



## SMALL CITIES/RURAL COMMUNITIES PROJECT OF THE YEAR: STRUCTURES

# Warren Riverview Park Development

Managing Agency: City of Derby, Kansas  
Primary Contractor: Snodgrass and Sons Construction Co, Inc.  
Primary Consultant: Professional Engineering Consultants, PA  
Nominated By: Kansas Chapter

**S**urrounded by stone benches and lawn terraces, the rustic-themed Warren Riverview Park features a canoe launch, ropes course, an interactive boulder wall and a handicap-accessible playground, as well as a covered shelter and a 3,000-square-foot climate-controlled structure—The Lodge—a community event space with an open area for gathering and a river overlook.

The park, located at the former City of Derby Public Works site, embraces and celebrates its neighbor—the Arkansas River. The river view is an impressive point for park visitors. Most people driving by quickly on Market Street don't have time to soak in the beauty of the river. The park offers the public a space to take that river view in.

The riverside facility is different than the city's other parks in that it is oriented toward older youth and has an active tack to it. In that regard, there will be a ropes and rocks course and direct access to the river.

The park design includes a direct commitment to sustainability. The entire parking lot drains to a bio swale. The bio swale filters stormwater runoff prior to introduction into the river. An existing spring discovered during construction was incorporated into the park and bio swale design to create a bog which further enhances the plant diversity and enhance wildlife habitat, as well as filters stormwater runoff.



The park incorporates 34 different varieties of trees from commonly-found pines and oak species, to the more unusual such as the bald cypress and tulip tree.

During the development of the park, contaminated soils were removed from the previous public works site. The storage capacity of the river has been increased because the park design allows it to back up into the park during high flood events.

The park was designed to work with a flood event. The different levels (terraces) allow the park to continue to be usable as the water rises. The materials selected for the park were chosen to withstand flooding events without damage, which has already been tested—and it works. Derby had a major flood event the week of grand opening and the park features functioned as designed to withstand water levels.