

## PRESS RELEASE

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### IOWA READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2024 EXCELLENCE IN CONCRETE AWARDS

**AMES, IOWA** - The 31st Annual Excellence in Concrete Awards were announced on November 21, 2024, at a ceremony in Ames, Iowa. The Iowa Ready Mixed Concrete Association (IRMCA) and American Concrete Institute (ACI) Iowa Chapter hosted the awards luncheon during the Iowa Better Concrete Conference.

The Excellence in Concrete Awards recognize outstanding projects from throughout the state. Entries were judged on the following criteria: architectural design, engineering and construction challenges, complexity of project, uniqueness of project, workmanship, finished impression, and diverse application of ready mixed concrete.

The 2024 Excellence in Concrete Award winners are listed below by category.

#### **AGRICULTURAL CATEGORY**

##### **STATELINE CO-OP GRAIN SLIP, BURT**

**Ready Mix Producer:** Cemstone Concrete Materials, LLC, Fort Dodge

**Owner:** StateLine Cooperative, Burt

**Designer/GC:** Empire Ag LLC, Ankeny

**Engineer:** KC Engineering, PC, Ankeny

This was a 1-million bushel grain expansion along with increased truck receiving and railcar loadout improvements. The investment in these areas, along with the addition of the two new concrete silos will help StateLine Coop position themselves for today's market demands. The "slipform" system is run from one centralized electric/hydraulic pump through a series of individual "jacks" placed around the perimeter of the silo walls. The entire forming system all moves vertically at the same time in 1-inch increments. Average pace is for the silos to gain 12 inches in height every hour, gaining roughly 24 feet of height each day. A tremendous feat of teamwork, making this structure come to fruition!

### **LOW-RISE BUILDINGS CATEGORY**

#### **MATT COSGROVE RIVER'S EDGE DISCOVERY CENTER, FORT DODGE**

**Ready Mix Producer:** Cemstone Concrete Materials, LLC, Fort Dodge

**Owner:** Webster County Conservation, Fort Dodge

**GC/Concrete Subcontractor:** Jensen Builders Ltd., Fort Dodge

**Designer/Engineer:** ISG, Des Moines

A vision of Matt Cosgrove himself, to create a hub combining education, recreation and conservation of all things wildlife. This center offers an interactive educational experience to visitors on local conservation and wildlife. A place that welcomes visitors to learn and play, but also tells the story of the land and waters that we enjoy. This project includes a learning exhibit area, classrooms, as well as office space. It is home to hands-on displays and beautiful views of the Des Moines River. The use of exposed radius concrete walls and polished concrete floors adds to the architectural appeal of the learning space in this conservation center. Future additions will include concrete trails, fishing jetties and outdoor exhibits. The use of concrete both inside and out helped to solidify this project as a winner for the residents of Fort Dodge, Webster County, and Iowa

## **MID-RISE BUILDINGS CATEGORY**

### **WEST BANK HEADQUARTERS, WEST DES MOINES**

**Ready Mixed Concrete Producer:** Concrete Supply, Inc., Des Moines

**Owner:** West Bank, West Des Moines

**General Contractor:** Henning Companies, LLC, Johnston

**Concrete Subcontractor:** Concrete Strategies, Johnston

**Architect/Engineer:** HGA, Minneapolis

West Bank's new 73,000 square foot headquarters features a striking design with glass exterior, dark natural stone, and an arched roof that is illuminated at night, making it visible from Interstate 235. The concrete, however, lends itself to the structural integrity of the building. Cast-in-place lower-level exterior walls and outdoor retaining walls anchor the site, while structural stairs lead to the expansive concrete patio on the ground level. The fourth floor is home to a great room and entertainment area featuring golf simulators and garage-like doors that open onto a patio that spans much of the building's south and east sides. Whether you bank or work here, it is a structure worth every penny!

## **COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL DECORATIVE CATEGORY**

### **ATHENE NORTH SHORE RECREATION AREA, DES MOINES**

**Ready Mixed Concrete Producer:** Concrete Supply, Inc., Des Moines

**Owner:** Polk County Conservation, Des Moines

**Concrete Subcontractor:** Nehring Construction, Inc., Des Moines

**Designer/Engineer:** Shive-Hattery, Inc., West Des Moines

Nestled on the shoreline of Easter Lake on the SE side of Des Moines is this outdoor oasis. The design team for the North Shore Recreation Area strove to make it one of the most accessible parks in the country. Designed so people of all ages and abilities are able to explore and participate in outdoor activities at their own pace. From the large parking lot with easy access to the park, the beach, playscape, adaptive equipment rentals, concessions building, wellness space, and zero entry ramps to the water, every detail was given careful consideration. Everything is not only functional, but visually appealing as well. The 6 and 8 foot wide concrete walkways make it easier for everyone to move around and explore the park. Everything you need to enjoy a day outdoors is available at Athene North Shore. A wonderful amenity to the community of Des Moines and surrounding metropolitan area.

## **PARKING AREAS/DRIVES (>1,000 CY) CATEGORY**

### **R+L CARRIERS, ELDRIDGE**

**Ready Mixed Concrete Producer:** Manatt's, Inc, Eldridge

**Owner:** R+L Carriers, Inc., Wilmington, OH

**Concrete Subcontractor:** CDMI Concrete Contractors, Inc., Port Byron, IL

**Architect/Designer:** Gleason Architects, PC, Sugar Grove, IL

**Engineer:** Manhard Consulting, LTD, Lombard, IL

R+L Carriers, a family-owned global freight transportation and logistics company, opened up a new service center in Eldridge, relocating operations previously held at its Davenport terminal. Coming in at nearly 79,000 SF, the structure sits on 43 acres. It debuts with 100 freight docks, a five-bay maintenance facility, a three-lane fuel island and 4,200 feet of office space. Including nearly 32,000 cy of parking, storage, and staging, this expansive parking area was impeccably finished and jointed. With its increased capacity and proximity to Interstate 80, R+L Carriers can now service more customers in the surrounding markets, both in Eastern Iowa and surrounding states.

## **RECREATIONAL CATEGORY**

### **WAUKEE CSD NATATORIUM, WAUKEE**

**Ready Mixed Concrete Producer:** Concrete Supply, Inc., Des Moines

**Owner:** Waukee Community School District, Waukee

**General Contractor:** Henkel Construction Co., Ames

**Concrete Subcontractor:** Bay Valley Construction Svcs., Sloughhouse, CA

**Architect:** RDG Planning & Design, Des Moines

**Engineer:** KPFF Consulting Engineers, Des Moines

The new Waukee Community School District aquatics facility is nothing less than impressive, rivaling some of the nation's best collegiate aquatic venues. The nearly 67,000 SF space includes two pools that together hold 1 million gallons of water. The competition pool can support two full 25-yard, eight-lane competitions simultaneously. The facility also boasts a wet classroom, strength and conditioning space, spectator lounge, locker rooms, concessions, and a public lounge space. Concrete pool decks, diving platforms, stairways and polished concrete floors throughout, lend to its structural integrity and longevity. The district's swim teams look forward to building their programs in this state-of-the-art facility!

## **INFRASTRUCTURE-STRUCTURES CATEGORY**

### **MARION PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY, MARION**

**Ready Mixed Concrete Producer:** King's Material, Inc., Cedar Rapids

**Owner:** City of Marion

**General Contractor:** Conlon Construction Co., Coralville

**Concrete Subcontractor:** Rex Concrete, Inc., Cedar Rapids

**Architect/Engineer:** Shive-Hattery, Inc., Cedar Rapids

The City of Marion public works department has a new place to call home! The new building is 144,000 square feet, about the size of two and a half football fields. The new facility has extra space for storage and fleet maintenance, including 61 parking bays, 6 equipment wash bays, 8 service bays, and 5 vehicle lifts and fabrication facilities. It also hosts a 3,000 SF safe room that can be used as a command center in emergencies and severe weather. The concrete required precision placement as the entire slab had heat lines underneath it and was required to be poured using a strip placement method. The city wanted a slab that can take a beating with machinery and stand the test of time. It will definitely look beautiful and serve its purpose for years to come!

## **INFRASTRUCTURE-BRIDGES CATEGORY**

### **WAPSI RIVER OVERFLOW BRIDGE ON Y68**

**Ready Mixed Concrete Producer:** Manatt's, Inc., DeWitt

**Owner:** Clinton & Scott Counties

**General Contractor:** Jim Schroeder Construction, Inc., Bellevue

**Designer/Engineer:** Calhoun-Burns & Associates, Inc., West Des Moines

Aging infrastructure necessitated the replacement of an aging pre-stressed concrete beam bridge with a new, modern 5-span continuous concrete slab bridge over the Wapsipinicon River Overflow. Jointly funded by Scott and Clinton Counties, the bridge utilized concrete integral abutments on steel H-piling and steel pile pier bents. The bridge also features concrete open railings and steel W-beam approach guardrail. The bridge team overcame the challenge of summer flooding that inundated the overflow area and obstructed crane access. The replacement of the aging bridge is vital for enhancing regional connectivity, improving traffic flow, and promoting economic development. The new structure provides a safer, more efficient and durable transportation link between Clinton and Scott Counties.

## **RECREATIONAL TRAILS CATEGORY**

### **WEST LAKE PARK TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS, DAVENPORT**

**Ready Mixed Concrete Producer:** Hahn Ready Mix, Davenport

**Owner:** Scott County Conservation Board, Davenport

**General Contractor:** Brus Construction, LLC, Blue Grass

**Concrete Subcontractor:** McDermott Concrete, Blue Grass

**Designer/Engineer:** Shive-Hattery, Inc., Bettendorf

The West Lake Park Trail project refreshed a beloved park on the western edge of Davenport. These trails allow for hikers and bikers to enjoy the entirety of the park and not just the area easily accessed by the road. Delivering materials to remote areas of the park with no access was definitely a challenge, but one that this team met with exceptional resourcefulness. Often bugging materials long distances. The finish on this 8' wide trail ensures a comfortable experience for all, allowing the public to fully enjoy the scenic views of the lake while providing a welcoming space for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. A great asset to the residents of Scott County and surrounding area!

## **RESIDENTIAL DECORATIVE CATEGORY**

### **CLUB COLE, IOWA CITY**

**Ready Mixed Concrete Producer:** Hawkeye Ready Mix, Iowa City

**Owner:** Ed & Cheri Cole, Iowa City

**GC / Concrete Subcontractor:** Power Concrete Construction & Design Center, North Liberty

**Pool Contractor:** Pool Tech, A WGHK Inc. Company, Cedar Rapids

**Engineer:** VJ Engineering, Coralville

The goal of this backyard project was to create a space that would accommodate friends and family with a "resort atmosphere". The 18'x60' rectangle shotcrete pool features a large sun shelf and raised waterfall platform at the deep end. The Roman Slate seamless stamped concrete coping compliments the sand finish of the concrete surrounding the pool. Another focal point is a 62" diameter custom concrete fire bowl countersunk into the round spoke designed firepit area. From the covered patio, to the pavilion area, walkways, stairs, and pool deck, every detail is abounding with craftsmanship. The versatility of concrete helped to create the many different decorative features and finishes of this backyard retreat. Two hundred cubic yards of ready mixed concrete was used in creating a perfect space that makes staying home feel like a vacation.

## **STREETS & INTERSECTIONS CATEGORY**

### **NORTH CHESTNUT STREET RECONSTRUCTION, MONTICELLO**

**Ready Mixed Concrete Producer:** BARD Materials, Dyersville

**Owner:** City of Monticello

**Concrete Subcontractor:** Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete, LLC, Cascade

**Engineer:** Snyder & Associates, Inc., Cedar Rapids

North Chestnut Street is a quiet street in the middle of Monticello. With its narrow, broken, and uneven brick pavers, the existing street posed a safety hazard. The reconstruction project enhanced the overall appearance of the street while keeping the neighborhood's charm. The improved sidewalks are safer and more comfortable for pedestrians of all ages. Additionally, curb ramps were installed at intersections to comply with ADA standards making the street more accessible for wheelchair users and strollers. The surface of this new concrete street, while modest in size, represents a significant step forward in enhancing the city's infrastructure. By investing in such thoughtful improvements, the city is taking important strides toward creating a more efficient, welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike.

## **REPAIR & RESTORATION CATEGORY**

### **CEDAR COUNTY BRIDGE DECK OVERLAY, MOSCOW**

**Ready Mixed Concrete Producer:** Manatt's, Inc., Tipton

**Owner/Engineer:** Iowa DOT, Ames

**GC/Concrete Subcontractor:** Jasper Construction Services, Inc., Newton

This bridge repair project involved repairs to the I-80 overpass bridge on Highway 38 located north of Moscow. All work was done in stages so one lane of traffic could be open at all times in order to maintain traffic flow on I-80 below the bridge. Multiple structural components of the bridge needed significant concrete repairs that were not easily accessible. The project included repairs to the bridge abutment, backwall and expansion joint replacement, paving notch replacement, bridge deck, approach, shoulder, barrier wall and deck overhang replacement. All concrete repairs were designed to match the same aesthetics of the existing bridge structure. The new bridge approaches, shoulders, and deck overlay surface ensure an enjoyable ride for all travelers.

## SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES CATEGORY

### **GREEN AMERICA RECYCLING BUILDING, BUFFALO**

**Ready Mixed Concrete Producer:** Hahn Ready Mix, Davenport

**Owner/ GC:** Continental Cement Company, Buffalo

**Concrete Subcontractor:** Treiber Construction, Davenport

**Engineer:** ES2, Las Vegas, NV

The Green America Recycling Center located at the Continental Cement Davenport plant is a revolutionary advancement in minimizing the carbon footprint of cement production. The new facility will allow the combustion of recycled alternative fuels to heat the kiln at Continental's Buffalo, IA plant, allowing the plant to be an industry leader in reducing fossil fuel usage by 55%. A small existing Green America facility was present on site and could not be shut down during the two-year construction period. To accommodate this, the new facility was built up, around, and over the existing facility while operations continued. The project included 14' tall and 2' thick cast-in-place walls to provide the durability necessary for the demanding conditions on site. Continental Cement believes that this technology will expand and have a positive impact on carbon emissions reduction across the entire cement industry.

For photos of the Excellence in Concrete Award winners please visit [concretesate.org](https://concretesate.org)

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IRMCA is a state organization representing the ready mixed concrete industry.

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