

Southland Park owners to place \$250M bet on West Memphis

By Meagan Nichols – Associate Editor, Memphis Business Journal | Jan. 24, 2019

Park Gaming & Racing's owners are ready to place a \$250 million bet on its future.

According to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, Delaware North — owners of Southland Park Gaming & Racing — are **planning a \$250 million expansion that will include a new 20-story hotel and casino**. The project will reportedly be privately funded by Delaware North. Construction is **expected to start this summer with casino construction anticipated to take 12 months and the hotel to follow six months later**.

The Plans:

- Gaming options expanded to 2,400 gambling machines
- Up to 60 live table games
- **Addition of 400 permanent jobs, which will bring total employment to 1,200 jobs**
- **1,500 jobs created during construction**
- Sports betting areas
- The casino complex — new and existing space — will measure in at a combined 113,000 square feet
- Hotel will have 216 standard rooms, 72 corner suites, 12 penthouses
- New covered parking garage with 1,250 parking spaces

Delaware North has owned and operated Southland Park Gaming & Racing since the 1970s. In November 2018, Arkansas voters passed an amendment that now allows casino gaming at four locations in Arkansas: Southland Park Gaming & Racing, Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, as well as two new venues in Jefferson and Pope counties.

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An event to make the official announcement is scheduled for today at 1 p.m. in West Memphis. Gov. Asa Hutchinson is expected to be in attendance.