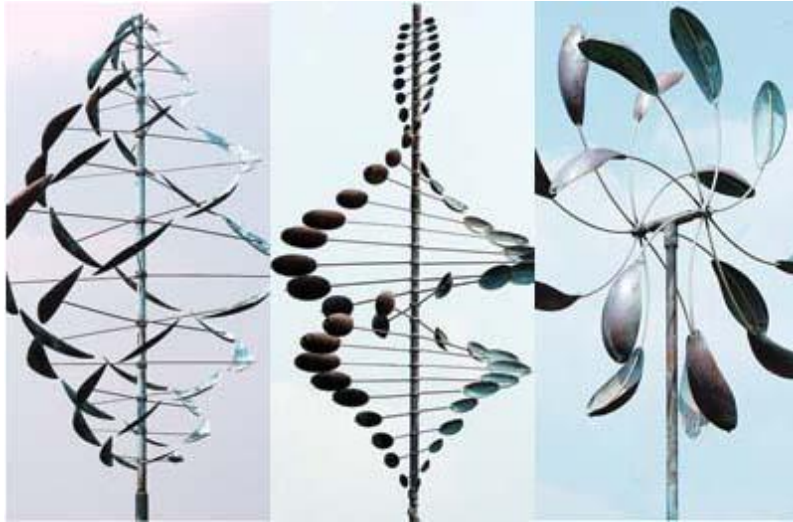


## Residents enjoying new sculptures at Vlasis Park

Pieces were created by artist Lyman Whitaker

By [Mary Shapiro](#) Aug 2, 2007 (0)



Rick Graefe photo/ The wind sculptures "Double Spinner," "Oval Twister" and "Double Dancer," by artist Lyman Whitaker, were installed this summer at Vlasis Park in Ballwin.

Ballwin residents are getting a look at three new wind sculptures installed this summer at Vlasis Park.

"The sculptures vary in size but average 18 feet tall and are crafted of copper and stainless steel," said Haley Morrison, public relations/human resources coordinator with the city.

"Artist Lyman Whitaker named the sculptures 'Double Spinner,' 'Oval Twister' and 'Double Dancer,'" Morrison said. "The sculptures were funded by donations from the Ballwin 50th Anniversary Committee and the Ballwin Arts Commission."

Linda Bruer, the city's director of parks and recreation, said the project idea started during festivities in 2000 to mark Ballwin's 50th anniversary of incorporation.

"A goal of the anniversary committee was to raise enough money to purchase a piece of sculpture for the park," she said.

"That's when they contracted with artist John Pils to do a line drawing of Ballwin landmarks to make prints, to raise money to purchase the sculpture," Bruer said. "The revenue from the sale of prints has been earmarked the past few years to go toward the purchase of the sculptures."

Also, the Ballwin Arts Commission held several events, and some of the proceeds went into the art escrow account, she said.

The cost of the artwork was \$11,600.

"We wanted artwork that showed movement, something that children as well as adults might enjoy, and we had seen similar pieces at the Missouri Botanical Garden," Bruer said. "This sort of work seemed like a natural for Vlasis Park."

Since the pieces were installed, Bruer has received numerous phone calls from residents expressing appreciation, she said. Also, some visitors at the recent Ballwin Days festival asked how to get in touch with Whitaker.

"I have seen people just standing and watching them," Bruer said. "We hope the art brings pleasure and relaxation to those visiting Vlasis."

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