



Project Spotlight: The Ledge Amphitheater

Amcon Gray Concrete Block

Amcon Concrete Products recently helped out with a unique project in the form of the Ledge Amphitheater in Waite Park, Minnesota— the largest entertainment venue in Central Minnesota. Amcon Concrete Products provided the concrete masonry units and TCC Materials provided the Spec Mix mortar for the single-wythe masonry walls on three walls of the stage. The project was completed in collaboration with mason Johnson Nelson, the owners of the amphitheater, and Waite Park residents. The building update was completed in eight weeks and 50% funded by the Minnesota Capital Investment Bill.



There are many benefits to the tall, slender masonry walls including strength in cold weather, heat and heavy storms—all necessities for the variance in weather throughout the year in Minnesota. The concrete masonry units shelter the stage and performance area offering a higher level of confidence and security for the performers as their equipment and personnel are well protected from the elements. The concrete block was also painted black. The use of black concrete block allowed for a pure black backdrop for the performers. The ability for concrete block to “take paint” is a very economical feature in this application. After painting the concrete block, the block resists the collection of dust while also being slightly insulated. This offers further durability when it is exposed to the elements and makes it easy to clean.

Masonry was the perfect choice for the setting of the facility that is built among the protected scenery from a number of old granite quarries. It is estimated that this facility will generate \$1 million in tax revenue for the City of Waite Park each year. The grand opening of the amphitheater was on August 11, 2021 with the appearance of the Beach Boys.



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