In 1998 the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board acquired Mill Ruins Park—an area currently on the National Register for Historical Places—and spearheaded an effort to renovate the previously neglected area in hopes of luring families and tourists back to the fabled river.

The first phase of the project involved re-constructing a tailrace that currently runs alongside the partially excavated ruins. Architect-of-record, URS Corporation, designed a segmental retaining wall along the north side of the tailrace that would hold back the giant wall of soil behind it and also blend well with the historical surroundings. Weathered™ VERSA-LOK® units were a logical choice.

In fact, the VERSA-LOK units worked so well, URS decided to continue using them as opportunities arose during the project.

“Many other needs popped up during the initial phase including a parking lot wall and river inlet,” said Bob Kost, landscape architect, URS. “We found VERSA-LOK to be a very cost-effective solution to those needs as well.”

Weathered™ retaining walls complement historical surroundings