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Drop and roll: New coaster planned for Worlds of Fun

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So, roller coaster enthusiasts, you say the Timber Wolf isn't tall enough, fast enough, long enough?

Worlds of Fun says wait until next year. That's when the amusement park will unleash **Mamba**. Park officials boast the new attraction will be ``the tallest, longest, fastest steel roller coaster in the Midwest. " Construction workers already were moving dirt Thursday morning on 10 acres along the south perimeter of the park where the new thrill ride - Worlds of Fun's fourth coaster - will be built. At a cost of more than \$10 million, it is the biggest expansion at Worlds of Fun since the park opened in 1973.

``We wanted to build a world-class roller coaster that will be a signature ride for us for many years to come," said Daniel Keller, the park's vice president and general manager. ``We wanted to make a statement to coaster enthusiasts and fans. " **Mamba** will reach speeds of 75 miles an hour, surpassing the Zambezi Zinger's 45 miles an hour, Timber Wolf's 53 miles an hour and the Orient Express' 65 miles an hour.

Mamba's first hill will climb 205 feet, dwarfing Timber Wolf's peak of 100 feet, Orient Express' 117 feet and Zambezi Zinger's 75 feet. **Mamba** will be 5,600 feet long, compared with Timber Wolf's 4,230 feet, Orient Express' 3,470 feet and Zambezi Zinger's 2,100 feet.

After plummeting at 75 miles an hour from **Mamba's** first hill, riders will immediately climb a second hill of 184 feet. That drop will be followed by a 580-degree rotation at 60 miles an hour, then five ``camelback" bumps to give coaster enthusiasts coveted ``air time" - the sensation of negative gravity force.

``The speed is going to be incredible," said Jan Kiser of Olathe, who is president of the American Coaster Enthusiasts. ``It's going to overpower the whole skyline at Worlds of Fun. " **Mamba** will be the first coaster added to Worlds of Fun since the Timber Wolf opened in 1989 and the first since Cedar Fair took over the park two years ago.

Caption: CAPTION: The new Mamba roller coaster, to open next summer at Worlds of Fun, is shown in an artist's rendering.