




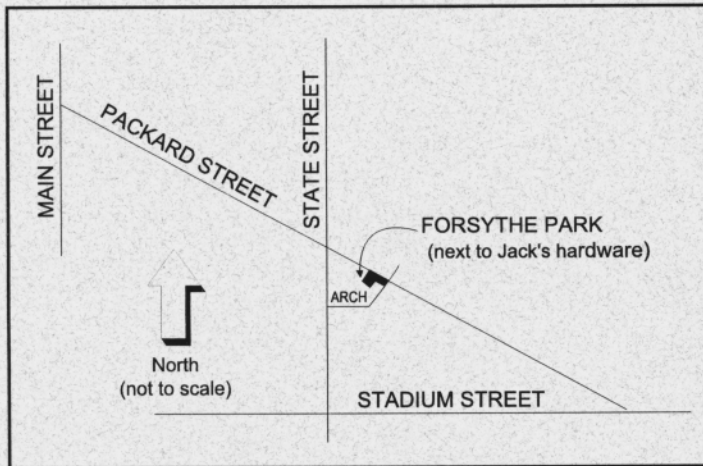
Parks & Recreation  
CITY OF ANN ARBOR

 Printed on recycled paper

*Come join us!*  
*Forsythe Park Rededication Ceremony*



Date: Sunday, May 17, 1998  
Time: 2:00 pm  
Venue: Forsythe Park  
Phone: 734-994-1913 (for more information)



*Forsythe Park: A partnership, a stewardship, a permanent message about our environment....*

Forsythe Park represents an unusual divergence from tradition in city park development in that it promotes the concepts of reduce, reuse, and recycle. Through a partnership with neighbors, service organizations, businesses, and city departments, Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation successfully demonstrates prudent use of resources, especially at a time when our environment is so fragile. The result of this collaborative effort is an attractive plaza providing a place for children and community members to gather.

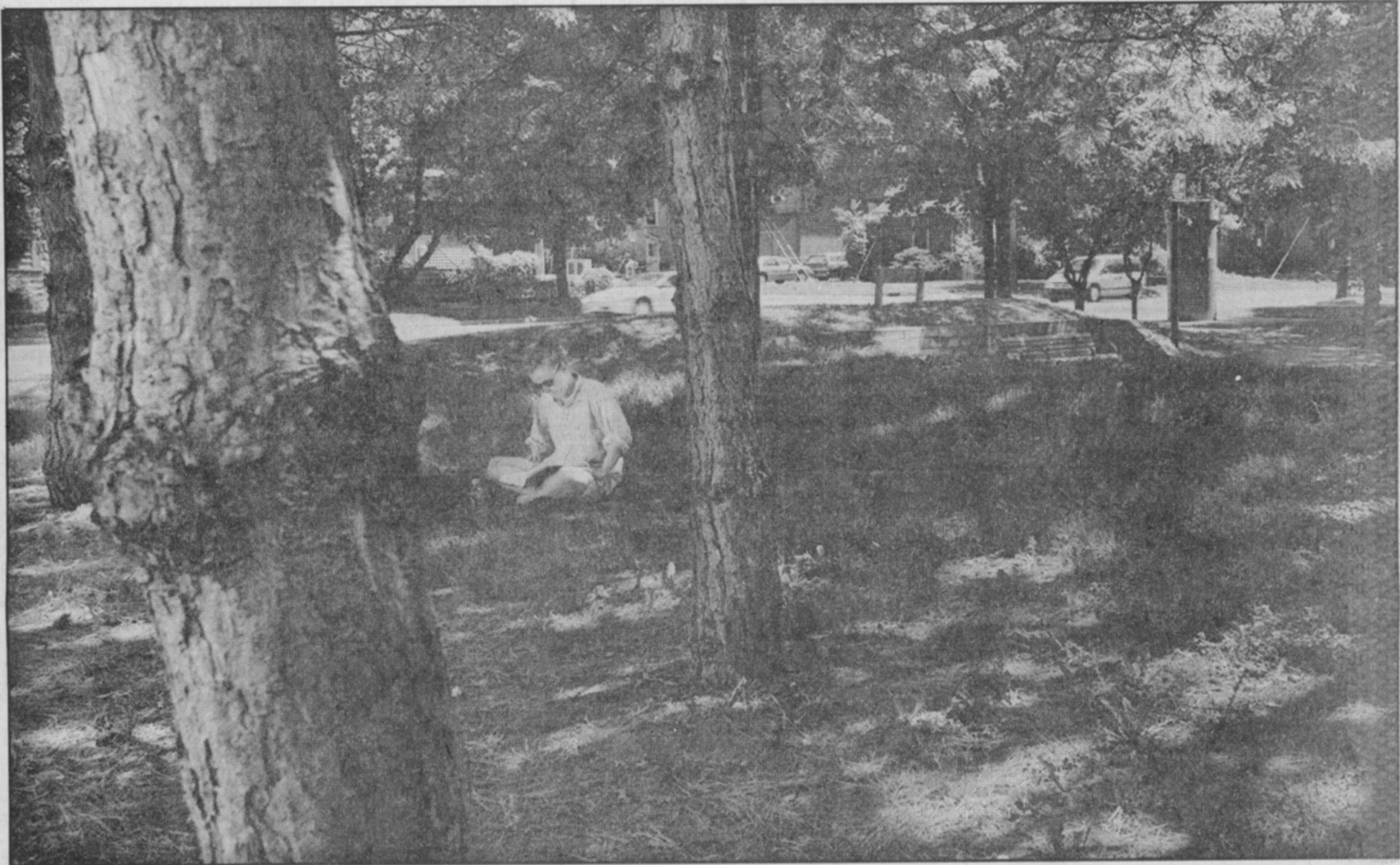
A special thank you to the Ann Arbor Department of Solid Waste, Ann Arbor Jaycees, Matt De Genaro, Clinton Smith and Margolis Nursery.



■ A trip to Iraq was the method some local residents used to show their opposition to U.S. sanctions against Iraq. They took medicine, food and other necessities.

# LOCAL

## Park face-lift



NEWS PHOTOS • WILLIAM JORDAN

Ann Arbor native Jill Broughton reads at the Franklin C. Forsythe Park in Ann Arbor, located at Packard and Arch streets. The site once had an abandoned gas station, but now boasts new art from recycled structural steel I-beams, below. The effort earned the city an award for innovative use of materials in a park.

## Twice recycled: Art from steel adorns gas station-turned park

By EMMA JACKSON  
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Clinton Smith has twice seen his vision recognized — once in 1980 and again Sunday.

The Franklin C. Forsythe Park, at the corner of Packard and Arch streets in Ann Arbor, was once the site of an abandoned gas station.

Smith and friend Dale Sass looked beyond what was there and imagined a quaint city park where pedestrians and neighborhood residents could come and catch a moment of peace.

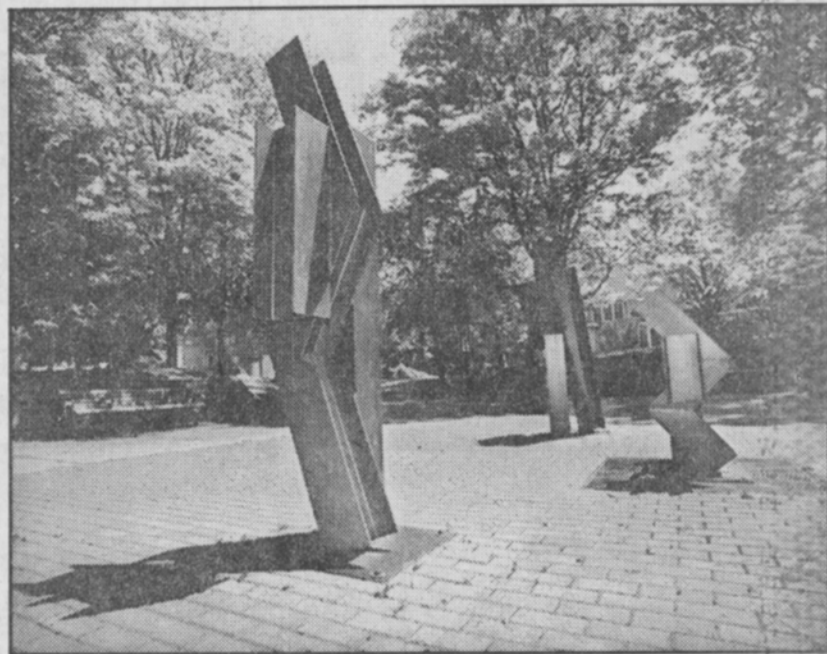
The original transformation of the land took more than five years and was completed

through the cooperation of the city and the Ann Arbor Jaycees. The park is named for the first president of the Ann Arbor Jaycees.

But time ate away at the wooden structure that had served as a play element for children or a lounging point for adults and it was in need of replacement.

In stepped the city.

"The park was being maintained, but like many areas, it hadn't been improved. The wooden sculpture . . . was deteriorating and the park needed a face-lift," explained Tom Raynes, manager of the city's Park Planning and Development.



See PARK, C4

# PARK: Sculptures were created from reused steel I-beams

Pam Stuckman, park planner for the city, spearheaded the project and began to inquire about the possibility of grants.

Enter the city's Solid Waste Department. It happened that grant money for using recycled material was available.

The funds secured, a creative force was needed to develop a piece that would be appealing to the eye and speak of the community's recycling commitment.

Sculptor Matt DeGenaro, who works in the city's Information Services department by day, was tapped for the work.

Once DeGenaro came up with the idea for three figures, it was a matter of constructing the images from the recycled structural steel I-beams.

"Normally I do my own fabrication, but the Parks Department has an excellent facility and crew that worked from my design plans," explained DeGenaro.

Another unique feature of the project, besides the art, is the brick work under the sculptures. The bricks were left over from another project and installed by Margolis Nursery. The former wooden park benches were donated to Leslie Science Center.

All of this consciousness to re-use material garnered the city an award for innovative use of materials in a park from the Michigan Recreation Park Association.

When Mayor Ingrid Sheldon cut the ribbon Sunday dedicating the art in the park, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," joining her were representatives from various city departments that contributed to the renovation.

"I'd like to acknowledge the hard work and the cross-department effort to improve the city," Sheldon said. "It's a pleasure to have a downtown park where we can breathe and relax, not only to take in nature but art as well."

Clinton Smith remembers the labor of planting more than 30 trees, now mature, and the times of frustration, but the end results are what counts.

"It's something tangible that's been here and will stay. It's what we've worked for," says Smith. "Parks are one of the best things going. People can come here, dressed any way they want to, from all walks of life, and relax."

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**'It's a pleasure to have a downtown park where we can breathe and relax.'**

— Ann Arbor Mayor Ingrid Sheldon

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# **Annual Awards Ceremony**

**The Michigan Recreation and Park Association annually honors those who have made outstanding contributions in the field of recreation and parks, contributing to their community, profession, and the quality of life of Michigan residents.**

**February 3, 1998**

**Museum of African American  
History**

**Sponsor, Grand Hotel**

# **Innovative Park Resource Award**

## **City of Ann Arbor Department of Parks and Recreation**

**Forsythe Park – A Partnership, A Stewardship, A  
Permanent Message About Our Environment...**

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*Michigan Recreation & Park Association*

**INNOVATIVE  
PARK RESOURCE  
AWARD**

Presented to an agency for innovative  
maintenance program, equipment design,  
facility design, or revenue producer.

**FORSYTHE PARK RENOVATION  
ANN ARBOR**

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

February 3, 1998