



Coming to Sensory-Friendly Hour at Battle Creek Waterworks

You'll arrive by bus or by car, and walk up to the admissions office entrance. There might be a line of families like yours who are very excited to get into the waterpark. Kids may be jumping around, loud and doing what kids do.

Once you've paid at the front desk, you'll get a chance to borrow a life jacket, which is especially important if you aren't a strong swimmer. You'll also hear some music, which we have playing throughout the waterpark. It's not on very loud, but you will hear it.

Then, you'll proceed to the changing room, where you can get into your swimsuit if you aren't already. It can also be rather loud in this confined space. You'll shower off before you get into the water, so it might be a bit chilly on your way to the water.

Once inside the park, you'll want to find a place for your towels and other belongings. There are some tables and chairs available for you to use. Place your belongings there and then you can hop into the water.



You'll see people in blue and red uniforms with whistles and rescue buoys in their arms. They are there to rescue anyone who is in trouble in the water. They may blow their whistles to get people's attention or to alert for an emergency, so be prepared for that. The whistles are loud.

You will see two pools in the park. One is a zero-depth entry pool, meaning that it slopes gently into the water, with a big play structure in the middle of it. This pool is only 18" deep at its deepest.



The play structure is the really fun, crazy part. Water comes out of all sorts of places and can be controlled by anyone through valves around the play structure. There are also three slides to go down.



Water will also shoot out of the ground near the shallow end of the pool.

It's fun and chaotic, but if it's too much, you can always move to another part of the park.

The other pool is five feet deep and has a curvy, tall waterslide. You can go down the waterslide by climbing the stairs (about two stories tall).



There might be a line, so you may have to wait. When you get to the top of the waterslide, you'll wait until you get a signal to go from a life-guard. There is some whooshing water, you'll sit down, and push yourself down the slide. When you get to the bottom, you're in a somewhat deep pool and might plunge under the water. Then, you stand up and move to the stairs.





There is also a set of lily pads and a cargo net to use to cross the pool.

At the top of the hour, there is a safety break that usually lasts 10-15 minutes. The lifeguards will blow their whistles, and ask everyone to get out of the pool. There is some chaos with everyone getting out. Many people will go to the concession stand to get some food.



There is also a sand play area that gets a bit busier during the safety breaks, but it's usually a bit quieter than the rest of the pool area. This might be an excellent place to get away from the hubbub if things get to be too much.



Otherwise, you can always get a stamp and leave the waterpark, and you can reenter when you're ready. When it's time to leave, you'll change in the locker rooms. Then you can grab your things and head out through the main entrance.

Enjoy the waterpark!