Pool of water parks broadens

Two new parks in Travelers Rest, Piemont will join Discovery Island

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Two new water parks in Travelers Rest and Piedmont will open next week for their debut summer, while a third water park in Simpsonville will begin its sixth season.

The three parks open at 10 a.m. Saturday with each featuring a variety of slides and pools, according to the Greenville County Recreation District.

The new ones are Otter Creek at Northside Park in Travelers Rest and 7th Inning Splash at Lakeside Park in Piedmont.

Discovery Island, which first opened in 2005, is at Southside Park in Simpsonville.

Admission rates at the parks vary according to height with full price running $7 at 7th Inning Splash and $10 at Otter Creek and Discovery Island. Those who want to enter the parks but not go in the water pay $3 at each one.

Otter Creek features a leisure pool, a 2,400-square-foot splash pad and several slides, including some for small children.

7th Inning Splash will have a traditional pool and a 5,000-square-foot splash pad resembling Fenway Park. The main attraction is a slide that swishes swimmers around in a large bowl before dropping them into a pool.

Discovery Island has slides, a lazy river, a leisure pool and the new FlowRider surfing simulator.

The parks collectively provide about 250 seasonal jobs and are funded by a hospitality tax that adds 2 percent to restaurant bills in the county's unincorporated areas.

The water parks will be open weekends only until June 4 and then go to a seven-day-a-week schedule for several weeks. From Aug. 15-Sept. 6, the parks go back to weekends only.

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