ART ADVENTURES FEATURED ARTISTS

MAINFRAME STUDIOS

GREAT OUTDOORS FOUNDATION

POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION

PRAIRIE REFLECTIONS

Prairie Reflections is a “site specific” metalscape sculpture. As the viewer visually scans the surface of this sculpture, they will find, constructed from various found metal, approximately 25 forms that represent Jester Park and its surroundings. For example, pine trees and boulders, snakes, birds, baby bird in a nest, bird watcher, campfire setting, turkey fan, turkey chicks, enlarged coyote tracks, golf clubs, flora, fauna, and many more. The form and stature of the American Bison is the “backbone” of the Iowa prairie lands and as such, has been built upon to represent aforementioned.

Prairie Reflections welcomes visitors of all ages as they enter the west entrance to Jester Park.

ARTIST
Steve Huffman

ART MEDIUM
Steel and Repurposed Materials

ART LOCATION
Along prairie trail, west of the Jester Park Nature Center in Granger, Iowa.

JAMES W GRIMES

While James Grimes never lived in the City of Grimes, he was Iowa's third governor and later on became a U.S. senator. He was a member of a peace convention to try and prevent the Civil War. Grimes was also instrumental in the passage of the 14th amendment, which helped give ex-slaves civil rights.

ARTIST
John Brommel

ART MEDIUM
Metal

ART LOCATION
Entrance of the Grimes South Sports Complex in Grimes, Iowa.

TREE OF LIFE

Each leaf on the tree displays a different word, they are: Welcoming, Growing, Service, Community, Johnston, Diversity, Nature and Thriving.

ARTIST
Hilde DeBruyne

ART MEDIUM
Steel and Plexiglass

ART LOCATION
Terra Park Amphitheater
in Johnston, Iowa

GROW

"GROW" is a weathered steel, painted steel and plexiglass sculpture. The artist wanted to show Fall colors out of season so they can be appreciated year-round.

ARTIST
Tim Adams

ART MEDIUM
Steel and Plexiglass

ART LOCATION
Waterford Park in Urbandale, Iowa.

WHO RESCUED WHO

Celebrating the link between humans and service animals this steel sculpture invites you to investigate and find all animals depicted in the piece.

ARTIST
Gail Chavenelle

ART MEDIUM
Metal

ART LOCATION
Country Club Glen Park
in Clive, Iowa.

EVEN WATER

ARTIST
Cliff Garten

ART MEDIUM
Stainless Steel and Bronze

ART LOCATION
Raccoon River Park in
West Des Moines, Iowa

Water plays a critical role in a community's quality of life, from public health and safety to recreation and beauty.

Knowing what a watershed is and how we can each play a role in preserving its function and value is important but rarely understood. The Public Arts Advisory Commission aspired to use a public art initiative to raise awareness of watersheds and everyday actions our residents and businesses can take to improve water quality in a watershed.

The Commission wants every person who participates in and experiences Even Water to be enlightened, empowered, and proud to live in West Des Moines. Even Water is an eight-piece cycle suite of permanent sculptures installed in Raccoon River Park in 2019. It is fabricated in mirror polished stainless steel and bronze.

Two other components to the Water Quality Community Service Art Project include a temporary work of art, Blossoms on the Water, and a community-sourced sculpture, Aqua Strata. Both of these artworks are by artist, Bounnak Thammavong, of Kingston, Illinois.

CANOE PADDLE

This steel paddle was made from river trash collected during a stream clean up and is now located in Colby Park next to the Walnut Creek Watershed Water Monitoring Station in Windsor Heights.

ART MEDIUM

Corrugated Metal

ART LOCATION

Next to the monitoring station along the bike trail at Colby Park in Windsor Heights, Iowa.

WADING BRIDGE

ARTIST
Mary Mattingly

ART MEDIUM
Steel

ART LOCATION
Copper Creek Lake
in Pleasant Hill, Iowa

In July 2014, the Public Art Foundation revisited a grassroots effort to address the state of water in our urban community. at that time, the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) was investigating new ways to attract citizens in our water-trails. the MPO saw public art as a means of creating awareness and provoking critical conversation about water-quality improvement in the city and state. Over the next 11 months, through a selection process, fundraising, partnerships and volunteer work, new York-based artist Mary Mattingly was selected and commissioned to create a temporary public art installation. A location was identified and the concept design for Wading Bridge was chosen.

Initially located off the Raccoon Riverbank, the structure allowed people to walk not only over the water—but in the water—as the design of the center section of Wading Bridge was be submerged under water.

In September 2015, Wading Bridge was moved about 23 miles west from Water Works Park in Des Moines, Iowa to Pleasant Hill, Iowa, through the volunteer efforts of Michael R LaValle. It is located at Copper Creek Lake, courtesy of Riley Resource Group.

TAKING OFF MURAL

The mural was inspired and created by a high school student design team. Leading the project was Bondurant-Farrar art teacher, Christian Vandehaar and professional artist and Bondurant Community Foundation board member, Chris Vance. The 27 panel, 108-foot wide by 10-foot tall mural faces the Chichaqua Valley Trail, a major, multi-use recreational trail in northeast Polk County which supported 40,000+ trail users in 2019. It is also visible from Grant Street, a main artery through Bondurant.

ARTIST

Bondurant-Farrar High School Art Students

ART MEDIUM

Paint

ART LOCATION

On the north side of the Bondurant-Farrar Community School District Bus Barns in Bondurant, Iowa.

HEARTS & HANDS

"Hearts & Hands" art piece that is located at Ankeny's Miracle Park.

The art piece was created by local artist Barb Vaske to enhance the Miracle League Park. The sculpture was made of carved hearts and Ankeny Miracle League participants' handprints.

ARTIST
Barb Vaske

ART MEDIUM
Concrete

ART LOCATION
Ankeny Miracle League Park
in Ankeny, Iowa.