

the quiet benevolence of edward ingersoll browne

Edward Ingersoll Browne's generosity is evident in every corner of Boston. From the James Michael Curley statues, to Angell Memorial Park in Post Office Square, to Harriet Tubman Park in the South End, his philanthropy has helped to shape the character of modern Boston for millions of residents and visitors. Browne Fund projects are much like the man who inspired them: quietly enabling, curiously ennobling, always serving a public good.

Post Office Square 1902

Boston Public Garden 1890

Worcester Square 1886

Edward Ingersoll Browne, born in Boston in 1833 and educated at Boston Latin School and Harvard College, believed deeply in the notion of personal improvement. He considered it his private duty to help others make their lives better as well. In 1902 Edwin Hale Abbot wrote that his Harvard classmate was a generous and modest gentleman who was always ready to lend aid when it was needed.

A successful Boston Trust attorney, Mr. Browne directed in his will that one-third of his estate be used by the City of Boston to create a special fund for the improvement of public spaces. The remainder would be equally divided between Harvard University and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.



"He thus found himself able to reach many poor college friends without their knowledge, and through his whole life eased the hardships of many others who never knew he was their friend."

During his lifetime, Edward Ingersoll Browne gave generously to orphanages, hospitals, and schools. But it is through Boston's public spaces that he will be remembered best. Edwin Hale described his friend's character best:

"The law of kindness was written in his heart, and his loyalty to his friends brought him a rich return, for few men were ever more heartily loved."



Edward Ingersoll Browne

generosity