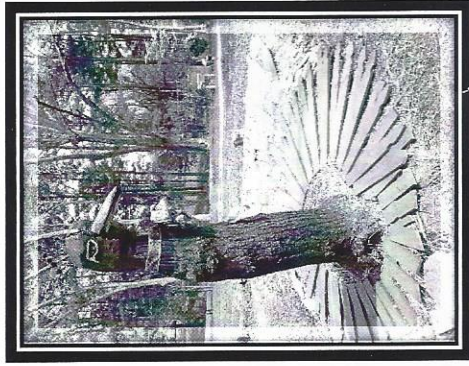


As time passes, local artists are adding their paintings. A chalkboard is nestled along the mural where visitors can draw a picture or leave a message. There is a mailbox inviting visitors to leave a note. Here and there you will find surprises on tree trunks, limbs or roots as they pass by. A metal goat stands with her kids beside a large oak tree with a mirror behind them to reflect their image when people ride by the park. A tall giraffe with two small ones stand beside the Himalayan cedar. A metal zebra is nestled beside the fig bush grove. Using heart pine as the base, Charles designed and created a bottle tree that is located on the corner of the park near the highway. A pavilion was built to give a covered place for picnics and shade from the sun. A large swing is located under a huge magnolia where mothers and fathers can sit and relax while watching their children play with toys donated by local citizens. Terry's Junkyard Birds made of reclaimed rakes and shovels plus many other items can be seen scattered throughout the park. Jackie and Bill serve as the park's caretakers.

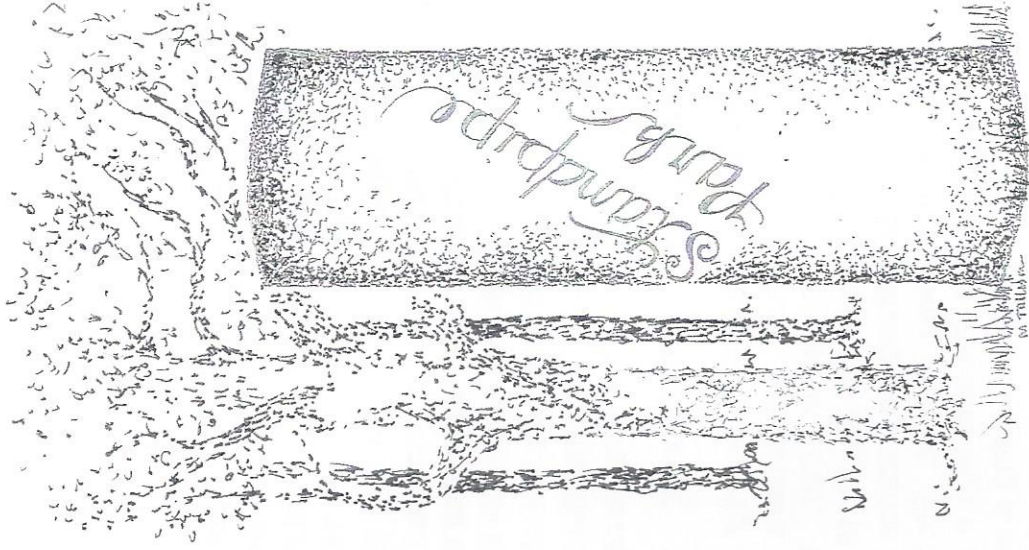


****Coming soon--The Standpipe Park Facebook page with more photos and information about the park.**



THE PARK TODAY

Spring 2017 welcomed a large stylized peacock to the park. The neck is a portion of a large tree. Don carved the head with the tail feathers being made of boards that cascade down the slope behind the head and body of the peacock. Scott used a chainsaw to carve an Indian face in the trunk of a pecan tree that was blown over by a strong wind. Zona, a master gardener, checks greenery in the park regularly. **The Standpipe Park**, starting as a beautiful entrance became an art park, then a park for children to play, for mothers to relax with their children, for families to picnic and for young couples to meet and visit. All of this has been made possible by many contributions of time, talents, as well as money. **The Standpipe Park** is a passive park for the community where people from the area can play, picnic and relax. One young visitor described her visit to the park, "This is really a looking park." To become a **FRIEND OF THE PARK** call 770-328-6674.



THE STORY

TALLAPOOSA, GEORGIA

HISTORY OF THE PARK

The Southern railroad came to Tallapoosa in 1882 and almost immediately the industrial boom started. The Standpipe Park now occupies a portion of the land that was once designated as a part of the Industrial Park of Tallapoosa beginning around 1885. The park property was vacant until 1943 when Ott and Dora Garrett purchased the land and built their home. Afterward their daughter, Mary Ruth and her family lived in the home until it was purchased by Kemp Owens in 2006. The home burned, and again left the property vacant.

LOCATION OF THE PARK

The park is located directly across Highway 78 from the "Standpipe", Tallapoosa's first water system completed in 1890. The property was purchased in May 2015 for the purpose of beautifying the entrance into Tallapoosa on Highway 78 East. Six foot high weeds covered the land with a few dead trees here and there. Using a large machine, the land was cleared and the mulch scattered on the premises.



FLORA IN THE PARK

A main attraction in the park is a huge Deodora cedar, native to the mountain forest of the Himalayas. Around the outer portion of the park are pecan, black walnut, water oak, mulberry, dogwood, poplar, magnolia and cedar trees, leaving the center open to the sky. It was interesting to watch as new growth started to spring up. Not much the first summer, but as the second spring began a variety of daffodils starting to bloom in January and continued through March. A sweet smelling winter honeysuckle blooms in January. As autumn came along and the leaves started to fall, we could see the forms of the trees as they surrounded the old house place. Each spring new growth springs up. A grove of fig trees are located where the large one once stood. A grove of crepe myrtles are in the area of the old ones. Queen Anne's lace covers a large portion of the park early in the year. Jim rooted and planted Forsythia bushes along the east edge of the park, and red tips along the northside of the park. A pleasant surprise while working in the park was finding a 1901 V nickel.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PARK

Robert Allen, grandson of the Garretts, fashioned a sign remembering his childhood home using a wheel from his granddaddy's plow, scissors, and buttons from his grandmother who was a seamstress and other family artifacts. What started as an entrance to Tallapoosa gradually became an outside art park. Many of Don's folk art wood carvings are spread throughout the park. A flint stone mobile made from parts of an old magnolia tree, as well as an impressive carving using a portion of the large trunk, both from a tree from the Old Academy Grounds, have a special place in the park. David created a fountain replica of the Standpipe using three fifty-five gallon drums. Water is pumped from the base and flows over the top. Ruthie donated the gazebo made by her late husband, Rod. Don added a large picnic table and put a board swing on a limb of the big magnolia. Stumps were donated to be used around the fire pit for gathering on a cool evening and storytelling. Sitting near the entrance of the park, is the "Little Lending Library" created by David and Becky for our readers in the community. Haralson County High art students painted several 4x4 foot murals that span the west side of the park.

