

Proposal for Placement of a Duck Statue in Riverside Park

Applicants: Barbara Kroner, George Kroner, Jr

Date: March 14, 2022

Rationale: We are children of George and Aubrey Kroner, who were both born in La Crosse and lived there all their lives. George was an avid duck hunter and fisherman on the Mississippi and surrounding rivers. Aubrey was the City Clerk for La Crosse from 1975 until her retirement in 1993. While growing up, our family spent many hours boating, swimming, and skiing on the rivers and enjoying the sun on the sandbars. After George passed away in 2011, Aubrey realized one of her dreams of living on the River by renting an apartment at River Place. When both of our parents passed away, we scattered their ashes on the Mississippi River because it was such an important part of their lives and the source of so many happy memories. We would like to honor their memory further by installing a duck statue in Riverside Park near the place where the ducks like to gather.

The Statue:



The description of the statue from the manufacturer, The Large Art Company in Baltimore, MD, is as follows:

This is an original sculpture by Leo DiMarmo of a mother duck and her four ducklings taking an afternoon stroll. Cast in high-quality American bronze, this sculpture is built to last for hundreds of years with little or no maintenance. This is an ideal sculpture for a lawn or garden or even a public park.

The entire sculpture measures 65" (5 1/2 feet) long and 14" wide. The mother duck measures 24" tall x 18" long and 9" wide. The baby ducklings average about 12" tall and 9" long. The weight is approximately 200 pounds. Mounting nuts under the base are welded for a secure permanent installation.

Installation: George Jr will make arrangements to have a cement base made on-site that the duck statue can be secured to using the mounting nuts under the base. The base will be 3 inches larger than the statue base all around (about 6 feet by 20 inches).

Cost: The cost of the statue and all associated costs for installation will be paid for by us. We do not anticipate any maintenance of the statue being required after it has been installed.

Location: The proposed location of the statue is shown in the following two pictures. We are proposing placement in the middle of the dirt area in front of the two signs shown below. This area was chosen because it is where the ducks gather, either on land or in the water below the rocks. There is also a nearby bench for sitting and viewing the ducks. We think this is the most appropriate place for the statue. We also propose to place a small plaque on the cement base that reads "In Loving Memory of George and Aubrey Kroner".



We are proposing that the 6 foot cement base be installed in front of the existing bench to maximize viewing. The base will be made on-site after the ground has been dug out 4-5 inches deep in the shape of the statue base. Cement will be mixed and poured in the hole, filling it to slightly below ground level. The holes for the bolts will be marked at this time. Once the cement is dry, the holes will be filled with cement adhesive and the statue with the bolts extending from the welding nuts will be set on top such that the bolts slide into the holes. Detailed installation instructions from the statue's manufacturer are included with this proposal in a separate pdf document.



Timing: Ideally we would like to have the statue installed the first week of August. The Large Art Company has been consulted and they only need 4-6 weeks lead-time. The statue will be delivered first to George, who lives in La Crescent, and then we will have it transferred to the park on the day of installation.

Liability: We take full responsibility for the installation of the statue. After it is installed, the City of La Crosse will not be held liable if the statue is stolen or vandalized.

Thank you so much for consideration of this proposal in memory of our parents. Please let us know if you have any questions or additional information that can be provided.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kroner and George Kroner, Jr.