

Invasion of the Silurian creatures

Posted By Matthew Hrodey On April 6, 2010 (6:02 am)

They're spineless. And more than 400 million years old. But soon there will be seven bronze sculptures of these prehistoric creatures appearing in a park near you.

We're not talking dinosaurs, but even older creatures, from the good old Silurian Period. The sculptures, created by Milwaukee artist Laura Priebe, will be installed at Hartung Park, which straddles the line between Milwaukee and Wauwatosa, and unveiled on June 6. They were financed in part by a \$20,000 grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.



A silurian trilobite (sculpture by Laura Priebe, photo by Ed Sahagian-Allsopp)
More photos at Laura Priebe's web site: <http://www.priebe3d.com>

Local leaders and the Hartung Park Community Association created the park out of a former quarry. The project was helped along by a \$250,000 state grant in 2008, according to an announcement by Milwaukee Ald. Jim Bohl. Before becoming a park, the site had served as a landfill since 1964.

Silurian life existed primarily under the sea. Most organisms were invertebrates (they lacked a spine) and were supported by an exoskeleton, according to Palaeos.com. The oceans contained jawless fish, and near the end of the period, the first with jawbones began to appear.

And around the same time, the first land-dwellers show up in the fossil record, though they were a far cry from the Wisconsinites we know today, the ones that will see Priebe's work at Hartung Park.

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