

Cedar Commentary

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Jackson County Fair Park Undergoes \$6.2 Million Renovation *Skeptics said it would never be completed in time for this year's fair.*

Although work continued after the fair, all necessary facilities were completed in time for opening day.

Renovation of the 15-acre fair park was a five-year effort that began in 2004 when the Jackson County Fair Park Association (JCFPA) was formed. The organization is made up of the various groups that use the park, including the City of Black River Falls (BRF), the Jackson County (JC) Board of Supervisors, Town of Brockway, BRF Youth Hockey, BRF Figure Skating Club, JC 4-H Parents' and Leaders' Board, JC Dairy and Livestock Committees, Wazee Riders and other horse clubs.

Completion of the renovation couldn't have been more timely, as this year marks the Jackson County Fair's sesquicentennial. During demolition of the existing buildings it was discovered that many had been erected in 1905. All but two of the existing buildings and the show arena were removed to make room for the new animal barns, grandstand, and ice arena. Eighty-four percent of the total project cost was covered by donations.

In designing the overall site plan and park structures, Cedar Corporation took into consideration all the various needs and preferences of the JCFPA members. Many design options were provided before a consensus was reached. At the dedication ceremony held opening day of the fair, Black River Falls Mayor, Ron Danielson, credited Cedar Corporation with helping the project come together in a way that satisfied all JCFPA member groups.

In addition to the overall site plan, Cedar Corporation designed the new 1,500-seat grandstand, four animal barns, an animal wash rack, new water main, new sanitary sewer,

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\$3.5 Million Remodeling and Expansion of Red Cedar Center for Prevention & Physical Rehabilitation Completed in Menomonie

The opening of this 42,000 square foot two-story facility

brought to a close a successful team effort between the local medical center staff, the building and grounds staff, the general contractor, and Cedar Corporation's building design group. Cedar Corporation has worked with Red Cedar Medical Center (RCMC) since the mid-1980's when it was known as Red Cedar Clinic and Myrtle Werth Hospital. When both entities merged into the Mayo Health System in the mid-1990's, it became a multi-specialty medical and surgical center, which today cares for hundreds of patients a day.

The newly remodeled Center for Prevention & Physical Rehabilitation was completed in May 2009, and is located adjacent to the main RCMC facility on Stout Road in Menomonie. The new facility provides physical rehabilitation services on the ground level and occupational and preventive medicine in the lower level.

One of the design challenges for this project involved phasing the project so staff could continue to see patients throughout construction. Another challenge included redesigning the roofline of the original building to accommodate a major expansion.

Cedar Corporation credits the success of this project in large part to the synergy that developed between RCMC local staff and Cedar Corporation staff. Weekly meetings were held during design and construction to bring the project forward to a successful completion.

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Photos provided by Red Cedar Medical Center.

\$3.5 Million Remodeling and Expansion (Continued)

RCMC gave Cedar Corporation designers the freedom to make recommendations and changes and use their artistic talents. The result is a building that is unique yet complementary to the adjacent RCMC facility, and one that functions optimally for both staff and patients.

Design features include multi-level and curved rooflines, a large drive under canopy, a spacious main floor lobby and waiting area, a large sports therapy area and exercise therapy area, an aquatic therapy pool, therapy offices, and additional amenities such as patient locker rooms. A clerestory to the second level defines the main lobby as does an open stair case to the lower level. The interior space features curved walls to add interest to the space and work areas that are designed to foster a lean thought process to help reduce clutter and provide a more functional work space.

The lower level houses Occupational & Preventive Medicine, which serves as a single point of contact for all occupational health and worker's compensation needs, including pre-employment evaluation, treatment of work-related injuries, injury prevention training, and related services. The second floor of the new addition is designed as shell space for future growth at Red Cedar Medical Center.

For additional information about this project or our building design services, please contact Cory Scheidler, AIA, 1-800-472-7372 or send an email to cory.scheidler@cedarcorp.com.



Jackson County Fair Park *(Continued from front page)*

storm sewer, parking lot, grading plan, erosion control plan, and site construction details.

The new animal barns include roll-up curtains for better ventilation, much more space for animals, and sprinkler systems in case of fire.

Most of the funds for the renovation project were received through pledges and the sale of naming rights for the buildings. Thousands of hours of volunteer help reduced construction costs. To help pay for ongoing maintenance costs, JCFPA set up a maintenance fund which receives revenue from a 2-percent room tax increase established through an agreement between the City of Black River Falls and the Town of Brockway.

In previous years, the park didn't generate enough revenue to maintain the barns, but the new facilities will be able to house events year-round and provide additional income for maintenance.



For information on Cedar Corporation's site planning and design services, please contact Dennis Blau, LA, or Cory Scheidler, AIA, at 1-800-472-7372, or dennis.blau@cedarcorp.com, cory.scheidler@cedarcorp.com.



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