

Franke Park Pavilion Spotlight

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Main Benefit: Franke Park now offers a 12,000 sq. ft. event facility, seating capacity up to 400 people, with advanced dehumidification and comfort control for varying occupancy ranges

Product: Versatec 500, Versatec 700 and Versatec 700 Indoor DOAS water source heat pumps

WATERFURNACE MAKES CONDITIONING NEW PAVILION A WALK IN THE PARK

Franke Park is Fort Wayne, Indiana's largest public park at nearly 440 acres and home to the Fort Wayne Zoo. And now, it offers a new place to host weddings, meetings and other events. The recently constructed 12,000-square-foot McMillen Family Pavilion features a WaterFurnace HVAC system centered around flexibility, modularity and efficiency for advanced dehumidification and comfort control to adjust to the varying occupancy ranges and load demands the facility sees each year.

A FLEXIBLE LINE FOR ANY PROJECT

Validated Custom Solutions (VCS), a WaterFurnace Commercial rep located in Indianapolis, Indiana, provided the expertise for which units would be best for the project. Their design team selected multiple Versatec 500 and 700 water source heat pumps in both horizontal and vertical configurations, and a Versatec 700 Indoor DOAS water source heat pump with an energy recovery wheel with bonded desiccant. Strategically, the team also added hot gas reheat on the Versatec 500 systems, which along with the desiccant wheel on the DOAS unit, helps dehumidification efforts during the months with the heaviest traffic.



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Franke Park is Fort Wayne's largest public park, and the McMillen Family Pavilion at the park now adds a place for weddings, meetings, and events.

“It was an absolute no-brainer for the design team to go with WaterFurnace,” says JP Heisserer, an 18-year sales engineer veteran with VCS. “Being able to choose six heat pumps in four different model configurations just speaks to the flexibility of WaterFurnace’s model offerings. The design lead for Fort Wayne’s Design Collaborative is data driven and was very familiar with the quality and long-term aftermarket support WaterFurnace brings to the table. I suspect it was an easy go-to for them,” Heisserer says.



JP Heisserer reviews the details of the McMillen Family Pavilion’s geothermal system.

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Sales Engineer, VCS

A FUTURE-PROOF HVAC SYSTEM

In addition to that flexibility, WaterFurnace units provide unique modularity to help future proof the HVAC system for builds like the McMillen Pavilion. The varied range of products can solve many design challenges. And because WaterFurnace systems are designed to fit through a standard doorway, they can easily be shifted around and moved in and out as different needs arise in the future.

“We know these are 25-plus-year units when maintained properly,” Heisserer says. “From my standpoint with customers, I talk about the application for today, potential applications for the future, and making sure they have something in place that’s going to be workable for decades to come.”

The grand opening for the McMillen Family Pavilion was held December 4, 2024. And no matter the weather outside or the amount of people hosted within the structure, the guests are sure to be comfortable inside.



WaterFurnace systems installed in the McMillen Family Pavilion—designed to fit through a standard doorway—solve today’s design challenges while offering future flexibility.