



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

HAZELWOOD'S WHITE BIRCH BAY AQUATIC CENTER SOON TO BE OPEN FOR FIRST FULL SEASON

Hazelwood, Mo., (May 8, 2009) – The pool basins are freshly painted, letters spelling out the name are mounted above the entrance and lifeguards are going through training in preparation for the opening of Hazelwood's newest attraction, White Birch Bay Aquatic Center, scheduled for May 23. This will be the facility's first full summer season after opening last year on the Fourth of July weekend.

“We anticipate the summer of 2009 to be one of our busiest seasons ever, gauging from the number of guests who came last year,” said Doug Littlefield, Hazelwood Parks and Recreation Supervisor. “Nearly 19,000 guests paid admissions between Fourth of July and the time we closed. White Birch Bay is quickly becoming the coolest place in North County to hang out with friends and family.”



The city of Hazelwood hired St. Louis-based Capri Pools and Aquatics to design and build a state-of-the-art aquatic center for a price tag of \$5.7 million. Construction began in September 2007 and finished ten months later. This facility includes some features that have never been seen in the Midwest. One of them is a 360 degree bubble slide made in Sweden, the first-of-its-kind used in the United States as a climbing apparatus.

Other amenities geared to giving guests hours of summertime fun include the following:



- Two water slides, one for tubing the other for body surfers;
- A rocked wall, 600-ft. lazy river that generates waves;
- A little tot wave pool with spray features and shark slide;
- A brightly-colored play structure with a gigantic dumping bucket;
- A new competition pool.

Hazelwood's New Aquatic Center Gearing Up for Opening, Add One

In addition, there's a benched area where parents can sit and watch their children play in the water, while staying cool near a spray fountain. A large pergola, similar to those seen at vacation resort areas, shades the seating area as well. The bathhouse features a large observation deck and a party room that can be rented.



White Birch Bay is available for private celebrations such as birthday parties, anniversaries, family reunions and employee appreciation events. (Teen parties are prohibited.) There are a variety of party packages to choose from for groups up to 225 guests. All aquatic center reservations require a \$75 damage deposit to secure a date. The remaining balance is due 30 days prior to the event date. Packages include water park admission with time slots available while the park is open to the public and for after hour use on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Parties may bring in a cake if they wish. For information on renting the water park, contact the Hazelwood Parks and Recreation office at (314) 731-0980.

Hazelwood's White Birch Bay Aquatic Center will remain open from May 23 (Memorial Day) to September 7 (Labor Day.) Daily operating hours are from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission for children and seniors are \$4 residents and \$7 non-residents. For people age 16-55, admission prices are \$5 residents and \$8 non-residents. Season Passes are available.

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HAZELWOOD'S AQUATIC CENTER READY FOR OPENING

The new sign for Hazelwood's White Birch Bay Aquatic Center is being installed as preparation begins for Opening Day on May 23.