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Durango's New Whitewater Park Is Open for the Season

Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Trail Tours Honored to Run First Commercial Trip Through New Smelter Rapids!

DURANGO, Colo. – The new Durango Whitewater Park on the Animas River opened for the 2014 rafting season last Friday. Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Trail Tours had the honor of running the first commercial trip through the new park!

“Durango's whitewater park, simply put, is *awesome*,” said Alex Mickel, owner at Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Trail Tours. “Personally, I cannot wait to experience this new ride at all the different water levels! Compared to the old park, the new park will really showcase enhanced whitewater features, even at lower water levels.”

The \$1 million project created and improved numerous new in-river features alongside Santa Rita Park. As part of construction, the riverbed at Smelter Rapids and throughout the whitewater park is was grouted and larger rocks relocated.

In the 1980s, Durango became the first community in the nation to construct a whitewater park, but throughout the last 25 years, major snowpack water runoffs have moved around rocks, changing the rapids and river flow. With grouting and stabilization, the new features in the whitewater park will be much more permanent, adding features for both top level and recreational boaters. Furthermore, the new park will secure Durango's Recreational In-channel Diversion (RICD) water rights for the Animas River.

With in-stream construction complete, shoreline improvements will continue to be made, including redevelopment of the Animas River Trail and new park amenities.

Find a rendering of the new whitewater park design and photos from the first commercial trip on [Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Trail Tours' Facebook Page](#).

About Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Trail Tours

In their 20th year of business, Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Trail Tours is a family-owned tourism adventure center with operations in Colorado, Utah and Arizona. Offering whitewater rafting, inflatable kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, Jeep trail expeditions, Mesa Verde National Park tours and Durango train packages, Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Trails Tours strives for the best in customer service with an unparalleled guarantee, “If you are not absolutely delighted with our guides and equipment, the trip is free!” Proud to share the best of the Southwest, meet the Mild to Wild family at www.Mild2WildRafting.com. Escape, explore, experience, and always, live with adventure.

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