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Wind turbine park benches? They could be coming to a Katy's Thomas Park

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This rendering shows the potential wind turbine park benches for Katy's Thomas Park.
Courtesy/Canvus

Visitors to Katy's Thomas Park could find themselves taking a respite on benches made from an unlikely source. City council on Monday approved a measure to participate in a donor program with [Canvus](https://www.canvus.com), an organization that makes "functional art" out of recycled wind turbines.

Through the program, Canvus takes wind turbines that are no longer in use and converts them into outdoor features like benches and planters, explained Kevin Browne, Katy's parks and recreation director. Many of the designs feature solar lighting.

"We completely reimagined what a wind turbine blade could be," the Canvus website says, "By utilizing the unique character, organic shape and industrial durability of the blade, we are able to create functional products designed with community in mind."

The features would be funded through a partnership between Canvus and corporate sponsors "looking to do carbon offsets or go-green initiatives," Browne stated, meaning the program would come at no cost to the city.

The city is not yet paired with a corporate sponsor, he noted, but with the measure passed, the city can move forward to match with one.

"When a suitable sponsor is found, we're pre-approved to accept the pieces, and they'll ship them to us for free, and all we have to do is install them," he said.

The pieces would be installed around the walking paths at Thomas Park in the downtown area, located at 5919 Fourth Street.

Thomas Park is the oldest park in Katy, donated to the city in 1907, city documents state. The park is located at the tri-county intersection of Waller, Harris and Fort Bend counties.

The project is part of the city's ongoing effort to revitalize the downtown area and cement Katy as a destination city.

“In recent years, Katy, TX has been actively reimagining its spaces, transforming the city into a modern, vibrant and sustainable community,” the parks and recreation department said in its petition to city council.

“I’m really really excited about this,” said council member Rory Robertson. “This is going to be a really cool feature for the park.”