

OVERCOME CHALLENGES WITH READING ROCK SOLUTIONS

In May 2009, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens, the second oldest zoo in the United States, opened a new \$19.6M entrance designed to make the park more visitor friendly. Relocating the Zoo's front door allowed the organization to create 400 new parking spots and increase the number of exhibits and attractions.

The challenge

The Cincinnati Zoo, always expanding, quickly found themselves developing new displays taking over the visitor parking lot. With attendance on the rise and parking becoming increasingly difficult for visitors, the Zoo purchased additional land with plans to relocate the entrance and add additional parking. Although acquiring the land allowed the Zoo to increase parking, exhibits and attractions, the challenge then became how to get visitors from the new parking lot, across busy street and into the Zoo which sat 22 ft. above the parking lot area.

The solution

ME Company designed a 25,000 sq. ft. AB Europa® segmental retaining wall which raised the site and supported a pedestrian bridge, allowing visitors to cross a busy street with no interruptions or safety concerns from city traffic. The wall also gave the zoo room for an expanded entry plaza and space to build the Historic Vine Street Village, a place where visitors can relax, shop and eat. This area is also the location for ticketing, guest relations, memberships and retail shops. Living up to its reputation as "the Greenest Zoo in America," the Zoo sought after and achieved LEED NC Platinum certification for the village project, a first for the city of Cincinnati.

The results

Elevating the new entrance with the support from a tumbled ashlar patterned segmental retaining wall gives the appearance of hand-laid stones and the Zoo's visitors a fresh and attractive new entrance while also allowing for easier access.

The new entrance had an added benefit as well - it enabled the zoo to continue its commitment to being green and preserving the environment. With the addition of the retaining wall, the zoo was able to expand its footprint and gain the additional space needed to collect and store rain water from underneath the permeable pavers that greets visitors as they enter the Zoo. There are over 30,000 sq. ft. of pavers that greet visitors as they enter the zoo which stores millions of gallons of rain water. Captured rainwater is used to irrigate the surrounding landscape.



“The Zoo felt that the combination of cost, aesthetics and flexibility of Reading Rock’s AB Europa segmental retaining wall provided the best overall value for our project. We couldn’t be happier with the finished product.”

- Mark Fishers, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens

QUICK PROJECT FACTS

Project Location	Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens
Project Size	25,000 sq. ft.
Product Used	AB Europa Abbey Blend (Canyon)
Project Owner	Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens
General Contractor	HGC Cincinnati, OH
Installing Contractor	Outdoor Environments, Inc. Cincinnati, OH Mainline Bridge Cincinnati, OH Performance Site Cincinnati, OH
Consulting Engineer	ME Company Cincinnati, OH
Architect	Comette/Violette Architects Cincinnati, OH





Your challenge. Our solution.

Since 1947, Reading Rock has had a passion for manufacturing quality masonry products and is recognized today as a market leader providing Engineered Wall Solutions to customers with Allan Block Retaining Wall Systems, AB Fieldstone, GreenWall and ReCon, a big block retaining wall system. As Allan Block's first licensee in 1988, and the largest manufacturer of AB products in the United States, Reading Rock is the retaining wall expert.

The AB Europa Collection is the perfect blend of performance and style and has been a favorite among wall builders for years. The collection captures the hand-laid stone effect while offering maximum durability. In addition, Allan Block products offer many other features and benefits including:

- ◆ Engineered hollow-core system provides many benefits over solid systems.
- ◆ Built-in engineering allows each block to be firmly locked in place with patented lip and notch configuration. No pins, mortar or fancy connectors are needed.
- ◆ Built-in set back from raised lip automatically establishes a proper set back.
- ◆ Built-in drainage allows water to drain freely from behind the wall.

Learn more. Ask an associate how Reading Rock can help you overcome a challenge with one of our Engineered Wall Solutions. Contact us at 800.482.6466 or online at www.readingrock.com to request additional information.