When the Toledo Zoo needed man-made rocks, natural-looking outdoor year-round pools, and large inside observation areas for its new Arctic Adventure polar bear and seal compound, it turned to Kuhlman Corporation for the material; a zoo architect in Philadelphia, PA; and a zoo contracting firm, Cemrock, in Tucson, AZ.

The large dual exhibit, which opens next year, features gunite — a specialized concrete with small coarse aggregate — that is sprayed onto mesh forms. These forms are shaped into the basic rocks and pools. Gunite is then built up and shaped to create the final contours. Gunite also was applied to a wall made of high-strength Kuhlman concrete (6,000-8,000 psi.), constructed by A.A. Boos & Sons contractors.

“Kuhlman’s quality and service are excellent. Its people are knowledgeable and great to work with. I wish I could use Kuhlman on all my jobs across the country.”

— Ken Tucker
Cemrock Landscape, Inc.

Kuhlman utilizes a central-mix plant to custom pre-mix its many types of concrete, instead of adding each ingredient directly into the mixer trucks. The result is higher quality, more durable and consistent concrete. On a daily basis, Kuhlman’s quality control manager tests concrete in its in-house testing lab, and Kuhlman dispatchers are graded on their on-time performance — now well over 90% percent and improving annually.

Kuhlman concrete already has withstood the tests of time in the Carnivore Café and other Zoo structures built by the Federal Works Project Administration in the Depression. Kuhlman’s No. 1 goal is to make its customers successful...because when its customers are successful, they return to Kuhlman, project after project.

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The new Toledo Zoo polar bear habitat took shape with Kuhlman Corporation.

The Toledo Zoo turns to Kuhlman with a real bear of a project.

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