



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Veteran's Memorial Boulevard has Gained a New Piece of Public Art!

Bristol, CT – The tree trunk adjacent to Veterans Memorial Boulevard parking lot on South Street has been transformed into a beautifully carved wood sculpture. The transformed tree now features 360 degrees of colorful woodland animals.

Following damage from Tropical Storm Isaias in August of 2020, Eversource required removal of the park's tree due to safety concerns. Thanks to the artistic minds of the City's Arts & Culture Commission, the tree was reimagined into the woodland sculpture that now overlooks the Boulevard.

"One of my favorite parts about this project is being able to preserve the tree, reflected Art and Culture Supervisor Lauren Bent. "Something that would have otherwise been discarded or considered an 'eyesore' was turned into public art that everyone can enjoy."

The Commission worked with the City of Bristol Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services (BPRYCS) to ensure the project's feasibility. With approval from the City's Board of Parks Commissioners, the Art and Culture Commission funded Jared Welcome, the artist behind JareBear Chainsaw Carvings, to dream up and create a piece of art that would fit into the 100-year-old park. Welcome designed the woodland creature piece to match animals that could be found within the local parks system. After a week of work (in much of the late August rain), the vision became a reality.

Chair of the City's Arts and Culture Commission, Lindsay Vigue, noted "The City Arts and Culture Commission was established to further Bristol's arts, culture and tourism. The tree carving is not only visible from the road and enjoyable for those passing by, but encourages community members to get outdoors, visit the park, and invites conversation."

The Arts & Culture Commission and the Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services department are thrilled that the final piece was completed prior to the 100th Anniversary of Veterans Memorial Park and Boulevard event taking place next month. Jared Welcome will be joining the Centennial celebration for a Meet and Greet opportunity. Find more details about the event including historical monuments, live music, and more at bristolrec.com.

