

Portland premiers new \$3.4 million water park



PORTLAND, Ind. (WANE) – Hundreds of kids and their families showed up for the opening of Portland, Indiana’s new \$3.4 million water park on Saturday.

The park features two 20-foot water slides that cost a combined \$190,000. Other features include a 60-gallon dump bucket, a lazy river, a lily pad walk, swim lanes and a concession stand.

The city used \$2.25 million of its reserved funds and \$1.2 million in community donations to pay for the water park.

The city’s pool has officially called the Portland Pool since it opened in 1954. The project to convert it into a water park has been in the works for more than three years. Pool staff said the old pool was becoming an “eyesore” and becoming too expensive to maintain.

Portland Mayor Randy Geesaman said the water park will raise the city’s quality of life and be a go-to summer destination for families, as well as give kids a place to participate in healthy activities.

He plans to bring his 11 grandchildren to the park.

“To know that they have a place where the entire family, whether it It’s mom and dad and the children or maybe even the grandchildren, have a place where they can all come together as a community and enjoy a lot of different features, not just a swimming pool but a lot of other things that might have available,” he said. “It makes you feel very well as a parent and a grandparent.”

People can look forward to swimming and water aerobics classes at the water park this summer. It’s also available for party rentals on Saturday nights.

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