



# The Finishing Touch

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## Featured Project - DeVos Place River Walk

The DeVos Place Convention Center development has brought us another project. In this case, the project called for a new pedestrian walk along the Grand River. The original foundation designs for the walkway were determined to be inadequate. An all concrete alternative was considered, but the costs were huge and the plan would require another permit from the DEQ which would cause more delays.

Our friends at Soils and Structures were involved and suggested helical piers because they go in the ground fast, provide both up lift resistance and bearing capacity. The Atlas engineers worked with Soils and Structures and determined that a combination of 2" and 2 1/4" sq. bar helicals would accomplish the job. This is the first time we have installed this size helical. We used a 20,000 lb. torque motor to install them.

The next challenge was installing the piers. The original plan was to build a 4' cofferdam in the river bottom during the dry season (July through August), pump the water out, and then build the walk. River levels never went down. A new plan was developed calling for a wall of sheet piling. The river bottom was excavated to accept our piers and the concrete footings. A crane was used to set a Case 580 in the river bottom. It also lifted the piers down for installing. Each ten foot section weighs up to 250 lbs. each. Then came the challenge of installing the piers through all kinds of rubble and limestone layers. The engineers had to make dozens of decisions as the piers were installed. Tight quarters above and at the river bottom required extra crane work to maneuver the backhoe into position to install our work. This job brought constant problems, hold ups, and frustration. But in the end, the installation of 40 piers in that environment, up to 32-33 feet deep, went very well. Rex Hart headed the job and was really super in plowing through the problems. Don Faber, Toby Kendall and Mike TenBrook made the great team to get it done.

So someday, when you stroll the walk bridge along the river, remember you are not in the river all wet because piers from Kent Concrete Raising are holding you up.



Crane lifting backhoe to the river bottom



Crane lowering piers to the work site.



Rex, Don, and Toby working below river level



Support columns for river walk