

## Horse sculpture put out to pasture

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An infamous horse sculpture has been removed from a Michigan Avenue park to make way for infrastructure changes in downtown Battle Creek.

The sculpture was a gift to the city by an insurance company promising to bring 550 jobs downtown. Within nine months, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Insurance Cos. announced the deal was off, but the horse remained.

That changed Thursday, when construction workers removed the 1,500-pound reminder of a broken promise.

Several groups have expressed interest in taking the horse off the city's hands. But the sculpture is in need of repair, said Cheryl Beard, technology marketing director for Battle Creek Unlimited.

"The horse is in no condition to gallop anywhere," Beard said. "It needs veterinary assistance. It is in poor condition and we are taking it to a location to have it refurbished so it can stand again on its own four legs without assistance."

A final resting place for the horse has not yet been determined, though some city leaders have suggested the sculpture remain downtown or at least on city property, such as Leila Arboretum, she said.

A gazebo donated by the Rotary Club of Battle Creek also is being removed from the park, she said.

With the rotary's consent, it will be relocated in the Children's Garden at Leila Arboretum.

"Which is great because one of the Rotary's focuses is youth," she said. "They thought that was fine."

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