



Three years later, all-wet idea a splash for area kids

In most editions of **Take 5**, co-publishers Greg Crawford and Todd Elwood will do stuff. Then, in this cleverly named article, they'll share their experience in alternating remarks.

For this Greg and Todd Do Stuff article, the pair enjoys the official opening of the Rotary Centennial Splash Park.

Todd: Rotary International celebrated its 100th year of existence in 2004. As such, each of the international organization's 32,000 clubs was encouraged to undertake a special project commemorating the centennial.

Fountain Hills is home to two Rotary Clubs, and at the time of the centennial, they

decided to work together on their centennial project.

A scant three years later, and the Rotary Centennial Splash Park finally made its official debut.

Sometimes that Rotary wheel turns slowly.

Actually, the wheel's rotation got snagged in a jumble of Maricopa County governmental red tape. But what's done is done, so I won't dwell on those negative aspects of the project.

Instead, Greg and I, along with our lovely brides and respective children, frolicked in the spraying water.

Eventually, Man, I thought those speeches would never end.

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Marty Brown, left, and Dick Bauer get cooled off at the dedication of the splash park. Both men chaired the committee overseeing the Rotary centennial project.



A group of kids are soaked by the bucket of water at the splash park.



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Greg: And neither did the kids, who despite the pomp and circumstance, waited patiently until the ribbon was cut.

Then we all stood waiting for the water to begin flowing.

Saturday, April 7, was a perfect day for the event – sunny, not a cloud in the sky and just warm enough to enjoy a good cooling off.

I brought my 15-month old Emily to enjoy the event.

And when the spray finally hit, it was more than just cool.

I may have screamed like a, well, 15-month old.

Todd: Yes, the water did feel nippy on the skin, but that didn't stop the kids.

Which is how it should be. This park is for them.

The nautical themed splash park has water-squirting sea creatures, a bucket-dumping boat and other spraying toys for the tots.

For the adult, it features benches.

That's just as well, too. Sometimes watching the kids is tiring enough.

Greg and I did our best to get wet, though. He stood beneath the bucket, and I skipped through the misting ribs of a blue whale.

Neither of us lasted more than a few minutes before bee-lining straight for warm towels.

We're babies.

Greg: My little baby had a good time, cautiously touching

the small shooting streams of water.

When she was unexpectedly hit with water, it got her excited.

Then dad had to pick her

up and shield her from the spray.

Still, the kids enjoyed the interactive water features.

Just some words of caution, those benches, they're not

completely out of reach from errant spray.

The Splash Pad will be open 7-days a week from 9 a.m. to sunset, through Sept. 30.



Emily Crawford, 15 months, enjoys the cool spray of water at the Rotary Centennial Splash Park at Fountain Park. Little Emily along with several dozen other kids enjoyed the official opening of the splash park.



(Above) Mayor Wally Nichols cuts the ribbon along with Dick Bauer, center, and Marty Brown to officially open the Rotary Centennial Splash Park.

(Below) Joann Daniels keeps her grandson, Mason Crain, warm after a cool play in the splash park.

