

Warrensburg Campus Gets Finishing Touches



Looking East from Water Street.

When Hudson Headwaters began planning to replace the Warrensburg Health Center in 2012, there was one problem. The replacement health center would sit smack dab on top of Cal Engle Park, a small cluster of decorative trees, benches, and commemorative plaques named for the former town board member and supervisor of Warrensburg.

"We wanted Hudson Headwaters to keep the health center on Main Street," recalls current Warrensburg Supervisor Kevin Geraghty, "and the Engle family graciously agreed to let Hudson Headwaters move the park to the north-east corner of the site, where Richards Avenue meets Water Street."

The new park, the last piece of upgrades to the grounds of the health center, has just been completed. "We wanted to take advantage of the existing natural slope of the site and views of the river," said Craig Jones, the architect who created the plans for the park and the health center.



Looking South from Richards Street

The re-envisioned park forms a small amphitheater that the Town can use for performances and special events. There are also several seating areas adjacent to the amphitheater and a picnic area to the south end of the park. Centered in the park is a planter with a spruce tree reminiscent of what existed in the original Engle Park.

"It was important to create a replacement park that honored Cal Engle's commitment to Hudson Headwaters

and the Town of Warrensburg, building upon his original vision of a space for community oriented activities with a variety of plants and trees on display," Jones said. He noted that the four monuments from the original Engle Park that have been relocated to the new site.

HEALING GARDEN PROVIDES RESPITE SPACE

In addition to Engle Park, Jones designed a healing garden in the area that lies between the new health center and the Albert R. Tucker Dental Services Center. "Our hope is that the garden will help people to feel better, a place where they can go to relax and feel less stressed," Jones said.

The new garden is rich in flowering trees, shrubs, and an abundance of perennials of varying seasonal colors, heights, and fragrances.




John Van Alstine

In addition to the plants, the healing garden features benches and two tables with seating, a fountain, and an abstract sculpture by renowned local artist John Van Alstine.

"The campus provides a destination for everyone, whether they are here for health services, looking for a relaxing place to take a break, or attending a community-oriented event in the park," Jones said. "The overall development has created a hub of activity that will benefit Warrensburg for years to come."

Hudson Headwaters CEO, John Ruge, MD, who practices two days a week at the Warrensburg Health Center, says that staff are already using the healing garden and the park. "Even during the first chilly days, people are out there. I think it's great. The garden and the park add grace to our signature North Country health center."



A dedication ceremony for the park and healing garden will take place in the spring. 

Sculptor John Van Alstine (right) and Hudson Headwater's Ron Vanderwarker install one of Van Alstine's works which has been loaned to Hudson Headwaters for the healing garden.