

## River's Edge - Phase Three

City of St. Louis Parks & Recreation

### Location

St. Louis, Missouri

### Construction Completion

2002

### Construction Cost

\$8 million

### DMA Services Provided

Architecture

Civil Engineering

Structural Engineering



The St. Louis Zoo's three phased \$20 million River's Edge Project showcases many animals that eat, sleep, and live by the world's rivers. The innovative exhibits focus on immersing the visitor into the experience. All animal barriers, including holding facilities, steel cages, electric sliding doors, complex latching mechanisms, and interior pools for off season swimming, and off-exhibit yards, are hidden from public view by landscaping, dramatic grade changes and carved concrete rock walls and planters. The introduction of sound, fog and animal sculptures also further transform the visitor to the riverbank. Many native building materials, such as bamboo, log poles, and thatch, were incorporated into the design to further replicate a native experience.

River's Edge Area Three includes eight buildings and exhibits of animals such as the hippopotamus, rhino, warthog, bee-eater birds and anteaters. The highlighted exhibits include the exciting **Anheuser-Busch Hippo Harbor**, an underwater viewing of hippos swimming. David Mason & Associates coordinated the complicated life support systems for large water features as displayed in the 55,000-gallon hippo aquarium.

David Mason & Associates' scope of work included management of the project and architectural design of exhibits, playground, and animal holding facilities. These services required special 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.

