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A Public Art Journey Begins with “A Walk in the Park”

Waukee's Grand Prairie Parkway to Feature Giant, Geometric Sculptures

Waukee, Iowa – Next summer, Waukee residents and visitors can take “A Walk in the Park” with the first public art installation from the City of Waukee following its adoption of a Public Art Master Plan.

Artist Joshua Wiener says the artwork is based on a sense of play, joy, and connection. This idea draws on the community's pride and affinity for fun.

“I wanted the space to have a distinguished body of art, one that spoke to the community's imagination and style,” Wiener said.

This artwork serves two goals from the Public Art Master Plan: bring color and interest to Waukee's main corridors and beautify public infrastructure that has an important purpose but can be unremarkable, such as stormwater detention ponds.

These sculptures are set to become recognizable landmarks that add unique character to Waukee's identity. The scale of the figures, ranging from 10 to 14 feet tall, will make them visible as people enter Waukee on Grand Prairie Parkway. Installation along Tallgrass Pond and the adjacent recreational trail will make the artwork approachable by foot while adding visual interest to the pond.

These figures are giant and expressive. They convey wonder about the creative qualities someone might have,” said Wiener. “I wanted to pique your curiosity about your neighbor.”

The Public Art Advisory Commission reviewed and assessed three finalist proposals. The final selection was made based on a scoring rubric.

“It was amazing to see how diverse artists took the information we provided about Waukee and the location and formed really different creative visions,” said Matt Jermier, Waukee Parks and Recreation Director.

Commission members considered the distinctiveness of the artwork and estimated appeal, rating how inviting, photogenic and memorable the work would be.

“Comparing art is a challenge since each concept proposed was so different. The scoring process helped us evaluate three distinct options to ultimately choose the one that best fit our criteria and the Waukee community,” Jermier said.

Over the winter, the piece will be fabricated in the artist's studio in Boulder, Colorado. It is composed of powder-coated aluminum with colorful liquid enamel highlights. Installation is expected to be completed by mid-summer of 2025.

The artwork costs \$150,000. The City of Waukee was awarded a \$50,000 grant from Bravo, and the City has allocated \$100,000 toward the project.

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About City of Waukee

The City of Waukee is a thriving community in the heart of Iowa that offers a welcoming atmosphere, high quality schools, excellent municipal services and robust public amenities. Recognized as the fastest growing (large) city in Iowa, Waukee is home to an estimated 31,645 residents. The City is dedicated to economic development and expanding business opportunities, including the creation of the mixed-use development, [Kettlestone](#). For more information, visit [Waukee.org](#).