

Neighbors and other friends of **Arbutus Park** near downtown **Appleton** are putting finishing touches on a mosaic project that will bring more butterflies to the urban green space.

Resident artist Linda Muldoon of Coventry Glassworks & Gallery in downtown **Appleton** is guiding volunteers who are working on the mosaic — two eight-foot-wide, three-foot-tall boards that depict swarms of butterflies in flight.

“The mosaic project is really a milestone and culmination of a few years of work by neighbors to reclaim **Arbutus Park**,” said Julie Filapek, project coordinator for the nonprofit Sustainable Fox Valley’s **Appleton** Neighborhoods Initiative. “We wanted to create something enduring and beautiful so that we can celebrate again what neighbors have done with that **park**.”

The **Arbutus Park** and Columbus Elementary School neighborhood north of downtown **Appleton** is the site of Sustainable Fox Valley’s first community partnership to identify and build on neighborhood assets to improve the quality of life for residents.

A survey of the neighborhood’s residents several years ago identified cleanup and reclamation of **Arbutus Park** as a priority. The process has included neighbors’ work to remove invasive species and plant native shrubs and flowers.

The **park** has been the site for social events including potluck picnics and summer concerts. The butterfly mosaic project is another focused effort by neighbors, community leaders and other volunteers who are contributing to the new life of **Arbutus Park**.

“It was a very intentional process,” Filapek said. “That mosaic grew very organically. ... Community art is a spectacular human achievement. Every neighborhood has the potential to be great when neighbors come together to make it so.”

Muldoon says hundreds of hands have worked on the mosaic. She has encouraged visitors to Coventry to create their own unique creatures to add to the two long ribbons of butterflies that the neighborhood’s youth have set in flight.

Students from Columbus and Lincoln elementary schools in **Appleton** designed and colored in paper butterflies. Using those creations as patterns and inspiration, **Appleton** West High School and Renaissance School for the Arts students fashioned butterflies from glass and found objects.