

River's Edge - Phase One

City of St. Louis Parks & Recreation

Location

St. Louis, Missouri

Construction Completion

2000

Construction Cost

\$7 million

Area

10 acres

DMA Services Provided

Architecture

Civil Engineering

Structural Engineering



Zoo visitors can see for themselves the lush, spacious surroundings 1-2 acres' worth that elephants now enjoy at River's Edge. The three exhibit yards, as well as one off-display yard, comprise a virtual pachyderm playground. Their varied topography and realist water features challenge elephants to climb, explore and test their physical agility. This enriching environment gives them numerous opportunities to display naturalistic behavior.

Phase One of River's Edge was the first of the three phases and includes a 13,000 square foot elephant holding facility complete with massive yard and swimming pool. The elephants frolic in open areas with no apparent barriers between them and the visitor. The complex also includes homes for eight cheetahs, nine dwarf mongooses, and three spotted hyenas.

David Mason & Associates' scope of work included management of the project and architectural design of exhibits, playground, and animal holding facilities. These services required particular attention to detail such as animal sizes and their origination from different climates. The multiple level site required the expertise of civil engineers, landscape architects, and irrigation designers, for lush vegetation and ADA accessibility "back-of-house" structures. Specialty consultants included exhibit designers and aquarium and water feature engineers.

