



project services case study

Wildwater Kingdom
Gauga Lake, IL

In 1889 Geauga Lake added its first attraction, a steam-powered carousel. Since then the park has gone through many incarnations and expansions. Early in 2000, Six Flags acquired the park and expanded it by recruiting Aquatic Development Group to design and construct new aquatic features including a wave pool, adventure river and tube complex along with support and mechanical facilities. In 2004, Geauga Lake was acquired by Cedar Fair. The new ownership wanted to eliminate the outdated Sea World park on the south side of the lake and create a brand new waterpark expansion. Aquatic Development group was once again tapped for Design/Build services.

The challenge for ADG was designing and constructing a waterpark in what used to be a Sea World/animal kingdom space. Working with Cedar Fair management, the team at ADG was able to creatively use some existing buildings/facilities for the new pump/filtration systems, locker/changing rooms and restaurants and concessions. Improvements in traffic flow and attention to detail in locating the aquatic features completely transformed this environment into a family friendly fun waterpark.

The proposed 20-acre tropical themed park expansion, to be named Wildwater Kingdom, was to take place over two phases. Phase 1 was completed in May of 2005 with Phase 2 scheduled to open in 2006. For the design of Phase 1, ADG chose to maintain some of the existing Sea World landscape and vegetation and updated some of the existing infrastructure with brightly colored buildings to promote and enhance the character of the park and its tropical theming. Visitors to Wildwater Kingdom can access the park via its own park entrance on the south side of the lake or, for no additional charge, with paid admission to the theme park on Ferry boats or by crossing a floating pedestrian bridge.

In addition to the overall design of the park, ADG contributed aquatic features



including a themed adventure river called Riptide Run incorporating an assortment of interactive enhancements including wave generators, geysers, and spray elements. Coral Cove is an activity pool featuring basketball hoops, interactive water sprays, waterfalls, along with a relaxing whirlpool at the far end of the attraction.

Other park attractions include Splash Landing, an interactive play structure with a 1000 gallon tipping bucket, a Tornado waterslide and Thunder Falls, a seven slide attraction over 100ft tall (formerly Hurricane Mountain) which was moved from North Side of the park.



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