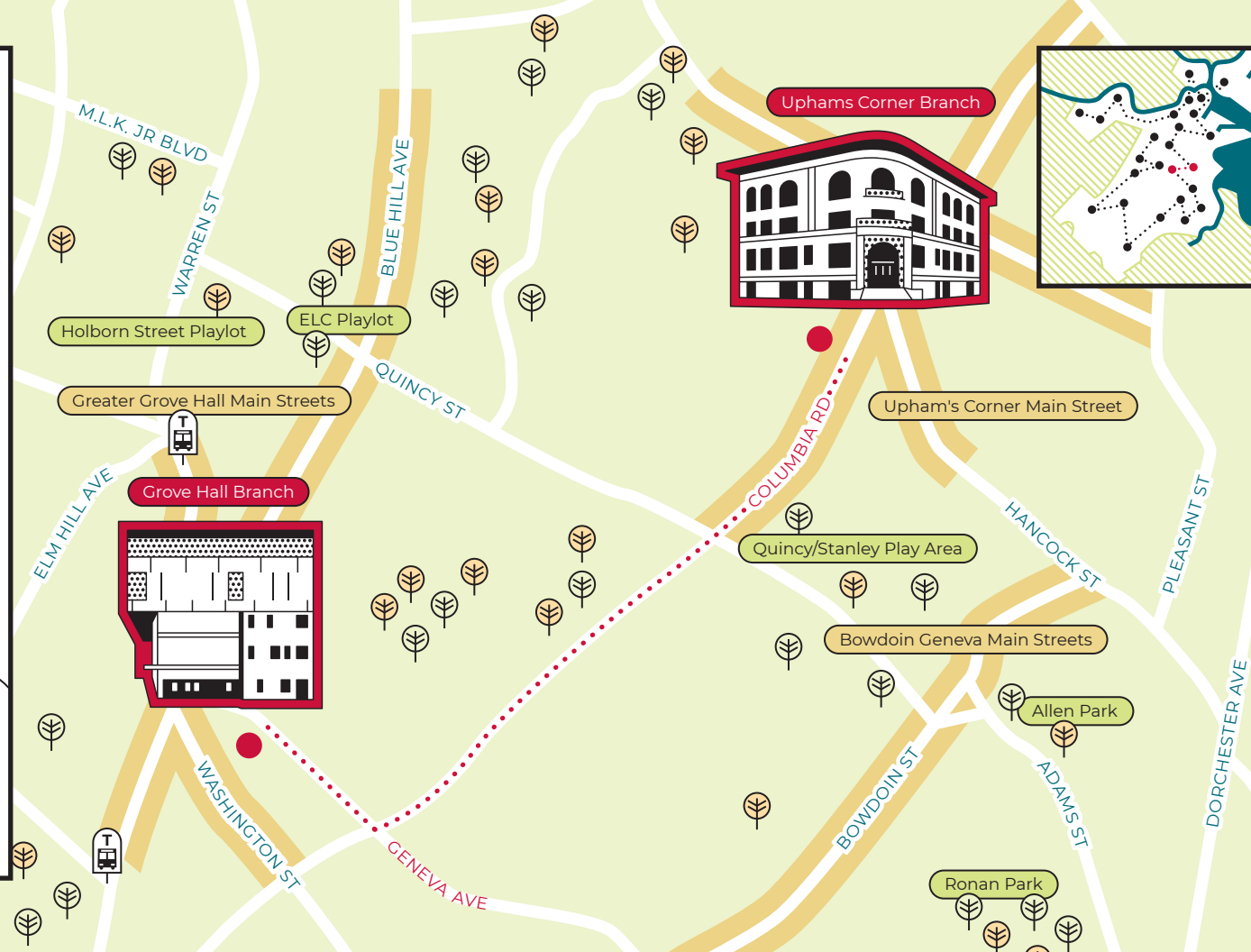
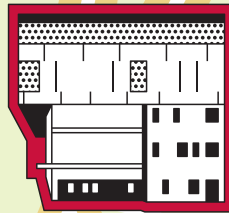
In 1904, the Uphams Corner Branch moved from a temporary storefront location on Dudley Street to its current location, a municipal building on Columbia Road. The children's room is actually located in what used to be an indoor municipal swimming pool, which was converted when the pool developed leaks.

Notes & Doodles

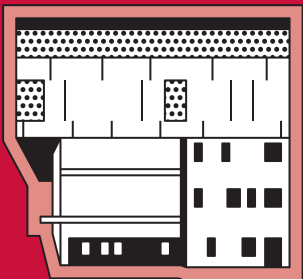


UPHAMS CORNER → GROVE HALL

1.0 miles
21 min walk



Notes & Doodles

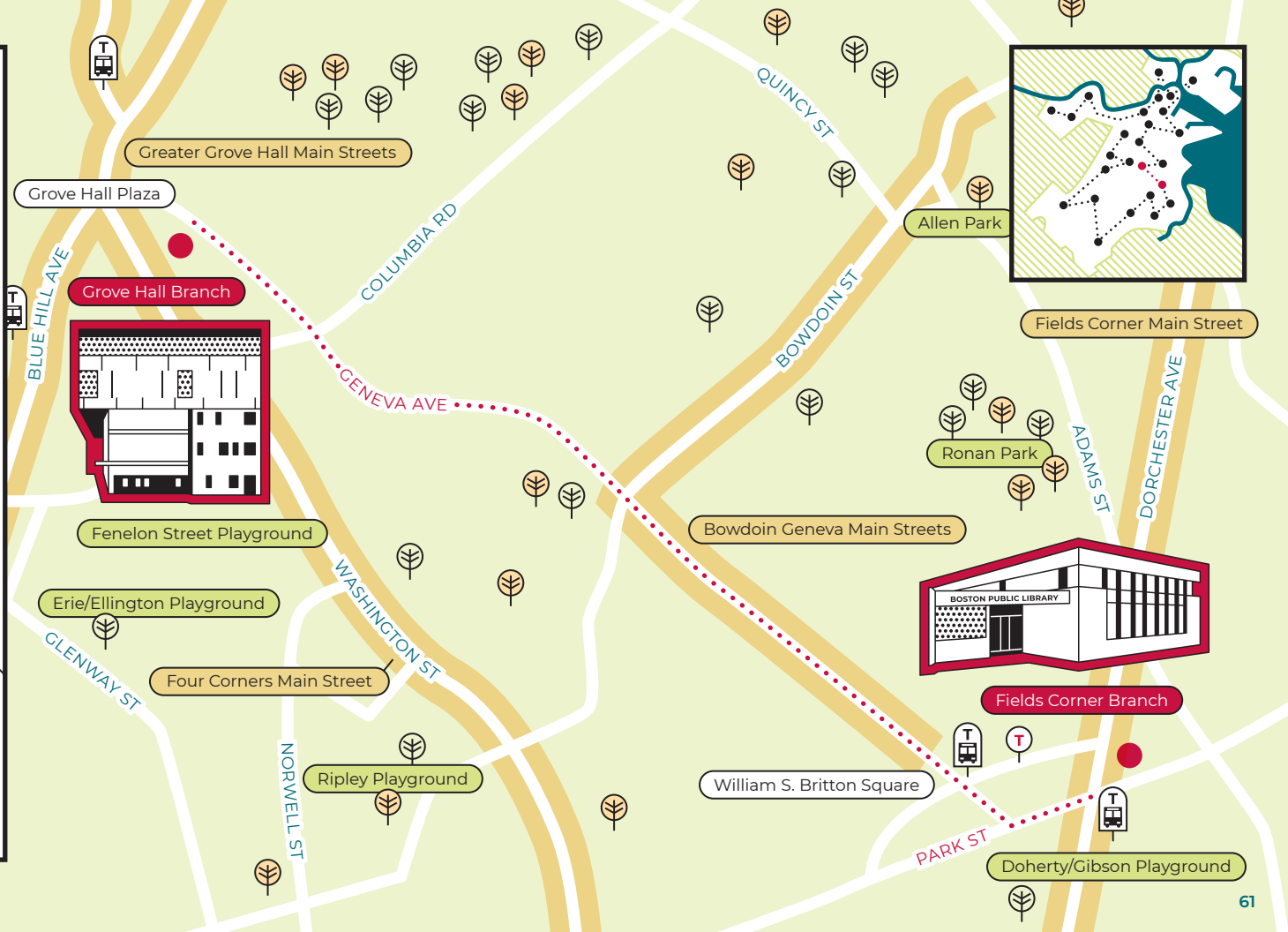


The first library in the Grove Hall neighborhood opened with just 200 books on May 1, 1898 in the rear of Mr. Mowry's Drug Store at the corner of Warren Street and Haynes Park. Built in 2009, today the Grove Hall branch, has the honor of hosting one of the world's tallest bottlecap sculptures.



GROVE HALL → FIELDS CORNER

1.3 miles
26 min walk



Notes & Doodles

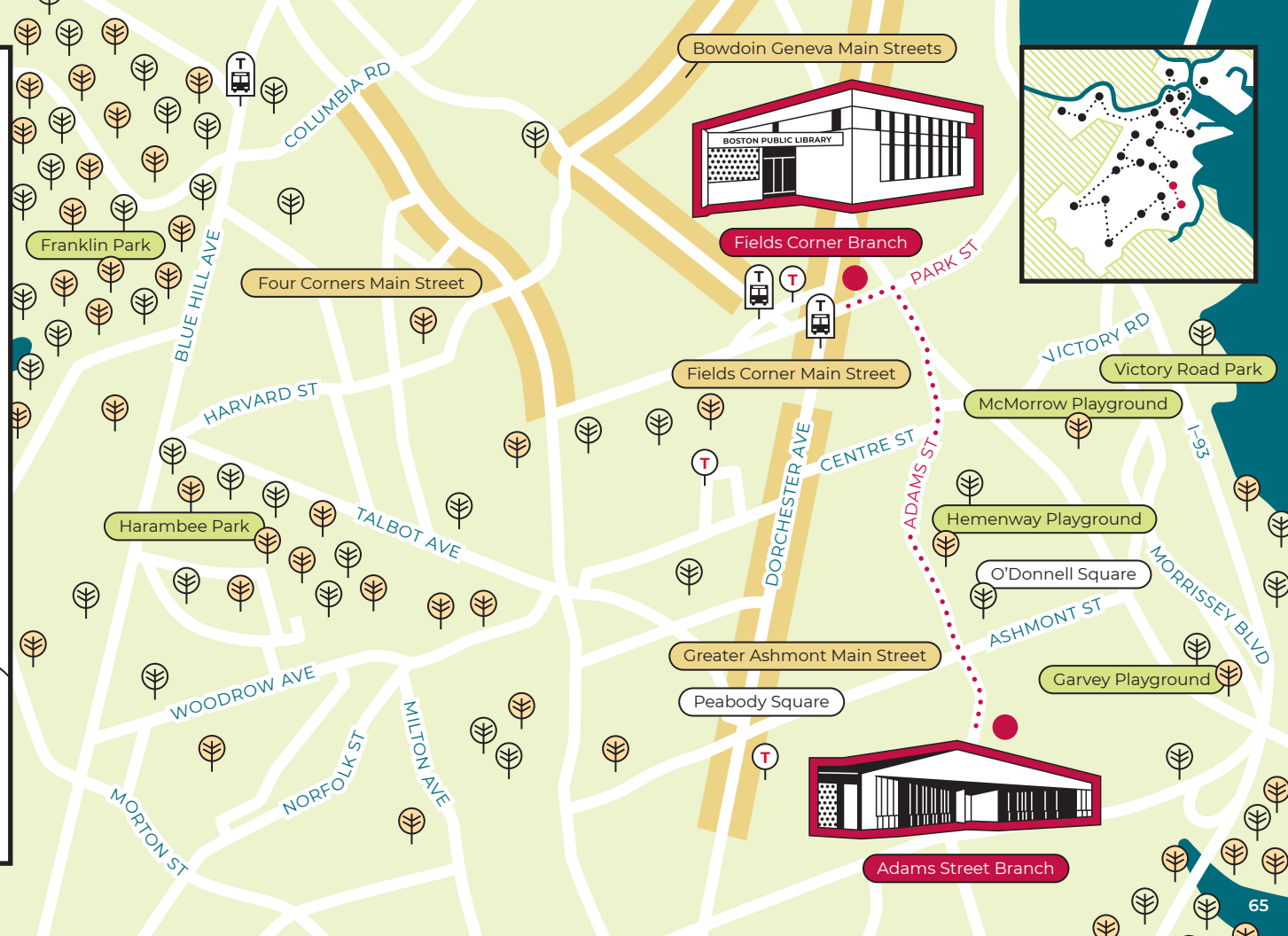


The neighborhood of Fields Corner recently received recognition from the Massachusetts Cultural Council as "Boston's Little Saigon" because of its rich Vietnamese culture, such as its restaurants, shops, businesses, offices and food markets. A short walk up Adams Street brings visitors to Ronan Park, an 11-acre hilltop park with a gorgeous view to Dorchester Bay.



FIELDS CORNER → ADAMS STREET

1.1 miles
23 min walk



Notes & Doodles



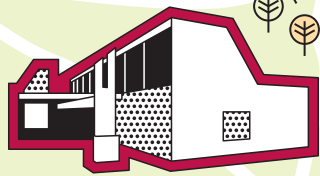
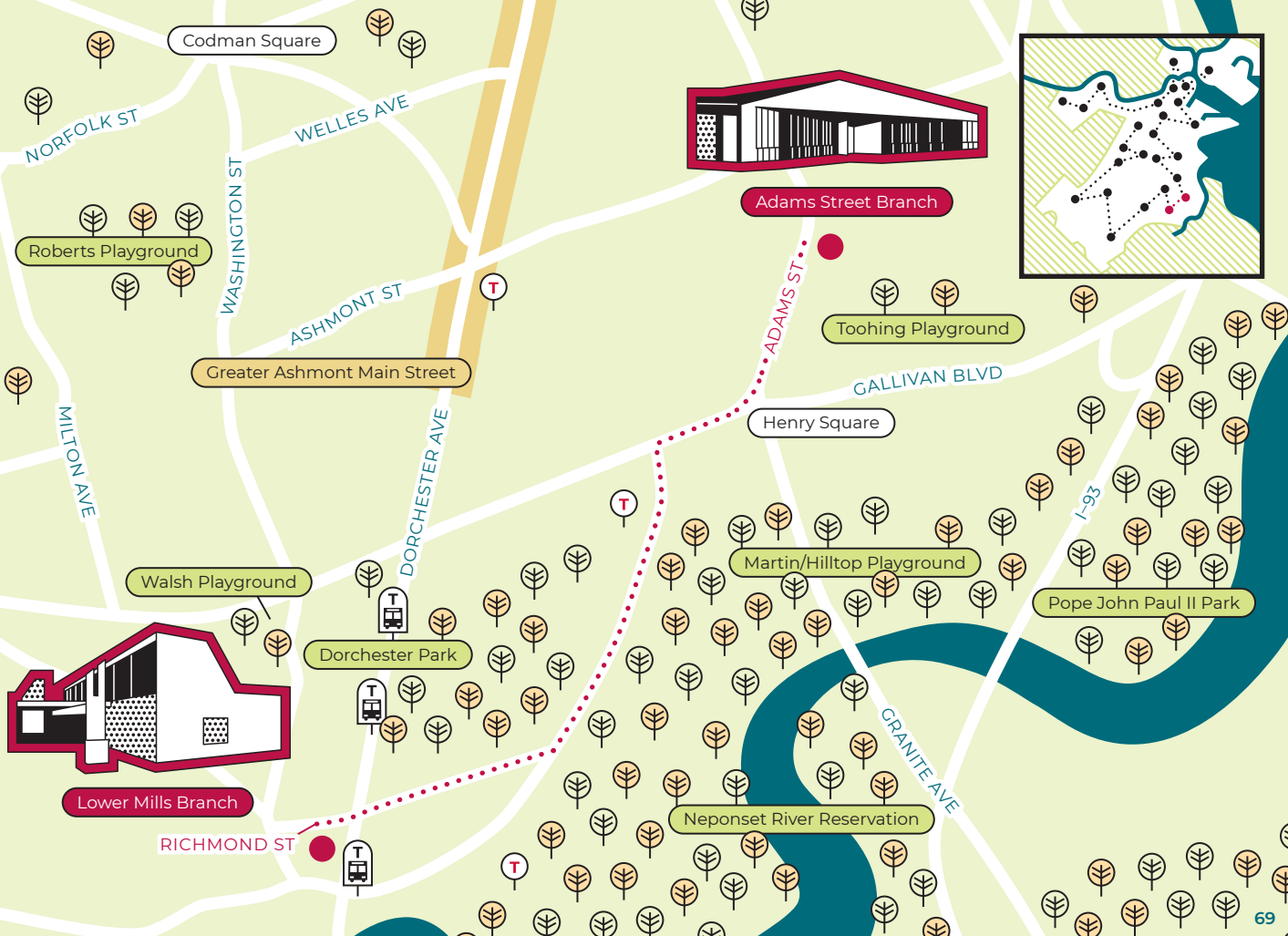
A delivery station on Walnut Street first provided library service to the Adams Street neighborhood in 1875; a reading room in the Adams Street neighborhood opened at 362 Neponset Avenue in 1907. The present branch location opened in 1951, and was completely rebuilt and reopened in 2021.

The branch has a view of the Blue Hills and its own music practice room.

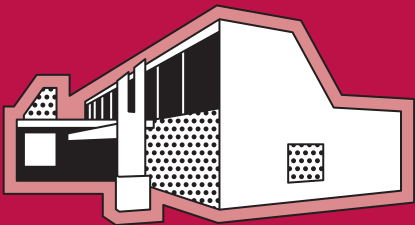


ADAMS STREET → LOWER MILLS

1.3 miles
26 min walk



Notes & Doodles

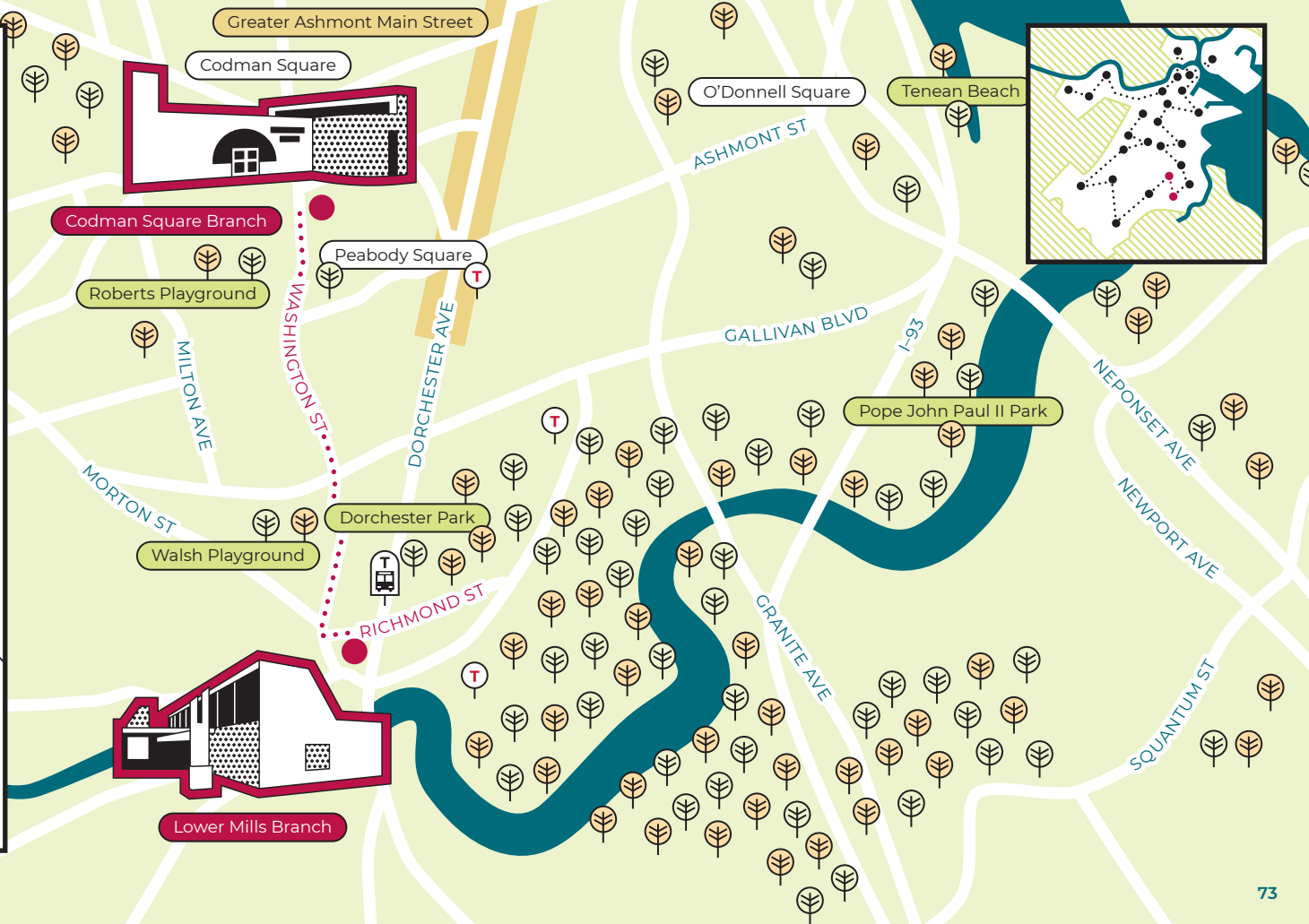


The branch stands close to the last parcels of land in the area occupied by the Massachusetts tribe. It is also located about a block away from the Dorchester-Milton Lower Mills Industrial District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

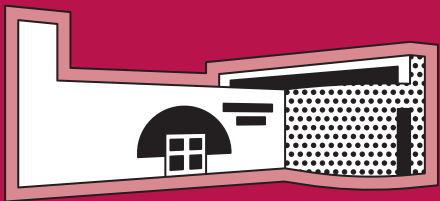


LOWER MILLS → CODMAN SQUARE

1.1 miles
22 min walk



Notes & Doodles



The intersection later known as Codman Square was created in 1654 at the intersection of a pre-European settlement Native American trail and a new road built by the government of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Codman Square Branch opened in 1905 at 6 Norfolk Street, and was named for local preacher and patriot John Codman.



CODMAN SQUARE → MATTAPAN

1.7 miles
34 min walk

Franklin Park

Harambee Park

Codman Square

Codman Square Branch

Mattapan Branch

Roberts Playground

Peabody Square

Greater Ashmont Main Street

EVANS ST

ROCKWELL ST

Dorchester Park

Walker Playground

Walsh Playground

Neponset River Reservation

Hunt Playground

Mattapan Square Main Streets

AMERICAN LEGION HWY

HARVARD ST

WOODROW AVE

MORTON ST

NORFOLK ST

BLUE HILL AVE

BABSON ST

W SELDEN ST

MILTON AVE

DORCHESTER AVE

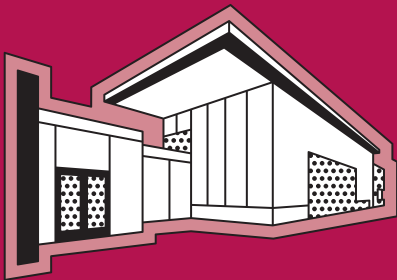
GALLIVAN BLVD

GRANITE AVE

ADAMS ST



Notes & Doodles



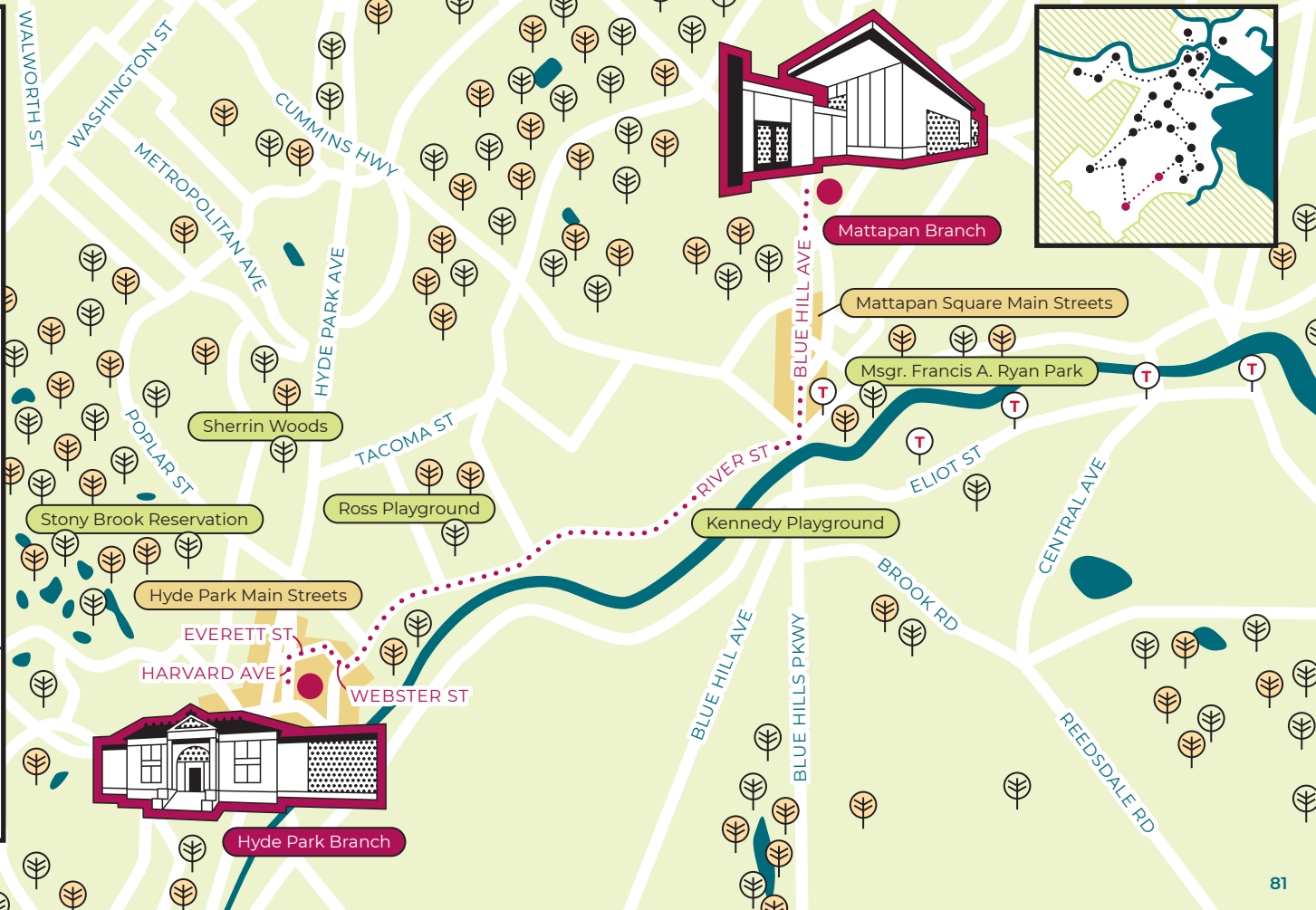
The Mattapan Library Association was founded in 1849 by Increase S. Smith. The library's first Mattapan location was a reading room holding just 98 volumes, which was attached to the delivery station in the Oakland Hall Building.

The Mattapan location was granted branch status in 1923, and currently resides in its third home – a new facility that opened in 2009. The community meeting room is named after Alice W. Yancey, the mother of long-time City Councilor Charles Yancey.



MATTAPAN → HYDE PARK

2.4 miles
49 min walk



Notes & Doodles

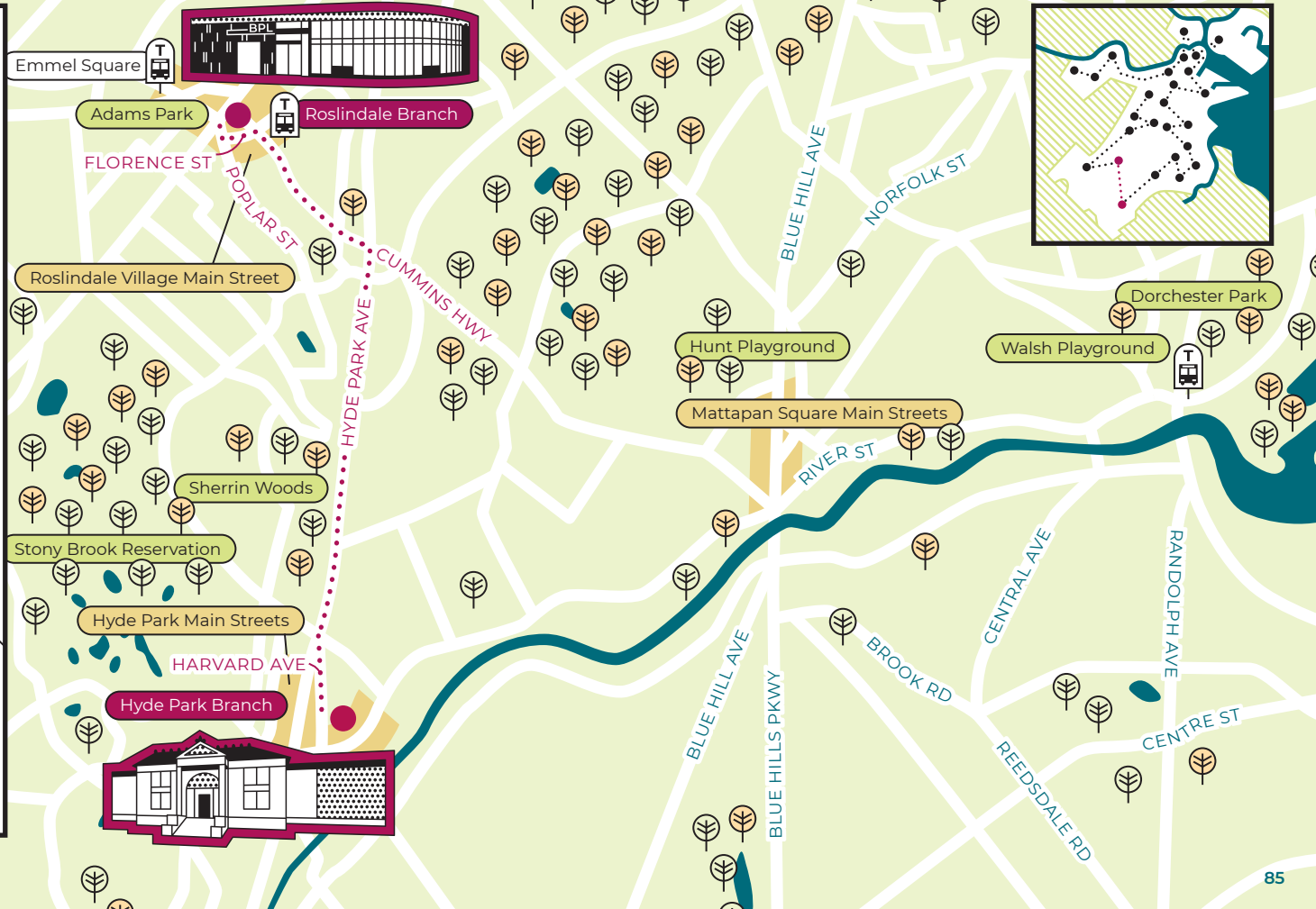


The branch consists of two buildings: the original library, built in 1899 and the newer addition, the Menino Wing, built in 1998. The original library was the public library for the town of Hyde Park, which was annexed to Boston in 1912.



HYDE PARK → ROSLINDALE

2.3 miles
46 min walk



Notes & Doodles



The Roslindale branch is built on top of the remains of the Engine 45, Ladder 16 firehouse, which closed in June 1959 and was demolished to make way for the new Roslindale library. The branch, built in 1961, is a beloved mid-century space which features a shallow dome from which is suspended a giant, painted wooden sunburst that many folks think looks more like a snowflake!



ROSLINDALE → WEST ROXBURY

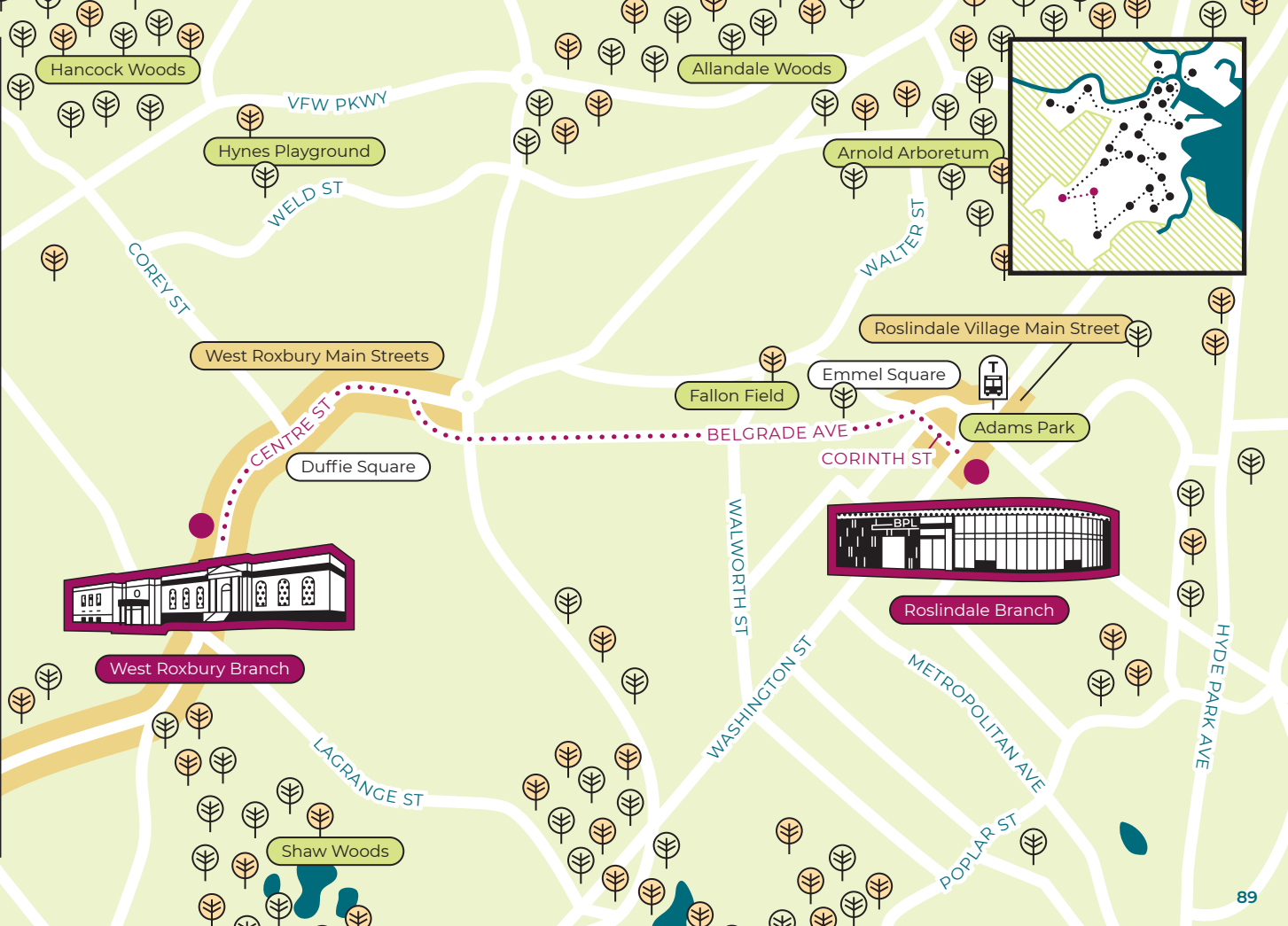
1.7 miles
35 min walk



West Roxbury Branch



Roslindale Branch

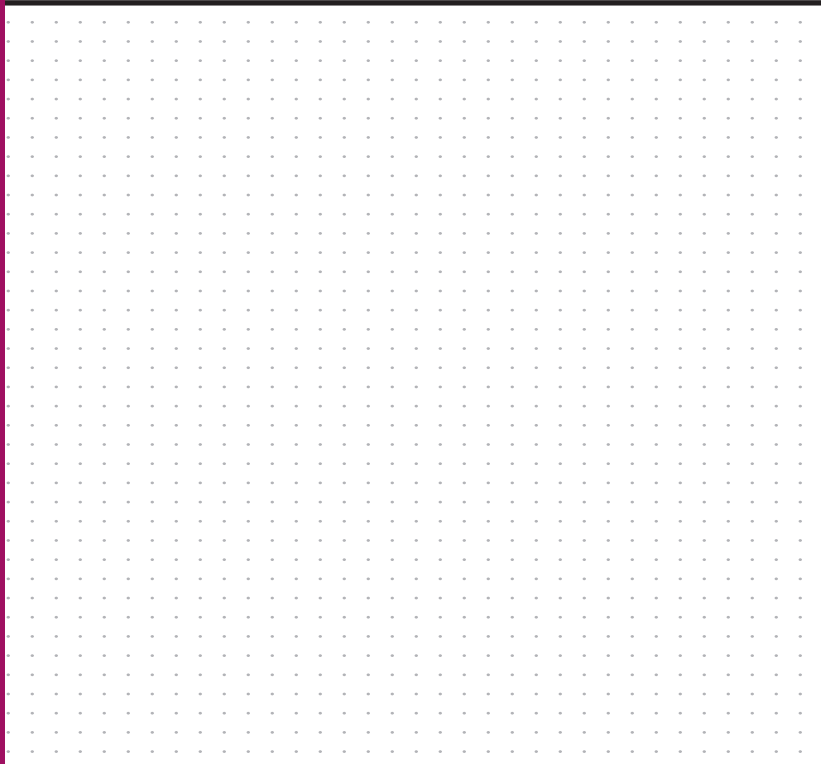




West Roxbury has many wonderful outdoor spaces — including the branch's lovely meeting garden, maintained by The Evening Garden Club of West Roxbury.

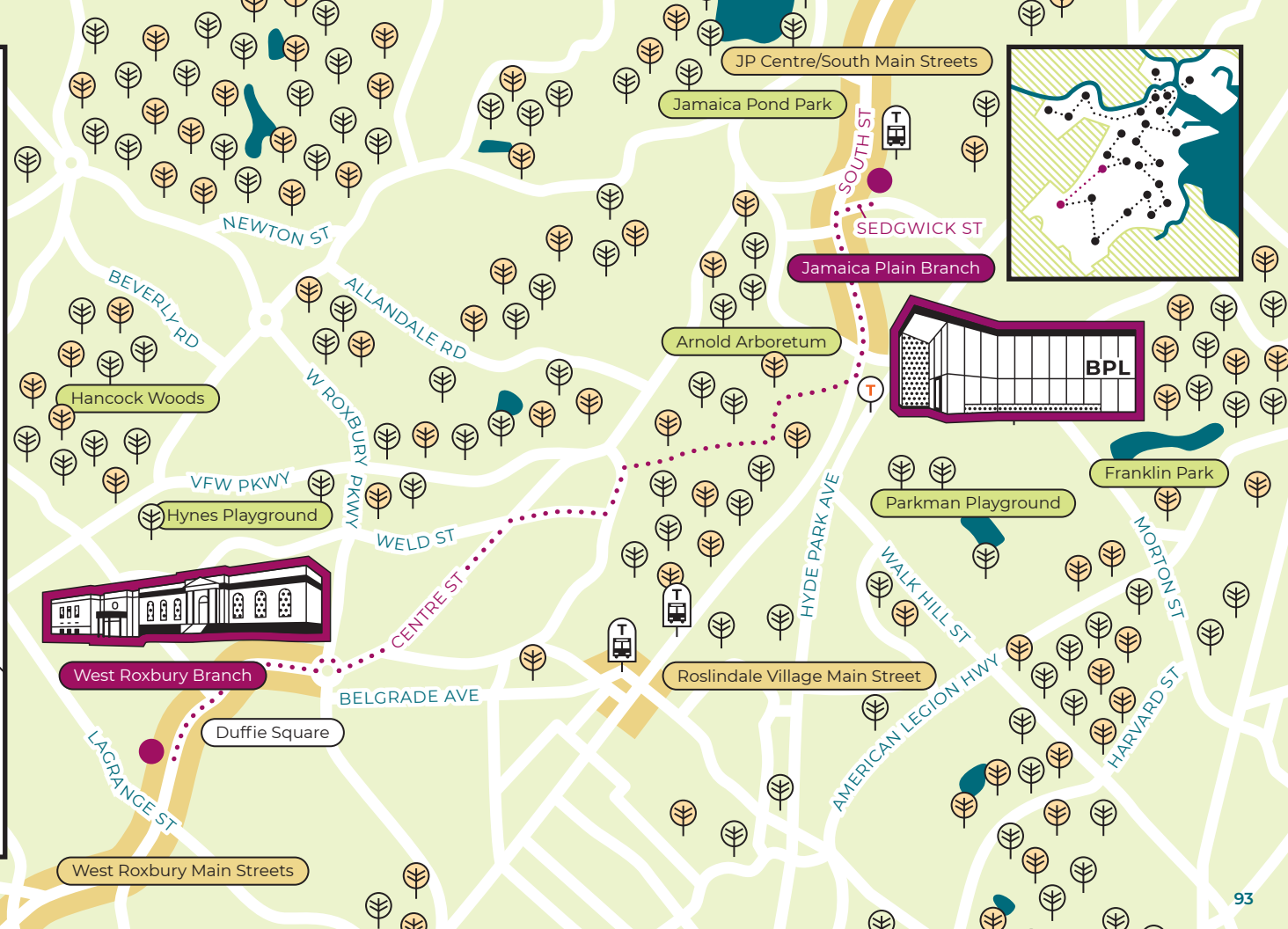
Other spaces include the Brooks Farm Historic Site, noted for famous visitors including Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry Thoreau, and Millenium Park, a former landfill, was formed using soil from the Big Dig and offers athletic fields, walking trails, and a canoe launch on the Charles River.

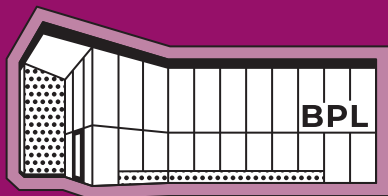
Notes & Doodles



WEST ROXBURY → JAMAICA PLAIN

3.4 miles
68 min walk

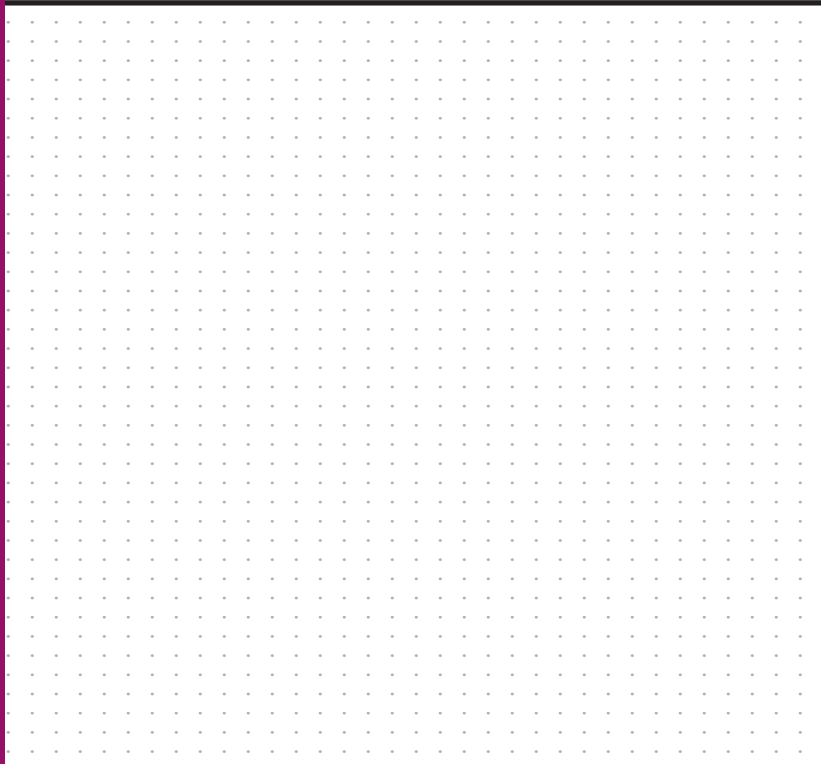




The Jamaica Plain branch is known for its great artwork, with a recently reopened gallery, three commissioned artworks by local artists, custom-made wallpaper in the children's room with silhouetted characters from children's books, and a new piece of public art right outside the front door.

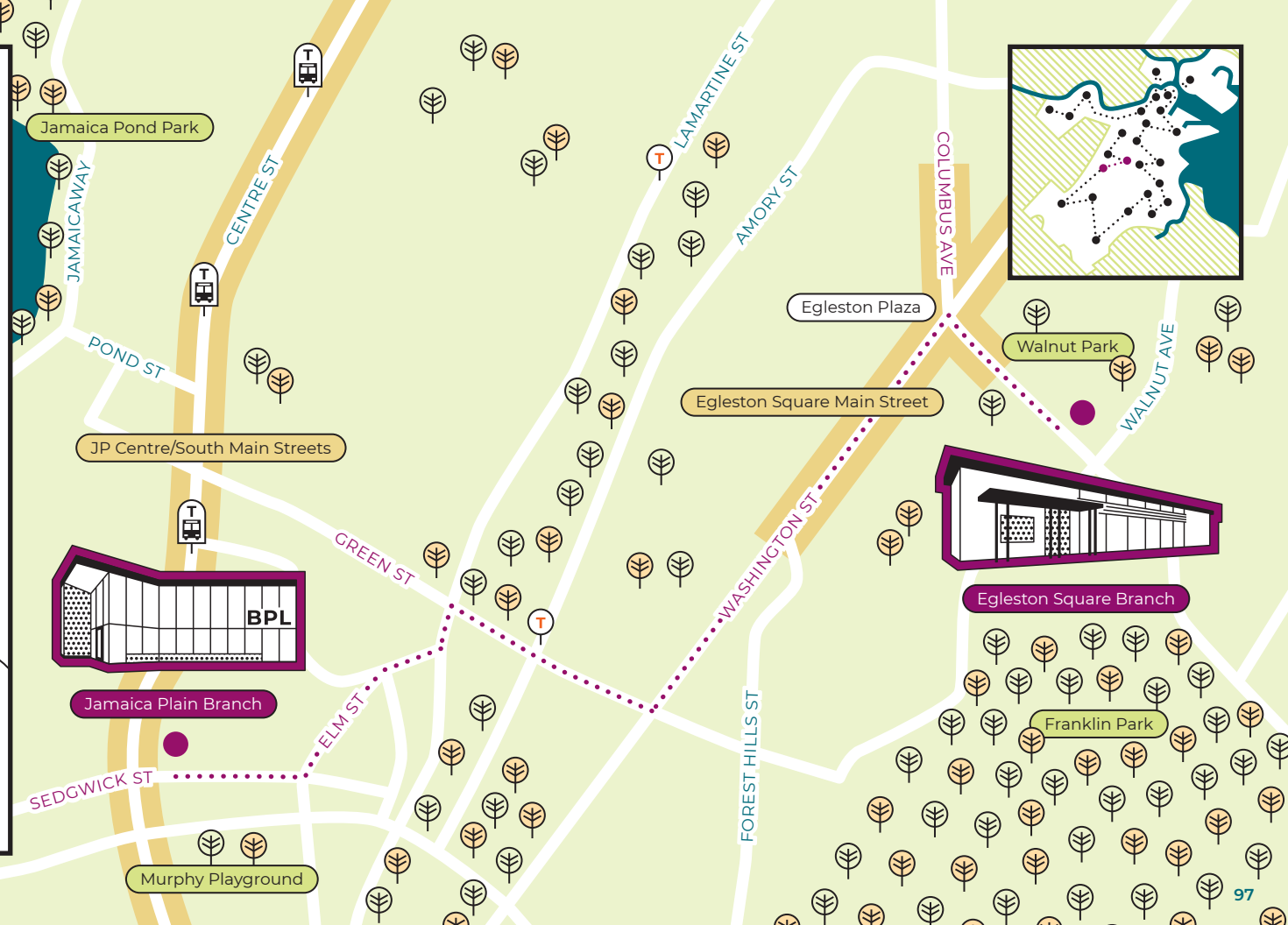
Notes & Doodles

STAMP HERE



JAMAICA PLAIN → EGLESTON SQUARE

1.4 miles
29 min walk



Jamaica Pond Park

JAMAICAWAY

CENTRE ST

POND ST

JP Centre/South Main Streets



Jamaica Plain Branch

SEDGWICK ST

Murphy Playground

GREEN ST

ELM ST

LAMARTINE ST

AMORY ST

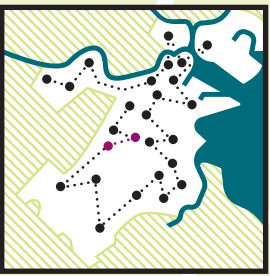
COLUMBUS AVE

Egleston Plaza

Egleston Square Main Street

Walnut Park

WALNUT AVE

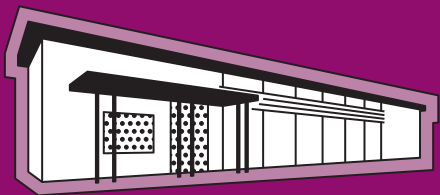


Egleston Square Branch

Franklin Park

FOREST HILLS ST

Notes & Doodles



When the building opened in 1953, the space currently used for adult fiction, non-fiction, and programming was actually a smoking section! The branch also has a permaculture teaching garden, which is part of the Boston Food Forest.

EGLESTON SQUARE → CONNOLLY

1.1 miles
22 min walk

Connolly Branch



Mahoney Square

Beecher Street Play Area

JP Centre/South Main Streets

Marcella Playground

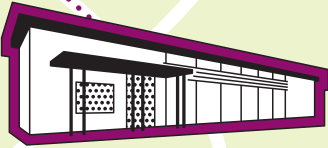
Horatio Harris Park

Egleston Square Main Street

Father Jack Play Area

Walnut Park

Egleston Square Branch



Franklin Park





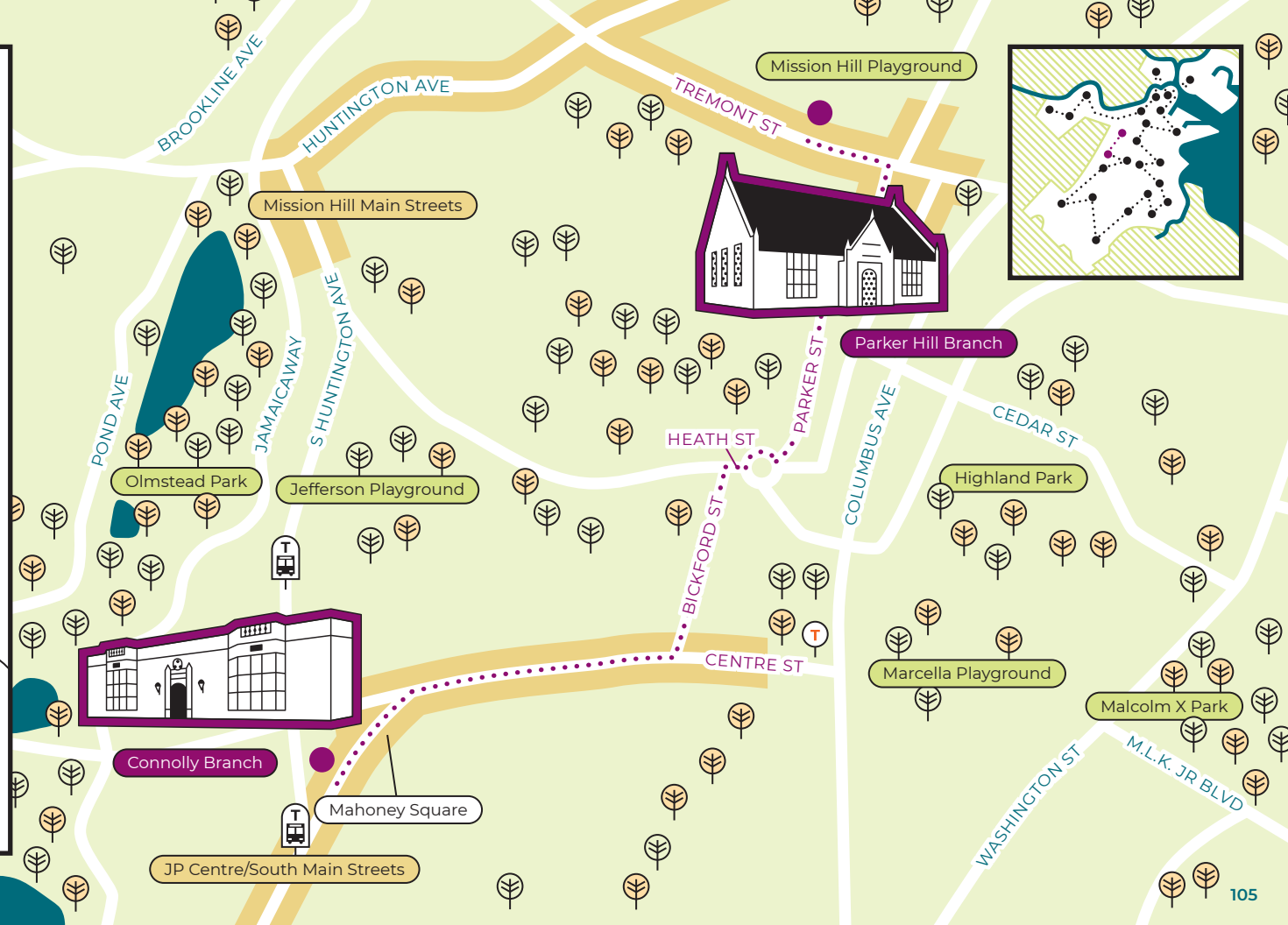
Connolly is one of only two branches in the BPL system to be named after a person: Monsignor Arthur T. Connolly, a member of the Boston Public Library Board of Trustees and pastor of the neighboring Blessed Sacrament Church.

The branch's ceilings are decorated with plaster moldings, which were reportedly inspired by the library at Rufford Abbey. The abbey, located in Nottinghamshire, England, has been in existence since 1147.

Notes & Doodles

CONNOLLY → PARKER HILL

1.3 miles
27 min walk



Notes & Doodles



The branch's current location opened in 1931 in a Gothic building designed by famed architect Ralph Adams Cram, and houses the Streetfeet Archives, which document the Streetfeet Women, a culturally diverse troupe of writers and performers founded in 1982.



Congratulations!

Here's what you've accomplished:

- You successfully traveled nearly 40 miles
- You have visited every neighborhood in Boston
- You have entered each location of the BPL system; and hopefully
- You have learned a little more about our amazing city

