

"Listen to the Whispering Wind":

NEW PUBLIC ART AT WINDY PLUMES PARK

A unique and dynamic experience awaits visitors to Windy Plumes Park in the Aurora segment of Green Valley Ranch. The concept for the city's newest public artwork, "Listen to the Whispering Wind" references native leaf and grass forms and the colors of the high plains. These design elements are combined into a swooping, swirling environment that forms an attractive sculpture and wayfinding element while also serving as a seating area and a place for people to gather along the regional trail.

From a distance, the artwork makes a distinct visual statement and inspires curiosity with its complex curvilinear forms, encouraging people to come closer to explore it. Approaching the piece, the experience begins to change, as people begin to distinguish the organic shapes, materials and colors. They discover a spectacular and inviting place to sit, rest, enjoy the view, have a picnic, and connect with friends.

The artwork embodies the goals and values of the Green Valley Ranch community, harmoniously blending into the sprawling landscape. With over 18 acres of parks and nearly 50 acres of trails and open space, the residential community offers many recreational opportunities.

Constructed primarily from painted steel, the artwork is 24 feet high, 19 feet long and 13 feet wide. Designed and fabricated by Carol May and Tim Watkins of May+Watkins Design in New York, this piece was originally commissioned by a community-based art selection panel in 2020. The artwork was then completed, dismantled and transported to Aurora in late 2021. However, the pandemic and other factors resulted in delays in the development of the park, and the artwork could not be installed until 2023. Sadly, Tim Watkins did not live to see the completed work installed on-site in its intended environment. Now, it stands as a beautiful tribute to him and the extraordinary partnership with his wife, Carol May, who together created this delightfully whimsical experience for your enjoyment.

Windy Plumes Park, located at 4490 N. Shawnee St. in Green Valley Ranch, is anticipated to open in January 2024. To learn more about the Art in Public Places and to see the current public art collection, visit AuroraGov.org/PublicArt.



ON THE COVER:

The Aurora Fox Arts Center, "Listen to the Whispering Winds" and Coal Creek Schoolhouse at DeLaney Farm Historic District.

Photo by Tony Nguyen of Studios LLC