



Confluence

Designed by local sculptor Robert L. Soukup, the custom fountain **Confluence** is the centerpiece of the newly renovated Graham Park at 10 Pennsylvania Street. It was sponsored by [Destination Sturgeon Bay](#) through the generosity of private citizens and local businesses. The park project cost about \$500,000, and was paid for entirely with private money, including financial contributions, donations of materials, and volunteer work.



Confluence is a 15-foot-tall water feature that pays tribute to the City's recreation and rich maritime history. **Confluence** is a sculpture of a ship that joins the working waterfront, represented by the steel hull; with the recreational waterfront, depicted with a brushed-aluminum sail. The piece was completed and installed in 2022.



Confluence was fabricated by the staff of Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding in their Sturgeon Bay facility.

Scroll down to read more about the artist.

Sturgeon Bay artist Robert L. Soukup developed the concept for the sculptural fountain and received engineering assistance from Bay Engineering, Inc., and boat designer Tim Graul. Mr. Soukup described the process of creating **Confluence** as very long, requiring cutting, bending, and moving shapes around to achieve the final shape he envisioned. In addition, his creative process was interrupted by supply-chain and labor shortages brought about by the pandemic. More recently, Soukup served as an artist-in-residence in the Southern Door school for the 2022-2023 school year, leading high school students and skilled community volunteers in completing **Learn to Soar** a new, permanent artwork outside the school's auditorium and **Learn to Soar II**, an indoor mobile sculpture designed with a team of middle school students. Soukup is a Southern Door alumnus.



Among his many works, Mr. Soukup also created **Geode**, an internally lit, sliced cherry for Destination Sturgeon Bay's Cherries Jubilee Street Art fundraiser. The cherry is made from a variety of tempered glass and fire glass, along with high quality epoxy resin. Iridescent pigments were added for color and to create interest along with gold leaf. **Geode** was then sanded smooth and polished. A 3" acrylic tube runs through the center of the cherry that holds the replaceable waterproof LED lights that give **Geode** its amazing look at night. **Geode** sold for \$5,000 at the 2022 Cherries Jubilee Street Art Auction, an annual public-art display and fund raiser for the Sturgeon Bay Beautification Fund.

