Restoring Meridian Hill Park's Fountains for Washington DC & America's 250th Featuring Color Shield Topcoat

Case Study Meridian Hill Park Fountains



Meridian Hill Park’s restored cascading fountains, framed by the park’s historic stonework.

Introduction

Meridian Hill Park is one of Washington, DC's most architecturally significant green spaces, known for its grand cascading fountain and reflecting pool. As part of a citywide initiative to beautify the nation's capital in anticipation of America's 250th birthday, the National Park Service identified Meridian Hill Park as a priority restoration site. The park's fountains had been out of service for roughly ten years, and the surrounding grounds had fallen into disrepair, making the space unwelcoming to the visitors it was meant to serve. To meet an ambitious public deadline and restore the fountains to their original grandeur, the National Park Service required a construction, and coatings partner capable of delivering both technical performance and tight project execution. That partnership fell to Terra Constructs as general contractor, working alongside subcontractor Cascade Fountains, with CIM Industries supplying the critical waterproofing and topcoat system.

The Challenge

Meridian Hill Park’s fountains required extensive restoration beyond cosmetic repairs:

- **A decade of deterioration:** Non-operational for approximately ten years, the fountains suffered significant leaks and structural damage.
- **An underused public space:** Without functioning water features, the historic DC landmark had become less welcoming and attracted fewer visitors.
- **A firm deadline:** Part of Washington, DC’s beautification efforts for the nation’s 250th anniversary, the project had just 90 days to reopen by Memorial Day weekend.
- **Historic preservation standards**: The National Park Service required a finish that matched the park’s historic stone, explicitly ruling out black.
- **Demanding performance requirements:** Structural concrete repairs and a reliable waterproofing system were needed to withstand constant water exposure, UV, chlorination, and heavy pedestrian and pet traffic.

Restoring Meridian Hill Park's Fountains for Washington DC & America's 250th Featuring Color Shield Topcoat

The Solution

Cascade Fountains, responsible for plumbing and waterproofing repairs across nine fountains at Meridian Hill Park, recommended CIM Industries' coating system to meet National Park Service performance and aesthetic requirements. Terra Constructs handled structural concrete repairs, while Ease Painting applied the coatings for Cascade. The system included:

- **Primer**: Prepared the substrate across all nine fountains.
- **CIM 1000 waterproofing membrane**: Provided core waterproofing protection and warranty backing.
- **CIM Color Shield Topcoat:** A two-component, UV-resistant polyaspartic coating for above-grade and immersion environments. More than 1,000 units were applied.

The National Park Service required a submittal and mockup of the complete system to confirm performance and appearance, then selected two tan shades reflecting the surrounding historic stone.Together, CIM 1000 and Color Shield Topcoat provided a seamless, flexible waterproof barrier beneath a durable, historically appropriate finish resistant to UV, chlorination, weather, and heavy public use. The system carries a five-year material warranty, with CIM 1000 providing the waterproofing guarantee. Color Shield Topcoat supports maintenance coats and spot touch-ups to preserve the finish.

The Results

The Meridian Hill Park fountains reopened on time for Memorial Day weekend, fully operational and restored to their original visual grandeur. The cascading fountains and reflecting pool, dormant for nearly a decade, were transformed into a centerpiece of the park once again. Every project milestone was completed on time and on budget, with zero callbacks related to the CIM waterproofing and topcoat during a moment of renovation scrutiny elsewhere in Washington, DC. This project is a quiet but significant testament to the reliability of the CIM Industries, Cascade Fountains, and Terra Constructs partnership.



Water flows through the restored fountain tiers following waterproofing and coating repairs.

Contact Us

Chasecorp.com/contact-us
Product Questions: 781-750-0525