



News Release

For release: Immediately
Date: April 7, 2016

Contact: Mike McLaughlin, 785-251-2680

Sculptures by local artist unveiled along Shunga and Lake Shawnee Trails

TOPEKA, KAN. – County commissioners and Shawnee County Parks + Recreation officials today unveiled two sculptures by Topeka artist Robert Heintzelman. The sculptures along the Shunga Trail at Felker Park and the Lake Shawnee Trail near the softball complex depict bicycle riders in racing position. The larger of the two sculptures, at Felker Park, is titled “Sprint.” The second sculpture at Lake Shawnee is titled “Working Together.”

“We are excited that these sculptures by a local artist which have been on display in another state will now be on permanent display back at home in Shawnee County,” said County Commissioner Shelly Buhler. “Displaying Mr. Heintzelman’s sculptures along trails frequented by bicyclists is a fitting tribute to his hobby and his artwork.”

Heintzelman is an avid bicyclist, having ridden on rides all across the country. His sculptures had been on display in two different cities in Colorado. When they returned to Topeka, Heintzelman donated them to Shawnee County Parks + Recreation so they could remain on display for the enjoyment of the public.

"It is my hope that these pieces will somehow enrich the experience for those using these great trails that we have here in Shawnee County," said Heintzelman.

Heintzelman was born in Leavenworth, Kansas and has lived most of his life in Topeka. He earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Washburn University and a Master’s in Psychology from Wichita State University. He originally began college as an art major but changed his major to pursue a career in mental health working as a clinician and administrator in juvenile justice and more recently as administrator of mental health funding in the Medicaid program. In addition to art, his hobbies include hiking in Colorado, working on cars, and playing golf, but throughout his life, he has been drawn to creative expression through photography, drawing, collage and three dimensional works.

(MORE)

parks.snco.us

His work has been exhibited at the Topeka Art Guild in 2006, the rotunda of the Topeka Shawnee County library in 2008 and 2009, the Sabatini gallery Competition in 2010, the National Craft show at the Mulvane Art Museum in 2012 and Yeldarb gallery in NOTO in 2014. Works on public display include pieces at the Tallgrass Medical Building and the Fairlawn Plaza shopping center in Topeka, and the Prairie Spirit subdivision at Lake Waubunsee. He has also had public work on display in Highland Ranch, Parker, Castle Rock, Broomfield, and Aurora Colorado.

###

Shawnee County Parks + Recreation includes nearly 50 miles of trails, 2,652 acres of parks and 320 annual days of sporting activities. In addition, the department offers recreation programs, educational programs and golf. A combination of tax dollars, user fees and private donations enables Shawnee County Parks and Recreation to offer parks, sporting and aquatic facilities with state-of-the-art features, and beautiful, nationally recognized gardens. According to a needs assessment, 94 percent of residents visited a Shawnee County Parks and Recreation park or facility in the past year.

