

The Hyde Square Task Force received a small grant from Boston Greenspace Alliance to revitalize the Mozart Playground, a tiny park used by hundreds of neighborhood children. The grant was for plant materials, and the Task Force needed design and plant selection help.

A COG designer spent several months working with the community to define their desires and concerns, and with the Boston Parks Department. The designer worked with third grade classes, teaching them how to dig and plant, and most especially, how to water—all from a drinking fountain. The designer borrowed tools, found sources of free plants and mulch, supervised an Earth Day clean-up and a planting day in June.

For the designer, it was an enormously satisfying, enriching, and moving experience: “kids came to me with both hands full of dirt asking about the bugs”. The satisfaction of seeing her design become a reality brought a new appreciation of both the rewards and frustrations of using the landscape to improve the life of a neighborhood.



Client: Hyde Square Task Force
Jamaica Plain, MA

Designer: Dale T. Wilson
Jamaica Plain, MA

Completion: Summer 1996