**County Materials Provides Variety of Concrete Solutions to Bring Water Park to Life**

**Solutions:** Ready-mix concrete offers versatility in decorative applications; combined use of ready-mix and concrete masonry units demonstrates the capabilities of concrete.

With limited water park access in Central Wisconsin, Wisconsin Rapids leaders set their sights on adding an aquatic attraction for area families to enjoy. The project was quick to gain the support of community members, who anxiously awaited the completion of the Wisconsin Rapids Aquatics Center.

Project plans outlined the construction of a shelter, a lazy river, three pool shells, and the mechanical rooms and water tanks necessary to operate the center. County Materials Ready-Mix and Concrete Masonry Units were specified for their ability to maintain strength and durability in an outdoor water park setting exposed to high-moisture and winter weather conditions. Over 1,550 cubic yards of ready-mix concrete was used to form three pools, a lazy river, and the floors and walls of the pumphouse, mechanical room, and water storage tank. The pools and lazy river were formed using a 5000-psi mix integrated with Xypex to waterproof and protect the concrete while the shells hold water. In addition to structural aspects, ready-mix proved as a versatile solution for the center’s decorative features. Integral colored ready-mix in shades of cool blues and subtle greys were used to bring the center’s nature theme into the interior shelter floors, while decorative river rocks were crafted using stamped ready-mix stained to emulate natural rock.

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The combined use of County Stone Masonry Units and Heritage Collection Designer Concrete Brick creates a dimensional appearance capable of standing the test of time. The hand-hewn inspired County Stone units capture light and mimic rocks beneath shallow water, pulling the center’s nature theme together. Throughout the building’s façade, Heritage Collection Designer Concrete Brick was strategically placed to balance the distinguished County Stone units. In total, over 6,100 SF of decorative concrete masonry was used to complete the shelter. Project leaders used concrete masonry to emulate the appearance of natural stone and clay brick in a more cost-effective, long-term solution.

County Materials provided a variety of concrete solutions to bring this water park to life. Project crews worked with a tight one-year timeline and relied on County Materials’ readily available products and optimized delivery to get the job done.

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