

DECORATIVE MUNICIPAL

ST. MARY'S PARK RE-DEVELOPMENT

111 W. ELM AVENUE, MONROE, MI

Concrete Supplier: Messina Concrete
General Contractor: Fonson Company, Inc.
Project Owner: City of Monroe, Patrick M Lewis

The St. Mary's Park Redevelopment for the City of Monroe is a strong example of community reinvestment that emphasizes both accessibility and the creative use of concrete to enhance a historic riverfront setting. Funded in part by a \$978,000 state grant, this first phase of a \$3.47 million park renovation focused on improving pedestrian access, expanding riverfront seating opportunities, and upgrading critical infrastructure within St. Mary's Park.

Concrete played a central role in achieving the project's design and functional goals. The work completed by GM and Sons, included new sidewalks, a redesigned pedestrian entrance off Monroe Street, improved ADA-accessible pathways, and a new scenic riverfront walkway near the MLK Jr. Bridge. Budget constraints required the project to be rebid and portions of the design to be refined, resulting in a late-season construction start and a compressed schedule leading into winter conditions. Despite these challenges, the team successfully met the November 2025 construction deadline.

The signature element of the project is the unique waterfront walkway, which required multiple concrete placements to achieve its varied geometry, elevations, and integrated color treatments. Careful planning and sequencing were critical to translating the architect's vision into a durable and visually striking finished product, while also allowing the adjacent parking lot construction to proceed before seasonal asphalt plant closures.

In a narrow construction window, the team placed approximately 369 cubic yards of conventional concrete and 65 cubic yards of decorative colored concrete produced by Messina Concrete. Through close coordination between the prime contractor, subcontractors, and suppliers, the project was completed ahead of winter shutdown, delivering a high-quality riverfront amenity that will serve Monroe residents and visitors for years to come.

