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Elephant Splash Pool opens

JUNE 24, 2008

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P060032 1/06

African elephants Lilac and Genny C can do the elephant paddle all summer long.

Today marks the official opening of Elephant Splash Pool at the Seneca Park Zoo. Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks and zoo officials held a ribbon cutting ceremony by the pool at 10 a.m.

The 50,000-gallon pool is located at the south end of the elephant yard, about 15 feet from visitors at the zoo, 2222 St. Paul St.

The splash pool features a sloping entrance that resembles a watering hole in the elephants' native environment. This is the final piece of the zoo's

\$4.4 million elephant exhibit, which opened to the public in April 2006.

"The addition of this splash pool completes the original vision for this exhibit and allows the elephants to express their complete range of behaviors," said Zoo Director Larry Sorel. "It will be very rewarding to see it put to full use."

The addition of the pool is partly the result of the zoo's Experience Great Things Campaign, which in 2006 raised about \$250,000 for the zoo. Donations through the Seneca Park Zoo Society also helped fund the \$1.1 million splash pool.

The campaign replaced the zoo's original fundraising effort to support Genny C's calf. After the baby died before delivery in February 2007, zoo and county officials renamed the effort.

This morning, Brooks also unveiled an observation area near the new pool to honor late campaign co-chairman Gabe Dalmath, who, according to county and zoo officials, "loved the zoo."

Dalmath, who served as campaign chairman with his wife, Jean, died in September 2006.

The splash pool marks the end of the second part of a three-phase "A Step into [Africa](#)" Ngorongoro Crater Exhibit at the rear of the zoo. The third phase features an exhibit for lions and a Crater Lodge, which will include an indoor concession and viewing area.

VFREILE@DemocratandChronicle.com

In your voice

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RochBoy wrote:

I had no idea there was still a zoo in Rochester??!! With a real elephant and a splash pool? Golly, I bet for the 500 people out of the 1.2 million in the metro that actually visited this poor excuse for a city zoo, this has got to be really exciting news. Last time I was home, I think there were slightly more animals to behold at Lollypop Farm.

On the other hand, if you really want to see a zoo that has been designed, staffed, and funded well, all you need to do is to drive the 70 miles to go see it. It's in, um...Buffalo.

I'll never understand Rochester. We always seem to make due with something that is



One of the elephants takes advantage of the new Elephant Splash Pool at the Seneca Park Zoo today. (TINA YEE staff photographer)

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half-arsed compared to other cities our size. Like the new airport terminal that looked great for about two years and then started to look run-down after that. Not that it could have been built of brick or something.. Or the initial joke that was played on us by this idiot architect and his plans for the new Renaissance Square that tried to make us out to be Dusseldorf.

6/24/2008 3:04:12 PM

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mytsweet wrote:

Replying to EmptyNester:

And What would you propose? Elephants in the wild do enjoy splashing in pools and doing elephant things. I agree with the last post about the poachers! Further more is it so horrible for children to learn that if we all don't do our part that in the long run those animals that they were so facinated with in childhood will not exist when they are adults?! I think that if kids can be excited about the animals they will inturn get excited about preserving them!

Poor critters. An animal as magestic, intelligent and socialiable as an elephant is supposed to be thrilled with a splash pool?! The zoo is disgusting. All kids learn there is how to exploit wildlife for amusement.

6/24/2008 1:40:57 PM

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alphasquirrel wrote:

Replying to EmptyNester:

Poor critters. An animal as magestic, intelligent and socialiable as an elephant is supposed to be thrilled with a splash pool?! The zoo is disgusting. All kids learn there is how to exploit wildlife for amusement.

You right. We should send the elephants back to Zambia where the poachers make sure they don't have to worry about growing old.

6/24/2008 12:26:26 PM

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EmptyNester wrote:

Poor critters. An animal as magestic, intelligent and socialiable as an elephant is supposed to be thrilled with a splash pool?! The zoo is disgusting. All kids learn there is how to exploit wildlife for amusement.

6/24/2008 12:22:41 PM

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mytsweet wrote:

I came from the southern tier and I can tell you that Rochesters zoo puts the one in Binghamton to shame; further more all four of My kids LOVE the zoo! My 3 year old LOVES the elephants! Zoo's are meant to bring animals that children would not normally see closer to them so that they can learn about the different animals. Funding is always an issue for zoos and ect. My suggestion to you if you think it is a waste of time and money **CONTRIBUTE MONEY TO THE ZOO!** Spend money to make it worth your while other wise don't go. there are many people who do enjoy the zoo and are looking forward to the changes they are making!

6/24/2008 11:47:38 AM

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