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**By Richard Ryman**  
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A fish, a tree, two poems and a circle became permanent additions to the Fox River Trail on Tuesday in Green Bay.

All are elements in two sculptures commissioned by the Mayor's Neighborhood Leadership Council and unveiled ahead of Wednesday's Fourth of July activities.

The sculptures, "River Revival" by Bounnak Thammavong of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and "Renewal" by Carrie Fonder of Green Bay, are the first in a series of pieces planned for a Life of the River collection.

The plan is to unveil more pieces on each of the next two



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Dave Fonder, left, father of artist Carrie Fonder, and Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt look at the newly unveiled artwork Wednesday along the Fox River Trail. Corey Wilson/Press-Gazette

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Independence Days. All will be on the east bank of the Fox River between East Walnut and East Mason streets.

"We are creating a waterfront that's going to be a very special and unique place," said Mayor Jim Schmitt, referring to the artwork and other downtown riverfront projects. "We are truly creating a life on the river in Green Bay."

First to be unveiled was "River Revival," which consists of two sculptures on opposite sides of the trail. Both made of finished metal, one is of a tree sapling bursting from the trunk of a long-dead tree, the other of a fish. Accompanying them are two poems on lighted plaques.

"Renewal" is a large steel structure that represents "the connections between the community, the river, nature and commerce. The shapes that move visually around the center axis create a rhythm, like the flow of the river."

Mike Zimmerman drove his sons, Roman and Ethan, both 9, back from Summerfest in Milwaukee during Tuesday night's downpour so they'd be on time for the unveiling. Fonder is Roman's art teacher at Webster Elementary School and he insisted they attend.

"I like it. I'm not really sure what it is," Roman said of the sculpture.

Inky Meng, chairwoman of the selection committee, said they have not decided on guidelines for next year's pieces. She is expecting more than the 27 applications they had for this year's program.

The sculptures are funded by private donations to the Mayor's Neighborhood Leadership Council. Meng said it was decided to put the sculptures along the riverfront because the location "benefits all the neighborhoods."



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