



North Carolina Museum of Art

Dorothea Dix Park

Press Release

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North Carolina Museum of Art, Dorothea Dix Park Team Up for City of Sunflowers

More than eight acres of sunflowers planted at the two locations

Raleigh, N.C.—The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) and Dorothea Dix Park have partnered to make Raleigh the City of Sunflowers in 2021.



The NCMA’s 2.5-acre field, first planted in 2018, is located near the intersection of the Blue Loop and Meadow trails and includes a mix of colorful sunflowers, cosmos, and zinnias. The field features walk-through paths and makes a stunning backdrop in the Museum Park. New for 2021 the Museum Park has a second sunflower planting located below the Ellipse. The Museum offers a two-part outdoor workshop to teach nature photography in the sunflower field on July 20 and 27.

The five-acre sunflower field at Dix Park, which debuted in 2018 but was canceled due to the pandemic in 2020 is back. It is an interdepartmental project of the city between Raleigh Water; Office of Sustainability; and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources. Paths through the field provide a closeup look at the sunflowers and a view of the Raleigh skyline. After the bloom is over, Raleigh Water harvests the sunflower seeds for biofuel.

Dix Park and the Museum Park are connected via the Rocky Branch and Reedy Creek greenway trails. Both locations are home to Citrix Cycle bike rental stations.

The benefits of sunflowers are not limited to becoming biofuel; they also help support wildlife. The fields—which should start to bloom in July—serve as massive pollinator habitats for bees and other pollinators. In the Museum Park, after the sunflowers stop producing blooms, a variety of birds such as



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goldfinches, wrens, warblers, and indigo buntings feed on the sunflower seed.

Visitors will be able to learn more at dixpark.org/sunflowers and ncartmuseum.org/sunflowers. Both locations are using #CityOfSunflowers on social media. [Images of each location are available here.](#)

Image captions:

Sunflowers at the North Carolina Museum of Art in front of Mark di Suvero's *No Fuss* (2003–2008), 2019

Sunflower field at Dorothea Dix Park, 2018

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About the North Carolina Museum of Art

The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from antiquity to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the South. The Museum's collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing special exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum, located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh, opened West Building, home to the permanent collection, in 2010. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Roy Cooper, governor; an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources under the direction of Secretary D. Reid Wilson; and led by Director Valerie Hillings.

About Dorothea Dix Park

Dorothea Dix Park is the site of one of the most exciting new park projects in America. The 308-acre site blends historic architecture and rich landscapes into a unique destination in the heart of Raleigh, North Carolina. The effort to create Dorothea Dix Park is a public-private partnership between the City of Raleigh and Dorothea Dix Park Conservancy. The City owns and operates Dorothea Dix Park. The Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that exists to support the City by serving as its philanthropic partner. Learn more at dixpark.org.