

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** December 2, 2024
SUBJECT: NRH₂O Family Water Park Update
PRESENTER: Frank Perez, NRH₂O General Manager

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Staff will report on activities at NRH₂O Family Water Park.

REVIEW OF EVENTS

A. Off Season Activities – NRH₂O staff is focusing on necessary repairs and upgrades to attractions and buildings throughout the facility. This includes repairs to various motors and pumps, concrete repairs, and plumbing repairs to have everything ready to go for the 2025 season. Larger repairs this off-season include a brand new motor and pump assembly for one of the Endless River motors, 2 brand new walk in cooler units, and several drainage repairs designed to help the park minimize potential shutdowns due to heavy rains in the spring.

B. Hiring – Park staff is also working on hiring and incentive plans to aid with staffing for the 2025 season. The beginning of the rehire season starts earlier than you think with the annual Christmas event for team members. Traditionally, the park will host a holiday event for past team members to allow them to meet back up with all of their summer friends and enjoy an evening of fun. This year, the park will be taking the team members to a Brahmas hockey game at NYTEX.



Soon after, NRH₂O staff will begin visiting the local high schools for team member recruitment. Over 50% of park staff is made up of Birdville ISD students. NRH₂O also hosts a rehire event at Alley Cats in early February to begin the rehire paperwork process and meet potential new hires.

C. Polar Plunge – The park is excited to again host the annual Polar Plunge on Saturday, February 1, 2025. This event benefits the Special Olympics of Texas – Greater Fort Worth area and this year marks more than 16 years of NRH₂O partnering with Special Olympics for this amazing event. Participants will plunge for proceeds by taking a teeth-chattering dip into freezing cold water! Registration on plunge day will start at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact Jordan Baccus at jbaccus@sotx.org or Michael Shelley at mshelley@nrhtx.com. Proceeds help support more than 4,200 athletes in the Greater Fort Worth Area.



D. Main Entry Sign Replacement – NRH₂O has multiple capital projects this offseason, including one to replace the original main entry sign. The existing main entry sign has been in place since the park opened in 1995. The new sign will feature an LED panel facing both sides of Boulevard 26, along with the NRH₂O logo displayed over each LED panel. This new sign will set off the main entrance to the park and allow many more marketing opportunities not only for the park, but also for city events. The sign is expected to be in place by the start of the 2025 season.



E. Nitro Blast Update – The highly anticipated debut of the Nitro Blast in 2025 is getting closer. Construction crews are working to prepare the tower for the new deck and slide pieces. Crews from ProSlide, the manufacturer of the Nitro Blast, are also already on site and placing sections of slide together to aid in overall slide construction in the new year. The slide is anticipated to be ready for the 2025 season and will be a centerpiece for the park for years to come, presenting water park guests with an entertaining, dual racing slide that not only has three times the throughput of the Green Extreme, but will also provide substantial electrical savings and will operate in an overall more efficient manner.





F. NRH₂O Staff Commitment – NRH₂O staff continues to be committed to both the water park industry and representing the City of NRH through industry leading professional associations. Staff continue to be asked to represent the industry at many state, national, and international conferences and trainings such as the World Water Park Association, the annual IAAPA conference, the Pool and Hot Tub Alliance, and the Ellis & Associates International Safety School. Through these opportunities staff not only continue to represent NRH₂O as one of the leaders in the water park industry, but also take advantage of these opportunities to stay on the cutting edge of industry trends as well as being included in setting policies and best practices for the industry as a whole. This year, NRH₂O Assistant General Manager, Stephanie Hee-Johnston, was elected to the World Water Park Association's Board of Directors. This honor comes after many years of her being the chair person of the WWA marketing committee.