

WORLD WATERPARK™

The Official Magazine of the World Waterpark Association

Captain Lewey's Shipwreck Island

Transforms Splashdown Quaywest Waterpark

**Blue Springs Residents Rally
To Bring Blue Surf Bay To Life**

**A Bubbly Extravaganza To Beat The Heat
Bubble Fiesta At Adventure Cove Waterpark**

**Public Private Partnerships
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BLUE SPRINGS RESIDENTS



Summer, Winter, Indoors, Outdoors –
Blue Surf Bay Waterpark offers residents
and their guests a great time year round.



BLUE SURF *Bay* WATERPARK

RALLY To Bring Blue Surf Bay Waterpark To Life

BY BRIAN SPANO

After four years of planning and 18 months of construction the new Blue Surf Bay Waterpark opened in May, 2024 over the Memorial Day holiday weekend in Blue Springs, MO. Blue Surf Bay Waterpark is a state-of-the-art indoor/outdoor aquatics facility constructed as an expansion to the Blue Springs Fieldhouse. The waterpark would not have come to fruition without the support of the residents of Blue Springs.

When residents originally approved a 1/2-cent sales tax for five years, it was a catalyst for improvements made to the parks, including paving projects, gazebo renovations and new pickleball courts. The five-year tax was scheduled to end in 2022, so the department asked voters to approve an extension with no sunset. In 2021, residents voted overwhelmingly to renew the tax with an 80% yes vote. The renewal allows annual funding to maintain playgrounds, shelters, trails, fields, courts, restrooms, new parks and other facilities, including construction of Blue Surf Bay Waterpark.

"We couldn't be more grateful to our residents for allowing us to provide them an aquatics facility after the city's public pool

was closed three years ago," said Justin Stuart, Director for Blue Springs Parks & Recreation. "Throughout the process, we were able to work with great partners who helped create a waterpark unlike any suburban waterpark in the Kansas City area."

The indoor portion of the waterpark features a four-lane lap pool that includes a rock-climbing wall, waterfall and two diving platforms. There also is a NinjaCross Course above the pool that allows swimmers to test their abilities through obstacles in and out of the water. Additionally, the indoor facility includes a warm water lifestyle pool with a current channel allowing for aqua exercise, youth swim lessons, fitness classes, physical therapy programs and leisure use. A spacious indoor splash pad, water slide, sauna room and hot tub are also in the indoor facility.

The indoor interactive splash pad features the latest spray innovations on the market incorporated into a freeform design with a slip-resistant safety flooring application. The 1,150 square foot splash pad creates various zones that are hyper-focused on each users' preferences and abilities. The water table offers the little swimmers the opportunity to engage and manipulate the water. By impacting various features on the table, users can enjoy watching how the water responds to their touch. In the center of the



“WE COULDN’T BE MORE GRATEFUL TO OUR RESIDENTS FOR ALLOWING US TO PROVIDE THEM AN AQUATICS FACILITY AFTER THE CITY’S PUBLIC POOL WAS CLOSED THREE YEARS AGO.”

BLUE SURF Bay DETAILS

425 NE Mock Ave, Blue Springs, MO 64014

www.bluespringsgov.com

Owners: City of Blue Springs

Dates open: May 24, 2024

Number of employees:

Year-round: 60 part time; 5 full time;
Seasonal: about 100

Clientele (percent local vs. tourist):
80% local (Kansas City Metro area)

interactive wet deck, there are a variety of deck-level spray features that create unique shapes and spray patterns for users. From small geysers to wall sprays that create an arc of water, there are a variety of unique aquatic patterns at play.

On the far side of the splash pad is a stand-alone splashing feature that creates the age-old, tried-and-true ‘dumping’ effect for visitors. Whether users are huddled under the tall roof of the tower or dancing under the dumping bucket, this iconic play feature is a beacon for the interactive play.

The indoor lifestyle wellness pool has something for everyone. The 115-foot-long current channel features underwater bench seating in a comfortable alcove for relaxation and socialization. Further down the river, swimmers will discover a Vortex for resistance walking. In the multipurpose area adjacent to the river swimmers can relax and enjoy the back massagers along the pool edge, with two different intensities and spray patterns. Extensive bench seating alongside the perimeter is perfect for visiting with friends and family or for programming opportunities like swim lessons or aqua fitness. Finally, this space is the epitome of functional and flexible with space for basketball and volleyball.

Nestled into space between the current channel and attached lifestyle wellness pool is a 210 square foot whirlpool spa. Ideal for relaxation and rejuvenation, this paradise for relaxation looks out over the rest of the indoor aquatic space.

Outdoors, the waterpark features a 40-foot slide tower with multiple slides, including the world’s longest stand-up slide. The outdoor space also includes a lazy river with a special action channel and hydrotherapy and seating areas, a wave-ball pool, an activity pool and a zero-depth entry pool with play structure for younger children. One of the more popular amenities is the double surf simulator, allowing visitors to knee board or stand-up surf right here in the Midwest.

The outdoor waterslide complex, dubbed Typhoon Plunge, packs in the fun with four unique waterslides, all of which provide their own engaging experiences for the riders. Two of the slides come in at a whopping 35 feet tall or three stories, and the other two slides are 30 feet tall. At the peak of the tower is a 417-foot-long enclosed tube slide and a 285-foot-long body slide, each terminating in runout troughs on the pool deck. At the 30-foot-tall platform, users will find the 350-foot-long Slipstream, a standing waterslide and the 323-foot-long open and enclosed tube slide that terminates into the lazy river. Riders can exit the slide and flow swiftly into the current of the adjacent lazy river.

The Slipstream™ (stand-up slide) is the longest of its kind in the world at 350 feet long, and it is one of only two stand-up slides in the United States. This innovative and exciting new ride engages the rider in a balanced delivery of thrill and skill. Riders coast down the slide on their heels in a gliding motion that makes for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30



The background of the entire page is a vibrant, high-angle photograph of the Blue Surf Bay Waterpark. The scene is filled with various water features, including a large yellow and green looping slide, a red and orange slide, and several smaller slides and pools. The water is a bright, clear blue, and the sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy clouds. The overall atmosphere is one of fun and excitement.

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**Featured Project:
Blue Surf Bay Waterpark**

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BLUE SURF BAY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

a different experience with every ride. Users of all abilities can enjoy the slide, while more advanced and experienced riders can find ways to compete with themselves to achieve the smoothest and fastest ride possible.

In total there is more than a quarter mile of fiberglass to create an epic experience at the Typhoon Plunge waterslide. Every tube and body slide offers distinctive experience and they are enhanced with translucent bands and designs that lend a specific personality to each. All designs and customizations create a unique identity for the slides that are specific to the City of Blue Springs.

The 2,471 square-foot zero-depth entry pool is the perfect spot for families to cool off. The beach-style entry features ground sprays leading up to an interactive play unit that includes a 32-inch enclosed slide, dual racer slide, tipping bucket and deck-level entry features. The pool houses a sun deck with lounge chairs that offers a unique social space allowing both adults and children to enjoy the water and sun while not having to be fully submerged.

One of the more exciting features of Blue Surf Bay Waterpark is the Double Surf-Air by Murphys Waves. This inflatable surf simulator provides an air-cushioned ‘soft fall’ with the highest standard of performance and safety. The Surf-Air can accommodate users of all ages and abilities with its adjustable water flow settings. The surf simulator will keep families

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

SUPPLIERS

Development/Design:

SFS Architecture (Architect-of-Record)
Water Technology Inc (Aquatic Designer and Engineering)

Consultants:

Stantec (Landscape Architecture)
SK Design Group (Civil Engineering)
PKMR Engineers (MEPF Engineering)
Stand Structural Engineering (Structural Engineering)

Construction:

McCownGordon Construction (Construction Manager at-Risk)
Westport Pools – A Landmark Company (Aquatic Construction)

Waterslides:

54" Enclosed and Open Raft Slide to Runout Flume
32" Enclosed and Open Body Slide to Runout Flume
54" Enclosed and Open Raft Slide to Plunge Pool
Slipstream Stand Up Slide
Indoors- 32" Enclosed Body Flume to Runout

Wave pool:

Murphy's Waves (Wave Ball)

Wave generator:

Murphy's Waves (Wave Ball)

Surf simulator:

Murphy's Waves (Double Surf Air Surf Simulator)

Raft/Tubes/Mats:

Tubes- Z-Pro

Children's interactive play structure:

Outdoor Splashtacular with Dumping Bucket and 2 Water

slides with a wide assortment of interactive play components.

Children's equipment: WaterPlay Indoor Splash Pad with appropriate ground sprays and vertical play elements to appeal a wide range of age groups.

Furniture: Tuuci, Telescope Casual, Texcraft, Landscape Forms, Grand Rapids Chair Co.

Lockers: Summit Lockers

Pool and/or deck coatings: Pebble Technology International, PebbleFina (Quartz aggregate finish)

Filtration equipment: Neptune Benson Sand and Regenerative Media

Pumps: Aurora Pumps with Neptune Benson Hair Lint Stainers and Pentair Pumps

Chemical: Sodium Hypochlorite with Muriatic Acid with Blue White Feeders and Neptune Benson CO2 Feeder Controls, Evoqua Medium Pressure UV Supplemental Disinfection Systems.

Chemical controllers: BECS Technology System 7 and System 5

Shade system: Shade Systems, Inc.

Admission system: CivicRec

Uniforms: Keifer

Indoor NinjaCross Systems: 2-lane system

Indoor Rock wall: Big Bamboo Studios

Sauna: Sauna360

Indoor and Exterior Spray Pad Floor Finish: LifeFloor Studio

Pool Heaters: Lochinvar



BLUE SURF BAY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

engaged for hours, with fun for the riders and spectators alike!

Other amenities of the water-park include the Beach Bites covered concession area and the Blue Surf Lookout observation deck, above the concession area, where visitors can escape for an adult beverage, enjoy some quiet time from the pool or soak in a few rays from the sun. The Blue Surf Lookout observation deck also can be rented for private events. •



BRIAN SPANO IS THE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF BLUE SPRINGS, MO. WITH 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS A JOURNALIST AND COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONAL, HE MANAGES ALL OF THE CITY'S MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS.

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