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## Taking a shine to public art in Edmonds

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Roger Waterhouse and Denise Bisio were hard at work on Thursday cleaning and waxing "Beach Launch," the major public art piece in Brackett's Landing Park South. They hope to do more work on other pieces in Edmonds' public art collection. "This is hard work," said Bisio, "But it's really gratifying to know we're helping ensure that this art remains for future generations to enjoy."

Public art is a big part of the Edmonds scene.

From major works like the Cedar Dreams Fountain at Fifth and Main to the brass inlaid duck footprints on the Olympic Beach walkway, our public art serves to enhance and enrich the lives of all that live here.

But to make sure that this art remains for future generations to enjoy, it needs to be regularly maintained.

"Part of our 1% for Art Fund is set aside for maintenance," said Frances Chapin, Edmonds Arts and Cultural Services Manager. "While the big excitement always comes when new art is installed, maintaining our existing collection is just as important."

The latest piece of art to get the wax-and-shine treatment is Beach Launch, the major art installation at Brackett's Landing Park South.

"Beach Launch is one of our most popular pieces of public art," Chapin said. "Kids and adults really love it. Unfortunately, so do the seagulls, which means we have it cleaned and maintained at least every two years."

The work is being done by ArtSite, LTD, a Seattle-based art installation and maintenance company.

"My passion is protecting public art," said Denise Bisio of ArtSite, LTD. "We all own it, and it's our shared responsibility to maintain it for future generations."

Bisio and her business partner Roger Waterhouse formed ArtSite in June of this year, and were recently hired by the City of Edmonds to clean and preserve Beach Launch. In place since 1998, Beach Launch is the work of artist Robert Cooke and was presented to the City of Edmonds by the Edmonds Arts Festival Foundation.

"A lot of grime had built since the last cleaning," said Waterhouse. "We're polishing all that off and putting a layer of protective wax on the metal to help repel dirt and discourage corrosion."

— Story and photo by Larry Vogel

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