

SPECIAL INNOVATIVE EXTERIOR

RALPH C. WILSON JR. CENTENNIAL PARK

1801 W. JEFFERSON, DETROIT, MI

Concrete Contractor: JJ Barney
Concrete Supplier: Superior Materials Votorantim Cimentos
Concrete Supplier: Hercules Materials Holdings, LLC
Project Owner: Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
QA: DLZ Michigan, Inc.

Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park is a cornerstone of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy's vision to create a continuous 5.5-mile revitalized riverfront, stretching from bridge to bridge. Spanning 22 acres along the two-mile West Riverfront, the park exemplifies thoughtful design and durable construction at a civic scale.

JJ Barney worked closely with their suppliers, Superior Materials and Hercules Materials Holdings on the project to develop the various mix designs required to meet the unique structural and architectural demands of the project. Concrete is integral throughout the park and serves as a clear demonstration of the material's versatility, creativity, and the craftsmanship of the designers and contractors involved. The Delta Dental Play Garden, a five-acre destination, features swing sets and three larger-than-life animal play structures supported by concrete foundations, curbs, and sloped paving. The adjacent splash pad incorporates a variety of decorative concrete elements, creating an engaging and durable environment that will serve families for generations.



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Nearby, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Water Garden marks the first Metroparks location in the City of Detroit. Filled directly from the Detroit River, the water garden relies on a pump system that continuously circulates water through the feature, blending infrastructure with natural aesthetics.

The William Davidson Sports House is a 28,000-square-foot open-air concrete pavilion that houses two outdoor basketball courts beneath a suspended concrete ceiling with a central oculus. The structure's exposed-aggregate shear walls and vertical surfaces presented unique challenges, requiring a high level of coordination and quality control to achieve a consistent architectural finish across the project.

J.J. Barney Construction performed all concrete construction at the park including site work, construction of concrete comfort stations, and construction of the concrete Sport House. DLZ provided environmental and materials testing services throughout the park, including topsoil sampling, stone base density checks, and testing of concrete and asphalt.