

Lakeside town of Ottertail now has even more water with new facility

Thumper Pond opens water park

By Heidi Sunderman
Special Correspondent

6-22-06

Imagine the fun of racing down a water-slide with sounds and lights, leisurely floating around a lazy river, or basking in a hot tub with a waterfall cascading down.

All of this will soon be available when Thumper Pond Resort in Ottertail opens their indoor waterpark.

The opening date for Northern Hideaway Indoor Waterpark is set for July 1.

The 12,000 square foot waterpark will be open both to guests of Thumper Pond Resort and the general public, according to Karolyn McCarte, director of sales and marketing at Thumper Pond. The waterpark will have a northwoods theme.

For the enjoyment of infants and toddlers, there will be a beach entry pool that never reaches a depth greater than 10 inches. This pool contains a toddler slide, a run out slide, water noodles, a water gun, and geysers. There are also several brown dump buckets which gradually fill up with water and then pour out from their positions in trees into the pool below.

Older kids and adults will be able to enjoy an activity pool with two basketball hoops and a log floatie, a 157 foot lazy river, and an elevated hot tub which seats twenty people. Water in the main pool area will be kept at a pleasant 85 degrees, even in the winter.

The main attractions of the waterpark are the two enclosed outdoor waterslides. In order to go down the slides, a rider must go through the entrance of a bear cave and climb several flights of stairs to the top of the slide tower. On top of the three story slide tower, there is an observation deck which provides a spectacular view of Otter Tail County.

The first slide which riders can choose to go down is a body slide which runs 186 feet in length. The slide begins at the top of the slide tower and ends by pouring out into the indoor pool below.

Carrying riders down its thrilling 250 feet, the other slide contains sounds and lights which create a themed ride. Riders are given several options of both scary and fun themes which they can pick to enhance their riding experience. Inner tubes are used with this slide and there will also be two-person



Heidi Sunderman / Perham Enterprise Bulletin photo

Some of the features at the new Thumper Pond water park in Ottertail are pictured here.

tubes available for riders wishing to share the experience with someone else.

There will be a log cabin snack bar serving beverages, pizza, nachos, ice cream, and other treats to help keep energy high for kids and adults alike. An upper deck will be available for parties and additional seating.

Carri Ann Schuman, front desk receptionist at Thumper Pond expressed her enthusiasm for the effect the waterpark will have on the area.

"It will definitely increase traffic flow to Ottertail," she said. Schuman also mentioned how exciting it is to have a facility like this that can be used not only by guests of the resort, but locals as well.

Guests at Thumper Pond will have free access to the waterpark and the general public will have the opportunity to purchase day passes unless the hotel is at 85 percent occupancy or higher.



Before making the trip to Thumper Pond, it is a good idea to call ahead to check if they are offering day passes. The phone number to call with questions regarding day passes or any other waterpark related questions is (218) 367-2000.

Thumper Pond's Northern Hideaway Indoor Waterpark will be open 365 days a year.