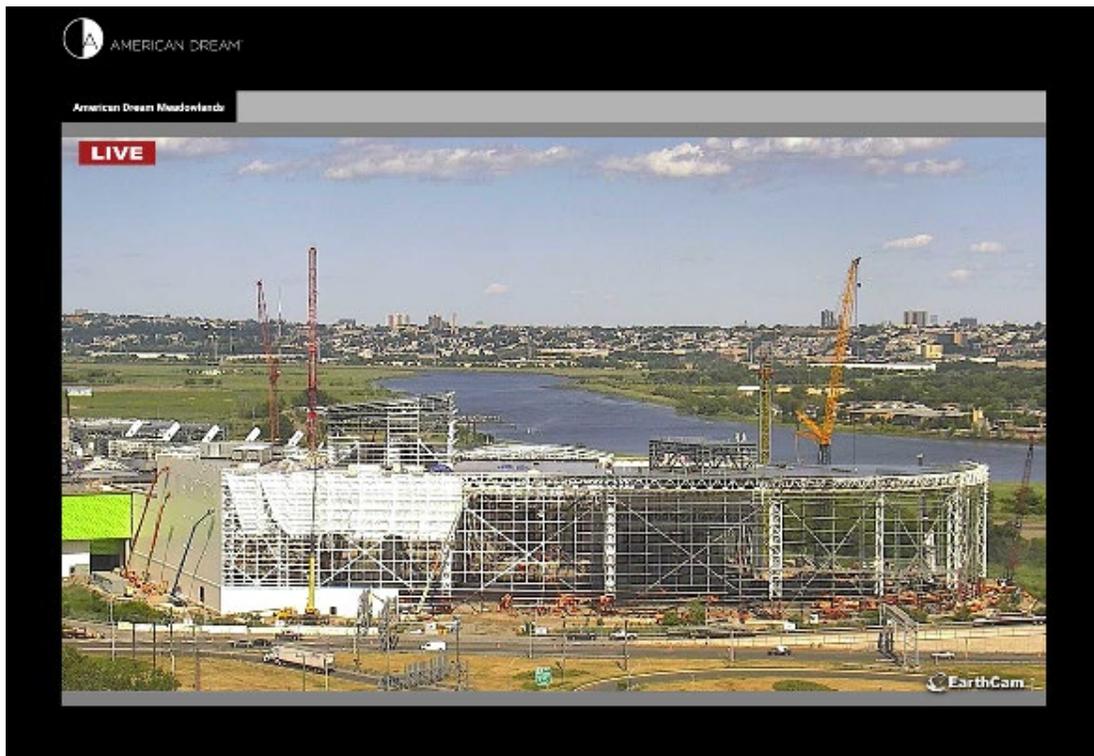


American Dream Meadowlands Sets Opening Date

By Daniel Hubbard • August 17, 2018



The \$3 billion entertainment and retail destination is expected to draw between 30 and 40 million visitors in its first year.

BERGEN COUNTY, NJ — American Dream Meadowlands will open in the spring as work continues on the \$3 billion retail and entertainment destination, an American Dream spokesperson confirmed Thursday.

Construction work is being done on the entire site, which developer Triple Five has called “the most expensive retail project on earth.” The overall building should be fully enclosed within the next six to eight weeks.

Construction on the DreamWorks Water Park can be seen from the highway. Five, 150-foot steel arches for the park’s glass dome are being built. The waterpark is slated to open after the rest of American Dream Meadowlands does, but construction teams are working on moving that opening date up, the spokesperson said.

The 8-acre water park will have rides and attractions from DreamWorks’ movies like “Shrek” and “Kung Fu Panda.”

Construction work can be watched live online on [EarthCam](#).

The mall will be 55 percent entertainment space and 45 percent retail.

Nickelodeon Universe theme park and water park will be indoors. The theme park will span 8.5 acres and feature attractions and rides based on Nickelodeon characters. It will have two record-setting rollercoasters — the Spinning Coaster, the tallest and longest free-spinning coaster in the world, and the Euro-Fighter. It is expected to be the largest indoor theme park in the western hemisphere when it is complete.

When asked about if and how sports gambling works into Triple Five’s plan for American Dream, the spokesperson said that “a comprehensive master plan is very much a part of the strategic future success of the site itself and also for smart regional growth of the broader area.”

There will be a huge LEGOLAND Discovery Center with a 4-D cinema, LEGO brick pool, rides, and classes for kids will be there. There will also be the first Sea Life aquarium in New Jersey. It will feature a tropical ocean tank with a walk-through underwater tunnel. An indoor waterpark and an amusement park are also being built.

The largest indoor ski slope in the western hemisphere will allow customers to take ski and snowboarding lessons all year. There will also be an ice-climbing wall and an NHL-size hockey rink.

KidZania, a miniature city run by kids 4 to 14 years old will also be there. It will have its own currency and companies like Honda, Sony, Kellogg's, Coca-Cola and others have sponsored businesses and landmarks in the attraction.

Moviegoers will be able to smell scents in the films they watch in Cinemex's 1,400-seat, dine-in movie theater with X4D technology. A hotel is in the planning stages and could open a year after American Dream. The hotel at the West Edmonton Mall runs at or near capacity year round.

The 150,000-square-foot food hall will feature 15 restaurants, 50 grab-and-go offerings and the world's first Kosher food court.

American Dream will use technology to enhance customers' experiences. Augmented reality displays will be available throughout the complex. Smart bracelets will allow parents to shop and stay connected to their children throughout the campus.

Between 30 and 40 million people are expected to visit American Dream within its first year of opening. Many of those figure to be New York City and tri-state area tourists. A reception team will be fluent in Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, French, Russian, Portuguese, Arabic, and other languages. Shuttles will take people to and from airports and New York City

A commuter shuttle will run between the station NJ Transit operates at the Meadowlands and the Secaucus train station. NJ Transit will also operate a direct bus line from the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York City to American Dream.

New York Waterway is in talks to run a shuttle to take passengers to and from marinas along the Hudson River along the Gold Coast in Edgewater, Weehawken, and North Bergen.

American Dream was originally slated to open in 2017. Then last summer Triple Five pushed back the completion date because it had difficulty securing the \$1.1 billion in financing. It worked with Goldman Sachs and J.P. Morgan to secure \$1.6 billion in financing earlier this year.