

ArtWalk in Winter

SUBMITTED BY: MARY FRENCH

As I write this, in January 2013, it is a chilly 36 degrees in Tualatin. There are many rainy and gray days ahead for us this winter, for sure. But not today, the sun is shining beautifully, making it a perfect day to bundle up and enjoy the outdoor art of Tualatin.

ArtWalk is basically what it sounds like – a walking tour of the outdoor (and some indoor) art of Tualatin. The art is placed in the heart of Tualatin, easily accessible to all ages and physical abilities. You'll find outdoor art all around The Commons Loop, Community Park, at the Library and near Kaiser Permanente and Hedges Creek wetlands.

For maps of the tour, go online to the City of Tualatin website for a map download. You can also pick up a printed map directly from City offices, or ask the great people at the Chamber of Commerce to make one available for you, as they did for me recently. If you are a more adventurous type, just follow the ArtWalk signs. The one at The Commons Loop shows the entire map, pointing the direction to go. And you may even see a Cooper's Hawk gracing the sign – as I did this fine winter day.

Beyond the fact that touring ArtWalk provides you with fresh air and exercise, needed by all during this time of year that we tend to hunker down inside, viewing the art in the winter also allows you to see it in a new perspective.

During winter, the sun is at its lowest point on the horizon, causing the buildings and trees

to cast long shadows even at noon, and lighting areas normally in shade. The days are shorter, again casting light and shadow on objects at unique times and angles. Trees and shrubs have dropped their leaves, giving us views and light that had been hidden by the foliage.

If you are a photographer of any level, these changes to light and shadow make for interesting pictures.

For example, in this picture of the *Sharing Ice Cream* sculpture found at The Commons Loop, notice the long shadows cast by the bench back rails, and of the trees beyond – for a photograph taken at 1pm, these long shadows are distinctive to winter.

In the close up of children who are part of the *Storyteller* sculpture found outside the library, observe the strong light on the side of the child's face, and the shadow it casts on the face of the other child. The close up on the face of the storyteller herself shows the bare trees behind.

Art in the Garden shows how the colorful tile pillars, found behind Kaiser Permanente, stand out among the bare trees and shrubs.

Lastly, although not officially part of the ArtWalk tour, take time to visit *The Tualatin Interactivator*, a unique sculpture on the WES light rail platform near Hagen's market. This sculpture allows the viewer to move the heads and the trolley-like vehicle to different positions on the table, making art interactive and the photographic options nearly endless.

Yes, the gray and rainy days of winter are here – but not every day. On one of those chilly but sunny days, take the opportunity to combine a walk in the fresh air with taking pictures of Tualatin's great outdoor art.



Sharing the Ice Cream

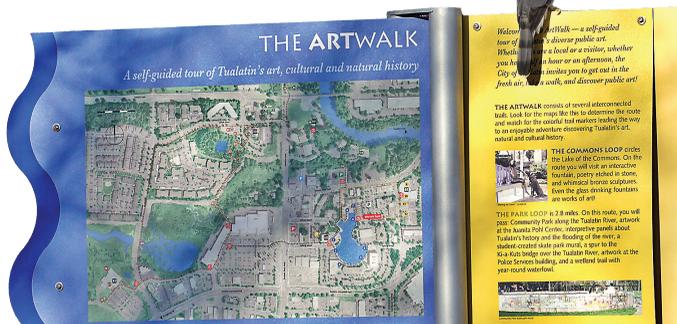


Storyteller - 2 Photos



Art in the Garden

Cooper's Hawk visiting the ArtWalk sign at The Commons Loop.



Mary French is a native Oregonian who lives in Tualatin. Her hobbies include birding, photography, and exploring Tualatin.