

## Riverwalk Millennium Labyrinth

The Riverwalk Millennium Labyrinth was created as part of the Celebration 2000 initiative. It was created as a replica of the labyrinth in Chartes, France. It was constructed in 1998 by Marty and Debi Kermeen.

Community members contributed to the success of the project in several important ways. Many chose to purchase engraved bricks used to construct the Millennium Wall. Others volunteered to build the labyrinth containment ring. Still others donated plantings and helped to landscape the site. However they chose to contribute to the project, the people of Naperville had a hand in creating their own landmark for generations to come.

Situated in Riverwalk Park at the base of an outdoor amphitheater cradled by 50-foot pine trees, this labyrinth embodies the spirit of its creator. More than 1,000 hours of painstaking labor were invested in creating this replica of the Chartres labyrinth. The labyrinth is 39 feet in diameter and the path is 12.5 inches wide, extending a total of 750 feet in length. The exacting detail of the lunations and rosette center was achieved with hand-sculpted pieces. In fact, more than 50 percent of the square concrete pavers were sculpted to fit the intricate design. A 40-foot containment ring and 3-inch crown facilitate proper drainage. The perfectly smooth surface allows for easy snow removal and handicapped accessibility.

The park is heavily used, averaging more than 3,000 visitors per day (during the summer months), many of whom walk the labyrinth. The overwhelming success of this labyrinth project was the result of extensive fundraising efforts on behalf of the Riverwalk Commission and many dedicated volunteers. The superb craftsmanship exemplified by these and many other components of the Naperville Millennium Labyrinth earned us a First Place in Specialty Designs by Precast Concrete Pavement Awards in 1999.