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# Great Park leaders accept \$320,000 toward study of water science park

Wild Rivers and Discovery Science museum are backing the plan, as a nearby water park is set to close after the summer season.

**By SEAN EMERY**  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

IRVINE – Wild Rivers' time in Irvine may be running out, but city leaders have agreed to further study plans for a new water science park at the Great Park.

The Great Park board of directors on Thursday accepted a \$320,000 contribution from Clearwater, LLC for the water science park study. Clearwater was created by Wild Rivers and the Discovery Science Museum in Santa Ana to develop the water science park.

Wild Rivers is operating on borrowed time at its Irvine location near the 405 Freeway and Irvine Center Drive, with the Irvine Co. hoping to develop new housing in the area.

When word got out about Wild Rivers' closure, a "Save Wild Rivers" campaign began, complete with a Web site and Facebook.com group. The Irvine Co. has since given Wild Rivers several lease extensions, with the park slated to close after next summer.

Great Park leaders see the proposed water science park as a place where visitors could be educated as well as entertained.

While officials have not yet identified a specific location for the water-science park, preliminary studies have focused on the Great Parks sports park district, which is on the western perimeter of the former El Toro Base.

Fifteen acres would be needed for the water science park, as well as 5 acres for potential future expansion, according to studies released by the Great Park Corporation.

Contact the writer: 949-553-2911 or [semery@ocregister.com](mailto:semery@ocregister.com)



Mason Dimock, front, and Sean Conklin, back, end up backwards on the Congo River ride at Wild Rivers water park in Irvine. Conklin made the trip from San Diego to visit the park and his friend.