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Eules water park opens in time for Memorial Day

Posted Saturday, May. 18, 2013

Eules residents will soon have a splashy new toy.

The Eules Family Life Center Aquatic Park is intended to be a reasonably priced place where residents can swim, slide and slosh until their skin prunes.

"This is an aquatics facility to serve our citizens," Deputy City Manager Loretta Getchell said. "It is not intended to compete with the commercial water parks in the area."

At its grand opening at 10 a.m. May 25, the 1.5-acre attraction at 300 W. Midway Drive will greet guests with a 325,000-gallon pool, a shallow-water play-and-leisure area, a lazy river around a landscaped island and a multilevel play structure with small slides and all manner of things that squirt, sprinkle and dump water on folks.

The more adventurous types will find a 29-foot slide tower with a 171-foot flume and a 176-foot tube slide that dump riders into the pool. A third large slide has a separate splashdown area.

There are also water-basketball and aerobics areas and a challenging lily pad crossing.

Nowhere in the complex, which started construction in October, is the water deeper than 31/2 feet, Parks Director Ray McDonald said.

"Before, it was just a pool that had been there since the 1950s," McDonald said. "It had been renovated sometime in the mid- to late '80s. It was about 80 by 40 feet. The shell of the pool was still good. We shallowed up the deep end, and it's still part of the facility."

That's part of how the city saved a few million dollars over original estimates, Getchell said.

"Our initial estimates were that it would cost about \$11 million to build," she said. "We did it for \$7.5 million without certificates of obligation, revenue bonds or general obligation bonds — no debt whatsoever."

The city paid for the water park in cash, mostly with money generated by fees from car rental companies, primarily at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, Getchell said.

A 60,000-gallon indoor pool scheduled to open in November is included in the \$7.5 million price, Getchell said.

"That is a large component of what changed," she said. "We're using a design we saw in Fort Bend, where they used a nontraditional space."

The 8,000-square-foot indoor pool facility will have an oblong current channel for rehabilitation and resistance exercise and a few spray features and a slide designed to entertain younger users. It is

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designed to use wind during the summer so there's no need for air conditioning and the chlorine smell isn't overpowering, Getchell said.

The pool itself will be right at 25 meters long and will include swim lanes, McDonald said.

This report includes material from the Star-Telegram archives.

IF YOU GO

- Eules Aquatics Center, 300 W. Midway Drive (Eules Family Life Center)
- The grand opening is at 10 a.m. May 25. It will remain open Memorial Day weekend (through May 27) and then open daily June 1.
- Hours, costs: 817-685-1666

Terry Evans, 817-390-7620



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EULESS FAMILY LIFE AQUATICS PARK THE CITY OF EULESS

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Opening of Euless Aquatic Park postponed

Posted Friday, May. 24, 2013

While the Euless Aquatic Park won't open Memorial Day weekend, plenty of other water parks in Northeast Tarrant County will.

Bedford

- Bedford Splash Aquatic Center, 2817 R.D. Hurt Parkway (Bedford Boys Ranch)
- Opened Friday for season-pass holders and then daily Saturday.
- Hours, costs: bedfordsplash.com

Hurst

- Chisholm Aquatics Center, 2200 Norwood Drive
- Central Aquatics Center, 715 Mary Drive
- Both facilities will be open Memorial Day weekend, then daily starting June 1.
- Hours, costs: ci.hurst.tx.us (click on "Residents," then "Recreation")

Keller

- The Keller Pointe, 405 Rufe Snow Drive
- The outdoor pool and water park opens Memorial Day weekend, then daily starting June 1.
- Hours, costs: cityofkeller.com (click on "Visit & Play," then "The Keller Pointe")

North Richland Hills

- NRH2O, 9001 Boulevard 26
- Opened May 18
- Hours, costs: nrh2o.com

The Euless Family Life Center Aquatic Park will not open Memorial Day weekend as planned.

Instead, the city will open its two other pools a week ahead of schedule with free admission. South Euless Pool, 600 S. Main St., next to South Euless Elementary School, and Wilshire Pool, 315 Sierra Drive

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PAGE 2 OF 2

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in Wilshire Park, will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, noon to 7 p.m. Sunday and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday.

Deputy City Manager Loretta Getchell said the contractor, Progressive Commercial Aquatics, "simply ran out of time and couldn't get all the features installed and tested in time for this weekend. We really wanted to open Memorial Day weekend and hate that we'll miss it, but it will be worth the wait."

Getchell wasn't sure what caused the delay.

But city spokeswoman Betsy Deck said next weekend might be even more appropriate for the grand opening.

"Thursday is the last day of school," she said. "Kids will be out of school on Friday and that's the day it will open, so they'll have lots of time to enjoy it."

Terry Evans, 817-390-7620 Twitter: @fwstevans