



Elite Casino Hospitality Group Breaks Ground on Blackjack Beach, a \$35 Million RV Resort, Water Park and Event Destination in Riverside

RIVERSIDE, Iowa — Elite Hospitality Group, a subsidiary of Elite Casino Resorts, broke ground on Blackjack Beach RV & Water Resort, a \$35 million luxury RV resort, water park, and event destination, at a ceremony on Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. at the project site, located directly across Highway 22 from Riverside Casino & Golf Resort. The family-oriented development creates a true multi-generational getaway designed for guests of all ages.

Elite Casino Resorts CEO Dan Kehl was joined at the ceremony by Riverside Mayor Allen Schneider, Melanie Bimson, Executive Director of Washington Economic Development Group, Nancy Bird, President and CEO of Greater Iowa City, Inc., and members of the Elite Casino Resorts board of directors.

“Twenty years ago, we bet on Riverside and Washington County, and that partnership has exceeded every expectation,” said Dan Kehl, CEO of Elite Casino Resorts. “Blackjack Beach is the next chapter — a \$35 million investment that makes Riverside a true family destination. When we put a shovel in the ground today, we’re building something that will bring families back to this community summer after summer for generations.”

The centerpiece of Blackjack Beach is a resort-style aquatic park spanning more than 70,000 square feet, featuring over 13,000 square feet of water attractions, including a 447-foot lazy river, a dedicated activity pool, a lounge pool, a relaxing hot tub, a 30-foot waterslide tower, an inflatable water park on the lake and a swim-up bar with poolside seating. The aquatic area will accommodate nearly 700 guests and is surrounded by more than 56,000 square feet of accessible deck space.

Anchoring the resort is a 14,131-square-foot clubhouse featuring a 3,600-square-foot banquet and event space, a full-service bar and commercial kitchen, a camp store, and guest amenities — creating a year-round venue for weddings, corporate gatherings, reunions and group events.

Phase one of the RV resort will offer 154 premium sites — including coveted lakefront sites, 65 pull-through sites, 10 oversized double pull-through sites, and 79 back-in sites — all served by modern bath houses, playgrounds, and a trail connection linking the property to the surrounding community. The site plan reserves additional ground for future phases of development.

A stocked lake adds to the natural beauty of the 200-acre site and gives guests even more ways to enjoy the outdoors, with opportunities for swimming, fishing, and kayak rentals just steps from their campsites.

Construction will begin following the groundbreaking, with Blackjack Beach welcoming its first guests in the summer of 2027. The development is expected to draw new overnight visitors to the region throughout the camping season.

For more information, visit blackjackbeachresort.com or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.