

End Spring with a Splash! White Water opens May 23

Contributed by Sarah Williams
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It has been a very blah and rainy spring here in the Ozarks. It's great for my plants, but not so great for playtime as a family outdoors.

I often find myself trapped in the house on these rainy days dreaming of the ocean surf lapping against the shore as I lounge in the warmth of the sun and enjoy a great novel. Then I wake up and realize that sound is actually the washing machine and there is no way our budget can handle a Caribbean vacation any time soon.

However, I can look forward to lots of fun in the sun this summer at White Water! I love floating in the lazy river and playing in the wave pool. There are plenty of rides to thrill like the new Kalani Towers Freefall Slide - a 300 ft drop at speeds over 40 mph! Or the Mat Racing Slides where you can race your family and friends down a 4 lane multi-drop slide. There's plenty for my family to enjoy together at RainTree Island, a 20,000 square foot island adventure featuring water slides, aqua-shooters, exciting splash geysers, elevated walkways and a 150-foot long escape slide. Just for my little one there's Splash Island a kid-friendly play structure that's just her size! And there's so much more!

I've also heard from my friends at White Water that there is a new and improved park entrance this year! No more standing in that long line on blazing hot pavement! White Water has built a new ticket booth area at the entrance of the park, with nearly double the number of ticket windows. And, if you have already purchased your ticket ahead of time or have a season pass you can bypass the ticket booths all together and head straight for the turnstiles with your ticket. My favorite part is that White Water has added some fabulous landscaping including trees and exotic plants to add both shade and atmosphere to the new area.

Luckily, in just a few short days I can turn my beach fantasies into a visit to my favorite Beach Within Reach - White Water!