



It's springtime in the Healing Garden! Glass artist Preston Karns has been busy this winter creating whimsical bits of color in all sizes. These tiny glass butterflies sit atop a rock to the side of the Sprit Garden, and more of them will perch there soon. These tiny bits of color really catch the eye, drawing a person closer for a closer look. Karns says, "These little bits of color here and there give people a great positive distraction, taking their minds off of their worries and stress. When you see these little bits of color, you immediately want to go over and see what they are. This gives your mind a break, and that is something people undergoing cancer treatment really need." Karns' comments echo the [conclusions of research into the effects the environment has on patients.](#)



Preston checks the condition of the cattails to see how they survived the winter (left) before adding tiny yellow butterflies (right). "Glass is surprisingly tough," he says. The two pieces (cattails and grapevine) that he installed last fall made it through with just one tiny crack in one of the cattails, and that piece was easily replaced



So pretty—it's hard to believe they're not real!



Interactive fun can be therapeutic, too. Once all of the pieces are installed (still to come—lily pads, strawberry vines, large butterflies, dragonflies, and turtles), a sort of scavenger hunt game will be created with tasks like “find fifteen small butterflies” and “find the where a small, spotted, green friend lives.” This will be something fun for children to do, and many adults, too!