

Art in the Park for All to Enjoy

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Estates subdivision.

The banners, designed by Stockton artist Lisa Cooperman, are along the road leading into the Rose Garden subdivision off Lone Tree Way and Fairview Avenue.

Runion's monkeys are intended to attract children and to reflect their play in the park. None of the spiral monkeys suspended between two trees in the park is within reach of children, although a neighboring bench does have a monkey that children can touch, Runion says.

"I wanted sculpture that I didn't have to put in the lawn where it would interfere with children playing," he says.

"There is a central walkway that separates the older children's play area from the younger children's, and I decided to come up with something that united the two areas. Monkeys are the closest thing to children when playing. Just look at kids swinging on bars," the Campo resident says.



— Photos by Dick McLeish and Rebekah Burr-Siegel

"Spiral Monkeys" by Scott Runion and seasonal banners by Lisa Cooperman.

"Pretty much in all cultures, monkeys represent humor or playfulness. And the purpose of the park is play," Runion says. "Animal forms are important because parks are a connection with nature in an urban environment, and animals help make that connection."

Currently, the monkeys are visible from anywhere in the park, but as the trees mature they will be visible only when one approaches the trees.



"But still seeing them in the trees will be fun for the kids," Runion adds.

Gracing the streetlight poles along the approach to the Rose Garden development's entrance are 16 pairs of colorful banners, Cooperman's creation.

Cooperman says the banners are rotated every three months to reflect the four seasons. They were created from specially-treated fabric that should make them resistant to the hot East County sun that can wreck a storefront's fabric awning in one season.

Because they are rotated seasonally, the banners should last up to 12 years, she says.

The banners all have a floral theme reflecting Brentwood-area native plants, while their colors reflect the color and architectural themes of the Rose Garden development.

The floral images were inspired by Rene Mackintosh, a Scottish-born architect and designer during the "Arts & Craft Movement" near the turn of the century, she says.

Cooperman also created an interactive water-play piece, Cloud Park, where upside down clouds float in water and spray water on children running through it. The work is at the park in the Rose Garden development.

City Already Planning for 'Snow'

Even though summer has had its hot spells this year, Brentwood Recreation Coordinator Rob Shatting is thinking snow.

The chilly visions of snow preoccupying Shatting actually are plans for the City's annual Winter Wonderland or Snow Park.

The free event will return December 16-22 with approximately 40 tons of man-made snow and some 240 bales of hay combined to create a fun and safe sledding area without having to leave town.

The event will run daily from noon to 7 p.m. at City Park, Second and Oak streets, Brentwood.



Children frolic at a previous snow park.

As in previous years, the snow will be blocks of ice trucked in by an ice company and shredded for the event, Shatting says.

For more information call the Recreation Department at (925) 516-5444.