



MUELLERAUSTIN.COM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: McKinzey Crossland
TateAustinHahn for Catellus
(512) 344-2011 or 743-3490
mcrossland@tateaustinhahn.com

LOCAL ARTIST TO INSTALL NEXT PUBLIC ART AT MUELLER

Inspired by Nature and Local Influences, Mueller Neighbor Creates Metal Sculptures for Mueller's Southwest Greenway

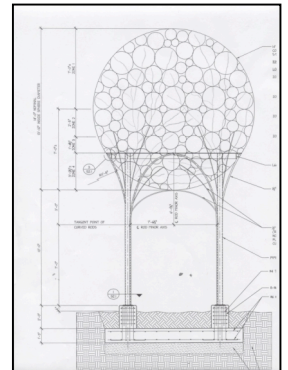
AUSTIN, Texas – May 28, 2008 – The green spaces taking shape at Mueller will soon gain two significant sculptures by local artist and Mueller neighbor, Chris Levack. Levack is installing the “Pollen Grain” and “Wigwam” steel artwork with a little help from a 30-ton crane in Mueller’s Southwest Greenway near the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center’s educational gardens.

As part of Mueller’s commitment to maintaining 20 percent, or 140 acres, of the redevelopment as parkland and open space, the sculpture installations will enhance the park, spur conversation and build a sense of community that is central to the Mueller vision. Both sculptures were also designed to blend with their surroundings, drawing on the ways both the native landscaping and park patrons will interact with the structures.

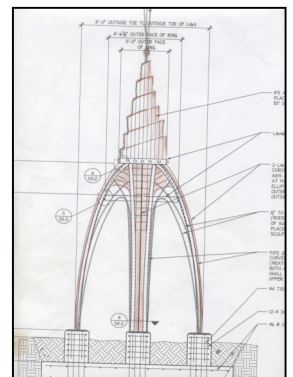
“These sculptures are inspired by their local surroundings — the Pollen Grain from our allergy-prone region and the Wigwam’s spiral helix crown derives from the organic and geological phenomenon of our area,” said Austin artist and sculpture designer, Chris Levack.

“Pollen Grain,” representing a microscopic photo of a single cactus pollen, is a sphere with a diameter of 14 feet created from hundreds of steel rings (representing the pollen’s cells) and held up by 24-foot legs that will straddle Mueller’s hike and bike trail. The tall design allows people to travel underneath the sculpture as they walk, cycle or jog. Climbing, deciduous ivy will be planted at the base, eventually growing over the structure to add a seasonal effect and enhance its nature-focused design.

“Wigwam” is a 17-foot-tall, curvaceous structure that sits at the center of a labyrinth made from high, native grasses. Constructed from a steel skeleton and wooden façade and featuring a large, spiraling helix crown, “Wigwam” is meant to be a shady focal point and destination within the labyrinth.



Early drawings of “Pollen Grain” (above) and “Wigwam” (below) from local artist Chris Levack, which will soon grace Mueller’s Southwest Greenway.





RVi Planning + Landscape Architecture + Graphic Design, which is providing landscape architecture and park design services for the 33-acre park, created the labyrinth, using a traditional circular shape with a path that weaves its way to the center of the circle.

“Through inventive public art and thoughtfully designed green spaces, Mueller strives to create gathering places that all of Austin can enjoy,” said Matt Whelan, senior vice president of Catellus. “We’re thrilled that Chris Levack could use his local perspective in designing these accessible and engaging sculptures that make Mueller a unique destination.”

About Chris Levack, Artist (<http://texassculpture.com/>) - Chris Levack has worked in sculpture for over a decade, focusing primarily on large-scale outdoor artwork. Inspired by the Texas landscape, Chris creates architectural elements such as fountains, arbors, tile design, signage, and furniture. His works around Austin include the entrance canopy at the Domain, the trellises at Whole Foods, the bat installation at the Austin Nature and Science Center, the Folklórico tile mural at Plaza Saltillo and Crestacean on West 9th Street. An Austin native, Chris received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He attended a post-graduate exchange in Portugal and studied art in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Since then, Chris has been involved with Clayworks studio and gallery doing design and production work. He also belonged to the former South Austin art enclave, Black Mountain.

About Mueller’s Parks - Mueller’s parks, trails and open space weave through the community, supporting the local ecosystem and bringing outdoor recreation and education options to Mueller residents, employees and neighbors. With 20 percent of Mueller dedicated to parkland and open space, every resident will live less than 600 feet from a greenspace. Mueller’s park system features approximately 140 acres, including five miles of new hike and bike paths, at least 15,000 new trees, the Mueller Greenway that connects to established city parks, a large, centrally located park with a 6.5-acre lake and an outdoor performance venue and five neighborhood parks with unique sets of amenities.

About Mueller (www.MuellerAustin.com) - Mueller will be developed over 10 to 15 years and is expected to include up to 4,600 single-family and multi-family living units, a mixed-use Town Center, an elementary school, the 32-acre campus of the Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas, 3.8 million square feet of office space, 650,000 square feet of retail space, a central transit corridor that provides for a possible extension of mass transit service, more than 140 acres of open space, and a pattern of landscaped streets designed to support pedestrians and bicycles.

###