

## Gift to community will twirl over park

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Three wind-driven sculptures will be installed on a slope in the southeastern part of Bicentennial Park to twist and turn at the whims of breezes.

The crated sculpture parts are expected to arrive Monday and be assembled Tuesday, weather permitting. They will be 23, 21 and 16 feet tall. The ground mounts, which will anchor the sculptures, have already been installed. The concrete bases for them are 42 inches deep.

Immediately after installation, white roses will be planted around the perimeter of the sculpture area and tall, decorative grass will be planted in the center.

The sculptures, called kinetic art because moving is what makes them effective, are by international sculptor Lyman Whitaker of Utah. Whitaker Studio has more than 50 wind sculpture designs. Each sculpture is hand-made by Whitaker, his wife Stacy Christensen and his brother John.

Whitaker wind sculptures are set in motion by the slightest breeze but also can withstand strong wind, according to a Whitaker brochure.

The three wind sculptures that will be in Bicentennial Park are named Double Helix Vertical, Oval Twister and Double Helix "Sail."

The wind sculptures are a gift to the city from Chris and Karol Kirk, who said they want to honor their hometown with public art.

He grew up on West Main Street and graduated from Madison Consolidated High School. She grew up near the



state park and Goley's Orchard, which her grandfather started. She graduated from Shawe Memorial High School.

They didn't know each other growing up, but as adults were social friends. He lived away from Madison for years, while she never left. They married 31 years ago. Until last winter, they had spent 25 winters at their home in the Florida Keys and summers at their home near where her grandfather's house had been.

"We said we needed to go to things and get involved," she said, so they made Madison their permanent home. They sold their Florida house this year.

Years ago, they were awed by wind sculptures.

"We were going down the Oregon Coast Highway ... and out in this field was this huge display of these (wind sculptures)," Chris Kirk said.

Years later, they were in a gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and saw wind sculptures whose style they recognized.

"Obviously, it was the same artist," Karol Kirk said. They got his name, knowing they would be contacting him.

Chris Kirk said he checked out several potential locations in Bicentennial Park, which is at Vaughn Drive and West Street on the riverfront. Then he stood at each location while his picture was taken. A worker at the gallery they are dealing with digitally superimposed pictures of the three sculptures at each location.

Kirk said he and his wife chose a slope where people would not be sitting during concerts and events and where views would not be blocked.

When the Kirks were ready to go forward with their donation, they went to the city's Riverfront Development Committee.