

Proposal for Art in the Park

Requested Park(s): Vilas Park and Wingra Park

August 2020

General Background:

Friends of Lake Wingra is an active organization with over 13,000 members in the Lake Wingra watershed. Since 1998, we have been working to protect and restore the aquatic environment and surrounding uplands through a wide variety of educational outreach and direct action campaigns. Specific to chloride reduction, we served as a stakeholder in the formation of the City of Madison's Wingra Watershed Management Plan. Chlorides is listed as one of the top three areas of concern in the management plan.

As a recipient of a Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Chloride Innovation Grant, we are employing a local artist to paint a mural of a lake ecosystem onto a water softener. We propose installing the softener and an informational sign (about the sources of chloride, current chloride levels, and its impacts to freshwater ecosystems) at Wingra Park near Wingra Boats this September. In November, we would move the softener to Vilas Park or Monroe Street as they receive more traffic in the winter. We would like to return the piece to Wingra Park in the spring of 2021.

This installation would amplify our current messaging around the importance of moving our roadways and parking lots toward a lower-salt diet for the health of our surface waters and groundwater. For many park visitors, this may be their first interaction with a text of any kind that informs them of the connection between water softener salt and freshwater ecosystems: ALL the salt placed in water softeners goes into freshwater streams). We plan to use this installation as a catalyst for future education and outreach to members, the staff at Wingra boats, the Monroe Street Business Association and the broader community through articles in neighborhood association newsletters, a business recognition program, and publicity around a ribbon-cutting event.

Project Specifics:

Name of artist: Hannah Sandvold

Name of piece: [TBD]

Description of the art piece:

- A discarded home water softener covered with a mural of a freshwater ecosystem scene. This proposed softener-turned-art (and a small informational sign) would be an educational outreach tool to raise awareness around the issue of salt pollution into our local lakes, streams, and ground (drinking) water.

Time frame for the art installation:

- **Temporary Art (in place for less than 12 months)** – temporary installation at Wingra Park (Sept-Oct.) to be followed by a temporary installation at Vilas Park (Nov-March) and perhaps a second temporary installation at Wingra (April-July)

What is the size of the proposed art? Size of a home water softener unit

Please provide a picture of art – to be commissioned, will be determined at a later date

Which Park or Parks do you propose to locate the piece? Wingra and Vilas – Lake Wingra has the highest chloride concentrations of all the Yahara Lakes due to its small size (there isn't as much dilution potential) and it is a highly-urbanized watershed.

What is the specific location in the Park? At Wingra Park, location to be determined in partnership with Tyler Leeper of Wingra boats; at Vilas, it will be near the beach house, the hope is for it to sit in a highly visible location in both parks.

Information about the artist

1. **Is the artist from Madison?** yes
2. **Do they have pieces in the Madison Collection already?** Hannah was commissioned to design a Bucky Badger statue in 2018
3. **Do they represent an underrepresented community?** Hannah would prefer to not make this information public.

To see a few examples of the artist's work: [Links to her portfolio and her website.](#)