Water World Timeline

2014 Season

1979  Bonzai Pipeline – two 400-foot slides
1980  Surf’s Up – 500,000-gallon wave pool; Hotdogger – two more 400-foot slides
1981  Kamikazee – two 310-foot slides
1982  Surfer’s Cove, including first raft ride – Tortuga Run, two corkscrew slides, small pool with slides; Screamin’ Mimi – 100-foot sled ride with a 30-foot drop
1984  Thunder Bay – 1 million gallon wave pool featuring 4-foot waves and first surfing contest in Colorado history
1985  Total attendance tops 1 million
1986  River Country – 720-foot Raging Colorado family white water raft ride, Lazy River, and six individual water slides with combined length of .6 miles; Thrill Hill expansion begins with White Lightning – dual 300-foot body slides with 55-foot drop

Single season attendance breaks 325,000
1987  Wally World – 9,000 square foot miniature water park for tots; Jet Stream at Thrill Hill – two 230-foot enclosed tubes for body sliding; Pier Shooter at Surf’s Up – three enclosed tube slides for body sliding
1988  Total attendance tops 2 million
1990  Lost River of the Pharaohs – first themed and partially dark ride in water park history, featuring 1,500-foot journey into and through a ruined Egyptian pyramid with water flows of 15,000 gallons per minute
1991  Tandemonium completes the Thrill Hill expansion
Total attendance tops 3 million
1993  “Surfer’s Cove” is remodeled into Calypso Cove – interactive water play structure “Pier Shooter” is redesigned to become the Bermuda Triangle – three body tubes mounted on a four-story “weather station” platform
Voyage to the Center of the Earth opens and receives the World Water Park Innovation Award
Grand Pavilion of the Pharaohs – 4,662-square-foot party area with seating for more than 400 guests, offering catered meals with exclusive concessions, restrooms, a private entrance and private parking
Lost River and Water World receive World Water Park Association’s Leadership Award and Innovation Award
Water World receives the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association’s Organizational Citation Award
1994  Total attendance tops 4 million
1996  The Wave, the world’s first dual surfing experience, opens
Total attendance tops 5 million
1997  FunHouse, the largest addition to Water World, opens
1998  Water World celebrates its 20th season in business
Total attendance tops 6 million
2000  Zoomerang, a giant half-pipe water slide almost 4 stories high, debuts to rave reviews Water World rated #7 in the Travel Channel’s “Best of 2000: Top Ten Water Parks in the Country”
2002  Over 527,000 fun-seekers visit Water World in its 95-day season, breaking a park record for per-season attendance and bringing total all time attendance up to 7.8 million visitors
2003  Storm hovers and lands at Water World during Water World’s 25th anniversary, adding to the park’s three impressive family dark rides. One of only 21 of its kind in the world, Water World’s Storm is 700 feet long; with a 60-foot vertical drop and a 10 percent incline that will take nearly 1,000 people per hour on the stormiest ride of their lives.

2004  Water World played host to Hollywood when The Surfer King was filmed on location at Hyland Hills. Water World named one of the Top Ten Best Water Parks in America by The Travel Channel.

2005  Water World unveils, The Revolution, featuring the park’s first ever tube conveyor. The conveyor is capable of carrying the 20-pound, 7-foot diameter, 4-passenger cloverleaf style tubes up to the top of the six-story tower, allowing up to 700 guests per hour to enjoy the attraction. Guests and tube will be catapulted through 241 feet of a 9-foot diameter enclosed flume into an enormous 60-foot diameter open bowl. Before making an exciting exit, inertia energy will propel guests into a three-revolution spin in the open-aired basin. The Behemoth Bowl product offered by Canadian slide manufacturer, ProSlide Technology, Inc., is one of only two in the country.

2006  The Surfer King premiers April 5 at the Buell Theatre in Denver with a red carpet reception for the stars. This teen romantic-comedy featured Hollywood actors Lindsay Wagner and Alan Thicke, and was produced locally by director Bernard Murray and IMS Productions.

2007  Water World’s TurboRacer opens. The eight-lane, racetrack slide is the tallest of its kind in the world, standing at 61 feet. The ride is the park’s first mat and headfirst ride. The attraction is also Water World’s most efficient ride, moving more than 1,000 riders through every hour.

2008  Hyland Hills Water World opens its family-friendly area, The Big Top. The new circus themed area spans three acres and includes new slides, a family-style lazy river and circus animals galore.

2009  Water World celebrated its 30th Anniversary and re-opens the magnificent Thunder Bay, their gigantic wave pool that originally opened in 1984. The new Thunder Bay wave technology uses highly pressurized forced air to move the water in new ways that result in the perfect ocean-style wave…and a perfect ocean-style ride in a landlocked state!

2010  Water World hosts Colorado’s largest entry into the Guinness World Record Book event for the World’s Largest Swimming Lesson. The event was in collaboration with the World Waterpark Association and a collection of other swimming related entities.

2011  One of Water World’s favorite attractions, the Bermuda Triangle, gets a pirate-themed makeover and a new name, Pirate’s Plunge. The remodel takes advantage of the three-story existing tower and turns the attraction into a pirate ship motif…AARRRRRG!

2012  Water World adds two new attractions, Double Dare and the Mile High Flyer. Double Dare is a two-person tube, side-by-side speed racer Pro-slide. The Mile High Flyer is the first hydro-magnetic family water coaster to hit the area! It was one of the most complicated attractions ever attempted.

2014  Water World celebrates 35 epic summers!

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