

# WORLD WATERPARK™

The Official Magazine of the World Waterpark Association

Keeping Everyone  
**Happy,  
Healthy  
& Active**  
**At Das Rec**

New Braunfels, Texas, U.S.A.

## **Keepin' it Splashy!**

At Sutherland Leisure Centre Water Fun Park in Sutherland, NSW, Australia

## **The Evolution of VIP Areas**

Italy's Zoomarine takes VIP packaging and services to the next level

## **Rolling The Dice On Fun**

Paradise Island at Pioneer Park goes for the win in Commerce City, Colorado, U.S.A.



# ROLLING THE DICE ON FUN

Now entering its fifth season, Paradise Island at Pioneer Park hit its stride in Commerce City, Colorado, U.S.A.



As one of the fastest growing cities in Colorado, building a state-of-the-art aquatic facility for all generations was an important milestone for the Commerce City community.

Commerce City's new outdoor leisure pool, Paradise Island at Pioneer Park, opened to the public on July 10, 2015. The first of its kind in Commerce City and a state-of-the-art aquatic facility, the 2-acre center features a 5,000-square-foot leisure pool, three waterslides, a leisure river, a toddler pool, games and more.

## FIVE PROJECTS, FIVE YEARS, ONE PENNY

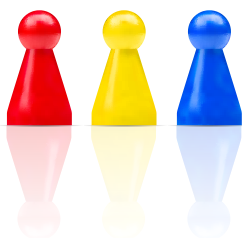
The first recreation center opened in Commerce City in 1987. That single recreation center offered a wealth of recreation activities for the community, including swimming lessons and other aquatic programs in the 8-lane lap pool. Yet, members of the city management team knew that they needed to offer more to their expanding community.

To help fund these new initiatives, in 2013, Commerce City's voters approved a 1 percent sales and use tax increase for new parks, recreation and road projects. The ballot measure was a result of





IN 2013, COMMERCE CITY'S VOTERS APPROVED A 1 PERCENT SALES AND USE TAX INCREASE FOR NEW PARKS, RECREATION AND ROAD PROJECTS.



a two-year, community-driven process to identify how to implement programs and services that address growing population needs, achieve vision and build a better Commerce City. The sales tax increase is a dedicated funding source for the city's \$137 million capital improvement program for new parks, recreation and road projects. Through participation from residents, businesses and city council, the city's vision of a quality community for a lifetime is taking shape through increased recreational opportunities.

The outdoor leisure pool was one of five projects funded by the 1 percent sales and use tax increase approved by voters in 2013 to build, operate and maintain five projects over the next five years, including

Paradise Island features a nicely sized interactive play structure that incorporates the gaming theme throughout the area.

  
**Paradise Island**  
 AT PIONEER PARK





building a new recreation center and renovations of the existing recreation center. Paradise Island was the first project completed in the program.

With a budget of \$10 million, the city worked with Ohlson Lavoie Collaborative, who served as the architect and engineer for the project; Golden Triangle Construction, who was the general contractor; and Wember, Inc., who served as the city's owner's representative.

#### WHY IS "PARADISE" SPELLED WITH A "C"?

The Commerce City community was involved in choosing the theme for the pool, which included local youths brainstorming theme concepts for the pool. The community then selected a games-related theme to help design a unique, fun environment and special identity for the new facility. The city held a naming contest that received more than 200 entries. City council approved a resolution to name the game-themed pool "Paradise Island." The dice in the logo are numbered one and five, representing both the year the pool opened and the game theme.

When it came time to select the attractions, the city and their design partners knew that they wanted a unique mix of attractions with broad appeal to families and children of various ages. Attractions highlights at Paradise Island include:

- Three waterslides including a speed slide, a body flume and inner tube slide, all provided by WhiteWater. The slides feature various lengths and curves to provide guests with a fun, safe ride experience.
- A 5,000-square-foot central leisure pool with a themed, interactive play structure. Designed by WhiteWater, one of the highlights of this area is the barrel of monkeys water bucket that is timed to dump every 5 minutes. Other crowd-pleasers are spray water guns, two waterslides meant for smaller guests and other interactive features.
- A 250-foot long leisure river feature that covers about 3,700 square feet and has a variety of sprays and geysers shaped like palm trees or game pieces such as dice and dominos.
- A 32-foot wide by 75-foot long activity pool that can be used for swim lessons, basketball, volleyball, laps or open swim. There is also a sport pool where the adult water walking program is held.
- A 1,700-square-foot toddler pool with a maximum 3-foot depth and interactive features.

Paradise Island is also home to a bathhouse that features locker rooms, assisted changing rooms, a first aid station and a concession stand. Shaded structures and open play areas are available to give families a chance to stay and play longer.

All of these attractions found at Paradise Island at Pioneer Park have helped the city achieve one of its goals, which was to provide a fantastic outlet for many youth in the community who might not otherwise have the chance to learn to swim and enjoy water recreation safely and affordably. The city set the daily admission fees to the waterpark as low as \$2 a day for resident youth and season passes are as low as \$42.

To give families in Commerce City even more options to enjoy aquatic recreation, in summer 2016, the city launched a recreation "Play Pass" card. This pass offers discounted daily admission fees for residents at the recreation centers and Paradise Island and can be used for all punch, pass and membership options.

In addition to Paradise Island, the Commerce City Parks, Recreation & Golf Department operates 600 programs reaching approximately 3,000 participants between two aquatics facilities. The 108,000 square foot facility at Bison Ridge Recreation Center features an indoor pool with a leisure river, a fitness swim area and an

The park employs more than 100 seasonal lifeguards who help keep the guests safe on a daily basis.

**THE COMMUNITY THEN SELECTED A GAMES-RELATED THEME TO HELP DESIGN A UNIQUE, FUN ENVIRONMENT AND SPECIAL IDENTITY FOR THE NEW FACILITY.**





# PARADISE ISLAND AT PIONEER PARK

5951 MONACO ST, COMMERCE CITY, CO 80022  
WWW.C3GOV.COM/PARADISE

OWNERS: CITY OF COMMERCE CITY, COLORADO  
ADMISSION PRICES: SEE WEBSITE FOR PRICING DETAILS

DATES OPEN: MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND THROUGH LABOR DAY  
SIZE/ACRES: 3 ACRES

CAPACITY: 650

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:  
YEAR-ROUND: 0  
SEASONAL: 108

CLIENTELE (PERCENT LOCAL VS. TOURIST):  
90 PERCENT LOCAL VS. 10 PERCENT TOURIST

FUTURE EXPANSION PLANS: NONE AT THIS TIME.



## SUPPLIERS

**DEVELOPMENT/DESIGN:** OHLSON LAVOIE COLLABORATIVE

**CONSULTANTS:** WEMBER, INC.

**CONSTRUCTION:** GOLDEN TRIANGLE CONSTRUCTION

**WATERSLIDES:** WHITEWATER

**RAFT/TUBES/MATS:** AIRHEAD SPORTS GROUP

**CHILDREN'S INTERACTIVE PLAY STRUCTURE:** WHITEWATER

**CHILDREN'S EQUIPMENT:** WHITEWATER

**FURNITURE:** ATLANTIS TABLES

**POOL AND/OR DECK COATINGS:** DIAMOND BRITE POOL SURFACE

**FILTRATION EQUIPMENT:** NEPTUNE-BENSON SAND FILTERS

**PUMPS:** PENTAIR AND AURORA PUMPS

**CHEMICAL:** AQUATIC RESOURCES

**CHEMICAL CONTROLLERS:** CHEMTROL

**SHADE SYSTEM:** USA SHADE; SUNPORT

**ADMISSION SYSTEM:** ACTIVE NET RECREATION SOFTWARE

**FOOD/EQUIPMENT:** STANDARD RESTAURANT SUPPLY

**UNIFORMS:** SHIRTWORKS

PARADISE ISLAND CONTINUED FROM PAGE 48

indoor/outdoor waterslide, which features a one-of-a-kind custom light show and music.

The newly renovated Eagle Pointe Recreation Center features the original indoor pool and waterslide in addition to the brand new therapy pool which includes a leisure river and waterfall feature.

## RECRUITING THE BEST AQUATICS STAFF TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Each year, Commerce City hires approximately 160 high school and college students to fill all of the aquatics positions for the three facilities. This places the city's aquatics division as the largest youth employer across the entire city. Like many other aquatics facilities, recruiting lifeguards can be a challenge. To help build future lifeguard applicants, the city offers a young adult lesson program for kids ages 13-15. This class focuses on teaching fundamental skills and minimum requirements to pass a lifeguard training pre-test and build enthusiasm for the sport. (In Colorado, the minimum age requirement for employment as a lifeguard is 16 years old). This program has played a big role in helping the city find and develop new lifeguard talent—some of whom have gone on to receive industry recognition for their skills.

In its first year of operation, the city's lifeguard team received an Aquatic Safety Award given by the Starfish Aquatics Institute (SAI) to member organizations that satisfactorily meet the standards of safety as determined by SAI.

In the case of Commerce City, there were three reviews of the city's indoor and outdoor aquatics facilities conducted by SAI staff in 2015. SAI staff visited the city's aquatic facilities and evaluated what goes on among the lifeguards, patrons and supervisors. The reviewers watched how often the lifeguards scan the water, determined the strategies the lifeguards used to remain vigilant and evaluated the size and features of the zones the lifeguards are assigned. Reviewers then conducted rescue scenarios to assess the facility's emergency action plan and the competence of the staff. Based on the findings, Commerce City facilities were found to exceed standards and awarded the 3-Star Aquatics Safety Award.

Now in its fifth season, the management team for Paradise Island feels like they've hit their stride, as they continue to offer a popular, safe place for families to gather and enjoy time together during the hot summer months in Colorado. •



Paradise Island keeps its admission fees low so that more families can afford to visit during hot summer months.