

Rainboffalo returns



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The Rainboffalo has been returned to its place along the River's Edge Trail, at the corner of Central Avenue West and River Drive, after it required repairs due to vandalism. Kustom City Fiberglass spent more than 200 man-hours on repairing and repainting it.

Fish-themed statue re-emerges after repairs

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The Rainboffalo is back on the River's Edge Trail across from the Milwaukee Station.

After vandals ripped off or damaged all four of the statue's fins, it was removed in 2014.

"I didn't know if it was coming

back," said Sheila Kelly, a River's Edge Trail Foundation board member and regular trail user.

But Kustom City Fiberglass was able to repair the statue and it was returned to the corner of River Drive at the Weissman Bridge.

Sussie Thompson with Kustom said their staff stripped the paint off, repaired the fins and strength-

ened them to prevent future damage, and then repainted the entire statue.

Pepper Niles, Larry Brasda and Darren Stucker of Kustom spent more than 200 repairing the statue, she said.

"It was a project of joy and love.

See RAINBOFFALO. 3M

Rainboffalo

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We were happy to contribute to our community and the trail,” Thompson said.

Kustom donated about half of the work and the foundation paid \$5,000 to repair the statue and \$1,000 for work on the statue’s base, said John Juras, RET Foundation president.

The Rainboffalo was created originally by Chris Miller as part of the Buffalo Hunt auction in 2005. Peter Horst and Tina Schott purchased the sculpture and donated it to the River’s Edge Trail in 2010.

Steffen Janikula, the city’s new trails coordinator, improved the site where the Rainboffalo was remounted



TRIBUNE PHOTO/RIION SANDERS

People gather to celebrate the return of the Rainboffalo to its place along the River’s Edge Trail.

and staff placed the statue back in that spot.

Thompson said the repair team tried to keep the statue true to the original and primarily used the same colors

to repaint.

“We hope that was a one-time thing,” Kelly said of the vandalism. “It doesn’t look like it, but it was a huge undertaking.”