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Artistic Bike Racks

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Artistic Bike Racks

January 16, 2008

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A Charlottesville park has a pretty unique and new addition. The Booker T. Washington Park just installed two new bike racks, however they aren't the traditional racks most people are used to.

"Tree cyclists waiting for bicycles"--That's the theme of some new artwork at Washington Park.

The City of Charlottesville teamed up with Art-In-Place to put a new spin on an old concept. They gave local artists up to a thousand dollars to create this functional and very unique artwork.

"It's neat how this program has gotten people talking about art whether they care for it or don't. A lot of people are talking about it, said Chris Gensic, Trails Planner for Charlottesville parks.

Both sculptures are made with recycled materials like glass bottles and metal. If you look closely you can even see the nutrition labels on the glass that makes up the face.

The city is hoping these new pieces of art will bring people out.

"We particularly hope that putting them where children will be and we hope to make it more fun for areas like parks and schools and libraries, said Gensic.

Artwork for three other locations is expected to be completed by the end of spring.

Just in case you were wondering how people will know what this artwork really is, the city will hang signs stating the sculpture's purpose.

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## City installs artistic bike racks

by Dave McNair



Working with Art-in-Place and the Alliance for Community Choice in Transportation, the city is installing artistic bike racks at schools, parks, and other public areas. The first bike rack went up on January 14 at Washington Park, a pair of metal stick figures, created by artist Bill Hess, that will appear to be riding the bike parked beneath them; there is room for two more bikes on either side of the rack.



According to city trail planner Chris Gensic, three other racks will be installed at locations around the city in the next few months; a harlequin rolling two wheels by artist Nini Beckstrom for McGuffey Park, a "Bicycle in the Clouds" by Bob Batz for Jackson-Via Elementary, and a series of half wheels with spokes by Clay Hill Forge for the Jefferson-Madison Regional

Library downtown.

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## Asides

Snap 'o the day:  
Bagpiper



Norm Weaver, who has been playing the bagpipe for 30 years, plays outside

a funeral at Hill & Wood on this chilly morning. "I started because it gives my wife peace and quiet," he says. Peace and quiet? Weaver laughs. "When I first began to practice, she would go walking. Now she walks regularly." Click on Weaver's photo to hear him play! (0)