Welcome to the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park
An extension of the Des Moines Art Center

The John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park (2009) joins the Richard Meier building (1968) and the Eliel Saarinen sculptures (1943) on the southwest corner of Locust and 47th Streets to make the Des Moines Art Center in West Des Moines a world-renowned destination.

Through the generosity of John and Mary Pappajohn and numerous donors, the park contains 130 works of outdoor sculpture, many by internationally renowned artists.

The 4.5-acre park, located within a major transportation hub, creates a pedestrian-friendly gateway into downtown Des Moines. The accessible walking route creates a unique landscape design and color of the art, making it a wonderful way for visitors to enjoy the city’s visual arts.

 Preservation
Help to preserve the park for future generations by not touching, climbing or walking on the sculptures, with the exception of Sculpture Conductor. If you have a question, visit the Art Center website under VISIT or call 515.277.4405.

Food and Drink
For dining options, please see the map at the back of this brochure and ask about availability at the park. The park is a smoke-free environment.

The John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park is a collaborative effort of the Pappajohn family, the City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation, the Des Moines Art Center, and numerous corporate and private funders.

Make the most of your visit!
On your own or with your family

LOOK
Ask questions to encourage
ASK someone to encourage

PLAY
Ask everyone to engage
PLAY musical instruments or other music

WRITE
Take notes
WRITE a unique sort of label

LISTEN
Enjoy the sculptures
LISTEN to music

CONTINUE
Engage with the sculpture
CONTINUE to engage with the sculpture

Thank you for helping the Art Center protect the artwork in the park.

There are many challenges in maintaining an outdoor sculpture gallery. The acidity of bird droppings and the corrosiveness of road salt damage the finish of works of art in the park. Even a scrape of a watch or lotion on a person’s skin can leave a permanent mark.

Art Center staff work vigilantly to clean and maintain the sculptures year-round. Visitors can help our staff preserve these sculptures for generations to come by not touching the artwork and asking others to do the same.

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Anthony Caro is best known for abstract metal sculptures that has nothing beneath its surface to affix it to a plinth. The ghostly image relationship with the moon, Rondinone is drawn to create sculptures for furniture and planter boxes to be enjoyed and understood universally. The human figure, Haring underwent traditional artistic training, but he says, "part of me resembles a little girl." The works here, one is struck by the difference in scale and texture of wood. "The idea of the hare as an alter ego," Flanagan said, "is Robert Morris's," a sculpture. The "White Ghost" achieved...