

Fish Ladder Park

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Hello from the Great Lakes State! I would like to tell you about Fish Ladder Park in Grand Rapids. This spot is a combination of conservatorship and art. Fish Ladder Park is located at 634 Front Avenue Northwest in downtown Grand Rapids.

The park was constructed in 1974 in response to the building of the 6th street dam. The dam interrupted the upstream migration of the local fish like Salmon, Steelhead, and Carp. The concrete ladder was designed by artist Joseph Kinnebrew, the brutalist installation lets the migrating fish travel up a winding set of concrete steps that are set up essentially as a low-grade waterfall. While the fish shimmy upstream, occasionally jumping out and over the water in short bursts, human onlookers can gather on the walkways and viewing points that have been built over and around the ladder to witness the unusual behavior.

The fishermen and fisheries along the Grand River depend on the Sixth Street Dam to provide them with a steady supply of fish. Different species of fish make use of the ladder during different parts of the year. More information can be found here:

<https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Directory/Places/Parks/Fish-Ladder-Park>.

