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TRUCKEE RIVER WHITEWATER PARK AT WINGFIELD FACT SHEET

Description:

The \$1.5-million Truckee River Whitewater Park at Wingfield was constructed in 2003. It is both Nevada's and the region's first whitewater park and kayak slalom racing course making it arguably the most sophisticated whitewater park in an urban environment in the United States. The park is designed for kayaks, canoes, rafts or inner tubes and is accessible for all levels of water enthusiasts. Located in the heart of downtown Reno, within walking distance of 24-hour hotel-casinos, museums, shopping, dining and more, the Truckee River Whitewater Park is the only whitewater park in the United States that offers all of the following attributes:

- Open year-round with a constant flow of clean, fresh water and favorable climate
- Free for all visitors
- Easy access for water enthusiasts of all levels including individuals with disabilities or unique needs
- Proven to accommodate low water flows and extreme environmental changes ensuring usability during dry spells and high spring runoff
- Higher base water flow than other comparable parks with a typical peak spring flow of 1,500 CFS (cubic feet per second)
- Average water temperature ranges between 50 and 65 degrees Fahrenheit
- Smooth, compacted river bottom free of foot entrapments and other dangerous underwater obstacles
- Located in the hub of a mountainous adventure destination that also offers skiing and snowboarding, golf, mountain biking, hiking, extreme sports and more
- Below-street pedestrian walkway at Arlington Avenue for convenient mobility between east and west ends of the Park. Ramps at the top and bottom of the park provide zero-depth entry and wheel chair access.
- Close proximity to Reno-Tahoe International Airport and Interstate 80
- Forked river surrounds island-like Wingfield Park which houses an amphitheater and facilities for concerts, festivals and other special events and divides the Park into north and south channels
- Barbara Bennett Park rests on the Park's south bank, providing basketball and tennis courts, picnic areas and restroom facilities
- Tiered riverbank seating for spectators and athletes

Truckee River Whitewater Park Features:

North Channel

- 1,400-foot-long freestyle kayaking course
- Five drop pools
- Difficulty level varies depending on environmental changes and water flow; ranges from class two to three on a scale of one to six
- Historically, has produced some of the highest freestyle scores in professional competition, rewarding the technical boater for well-rounded consistent skill and ability

South Channel

- 1,200-foot-long slalom kayak racing course
- Six drop pools
- Designed by Olympic, World Cup, World Championship and National Championship kayak slalom racer Scott Shipley

Background:

Kayaking and whitewater rafting have been enjoyed on the Truckee River since the 1960s but unfortunately the river lacked proper public access, environmental improvements and navigability. In January 1999, the Nevada Commission on Tourism (NCOT) began exploring the possibility of building a whitewater park on the Truckee River in downtown Reno to create a compelling new recreation and adventure attraction.

The NCOT met with the city councils and parks and recreation commissions of Reno and Sparks, the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, the Nevada Division of State Lands, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Sierra Pacific Power Company, Washoe County Board of Commissioners, the Washoe County Parks and Recreation Director and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the project. A feasibility study was conducted and a plan for the project was put in place.

In 2002, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Board of Directors agreed to pay \$1.5 million to build the whitewater park and kayak course as its mitigation for restricting recreational boating as a result of rebuilding Farad Dam on the Truckee River, just west of the Nevada border. It was later decided not to wait for the dam construction to be completed. Nevada voters passed a \$232-million statewide ballot measure authorizing funding for improvement projects around the state, including \$10 million for the Truckee River within Washoe County. With a source of funding now in place, design work began that year.

In June 2003, two Reno hoteliers, Don Carano of the Eldorado Hotel-Casino and Phil Satre of Harrah's Reno, offered to loan the city \$500,000 each to "bridge" the cost of construction until bond funding became available. The City of Reno also agreed to loan \$500,000 to the project, for the total of \$1.5 million needed to temporarily cover construction and design costs. On July 16, 2003 the Reno City Council awarded a construction contract to build the Truckee River Whitewater Park at Wingfield to low-bidder Cruz Excavating, Inc. of Incline Village, Nev.

On Aug. 7, 2003 state and local officials and community leaders held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Truckee River Whitewater Park at Wingfield. In September, construction in the Park's north channel was completed ahead of schedule and water began to flow, opening up the park to kayakers and boaters. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in November and the official grand opening of the park was celebrated during the inaugural Reno River Festival, May 14-16, 2004.

Park Credits:

- Owner: City of Reno, Nev.
- Management of river bottom and banks to high water level: State of Nevada
- Architect: Gary Lacy, Recreation Engineering & Planning, Boulder, Colo.
- Design team: Kennedy Jenks Consultants and CFA, Inc., Reno, Nev.; Resource Concepts, Inc., Carson City, Nev.
- Contractor: Cruz Excavating, Inc., Incline Village, Nev.

Web site:

For more information about the Truckee River Whitewater Park, visit www.RenoRiverFestival.com
www.visitrenotahoe.com/plan_your_trip/outdoors/kayak_park
www.cityofreno.com/Index.aspx?page=311

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