

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LINCOLN PARK ZOO 2008 FACT SHEET

WHAT: Lincoln Park Zoo is the most historic zoo in the country, celebrating its 140-year anniversary this year. A conservation haven nestled in the heart of Chicago, the zoo operates one of the largest zoo-based conservation and science programs in the country. Lincoln Park Zoo is home to more than 1,100 animals, many of which are rare and endangered. Each year the zoo attracts more than 3 million visitors and educates an estimated additional 1 million people of all ages through on-grounds activities and outreach programs. The not-for-profit Lincoln Park Zoo is managed by the Lincoln Park Zoological Society.

SIZE: 35 acres on Chicago's beautiful lakefront.

ADMISSION: **Free Admission!** Open 365 days a year. Lincoln Park Zoo is one of the country's last remaining free zoos.

LOCATION: 2200 North Cannon Drive
Chicago, IL 60614

FAVORITE FEATURES: **Regenstein African Journey** : Lincoln Park Zoo's Regenstein African Journey is a fully immersive \$23 million naturalistic environment that takes guests on an African journey of discovery. The 75,000-square-foot-facility is filled with the sights and sounds of Africa and replicates the natural homelands of two dozen African species from Tropical Rain Forest to the dust and rock of Dry Thorn Forest to the lakes of Great Rift Valley. It is home to some of the world's rarest creatures like black rhinos, wild dogs, pygmy hippos and dwarf crocodiles. Glimpse the giant webs of orb spiders, peak into the den of an aardvark, or simply enjoy the beauty of regal giraffes and doting lovebirds. An excursion through Regenstein African Journey is an educational adventure into the world of African wildlife conservation.

Pritzker Family Children's Zoo: Lincoln Park Zoo's newest feature, unveiled in 2005, is the Pritzker Family Children's Zoo where North American wilderness comes alive. Four large outdoor exhibits feature black bears, red wolves, beaver and river otters. By bringing together animal habitats, interactive elements and educational activities, kids learn by touching, smelling, listening, building and playing. Developed in consultation with child-

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development specialists and teachers, the Children's Zoo encourages curiosity and excitement and helps children connect with nature so they can develop a deeper understanding about the wildlife around them.

Regenstein Center for African Apes: The \$26 million state-of-the-art Regenstein Center for African Apes is the most expensive building ever constructed at the Lincoln Park Zoo. It features 29,000-square-feet of naturalistic living space, indoors and out for endangered gorillas and chimpanzees. Huge glass windows give guests an opportunity to literally go nose-to-nose with the curious and complex apes. The habitat includes fallen logs, a waterfall, termite mounds, dozens of trees and 5,000 feet of artificial vines for climbing. The center's primary features are three spacious habitats: the Kovler Gorilla Bamboo Forest, the Strangler Fig Forest (which accommodates either chimpanzees or gorillas) and the Dry Riverbed Valley (which also accommodates chimpanzees or gorillas).

A major element of the new building is the Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes. The center engages zoo visitors, members and students in science and conservation initiatives through an integrated program of research, science education and the conservation of wild populations. Lincoln Park Zoo researchers engage in conservation science not only at the zoo, but also in Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Farm-in-the-Zoo presented by John Deere: The Farm-in-the-Zoo presented by John Deere is a three-acre serene Midwestern farm nestled in the heart of Chicago. Home to chickens, pigs, cows and goats the farm is a fun, interactive facility designed to educate millions of zoo visitors each year about the agricultural industry and interrelationships among food, land and people. Guests may witness cow milking demonstrations, a buzzing beehive, chick hatchery, and may interact with the farm animals.

HABITAT HIGHLIGHTS:

Kovler Lion House, Helen Brach Primate House, Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House, McCormick Bird House, Kovler Sea Lion Pool, Kovler Penguin and Seabird house, Hope B. McCormick Swan Pond, Robert R. McCormick Bear Habitat, Regenstein Birds of Prey Exhibit.

OTHER FEATURES:

AT&T Endangered Species Carousel: This truly wild ride features 48 artisan-crafted wooden animals and two chariots and can accommodate up to 50 riders. The menagerie is made up of rare and endangered animals, many of which are represented in the Lincoln Park Zoo collection. \$2.50/ride.

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Paddle Boat Rides: Take a leisurely, scenic paddle boat cruise around the South Lagoon. Rental dock is located next to Café Brauer. Open daily from 10 a.m. to dusk through Sept. 30 (weather permitting). Four-passenger paddle boats cost \$12 for a half-hour ride. Swan boats cost \$16 for a half-hour ride.

African Safari Ride: Hop into this safari simulator and encounter wild rhinos, cheetahs, elephants and more on this thrilling (and bumpy) ride, or travel into space aboard a rocket ship or journey through time to visit the dinosaurs. Tickets are \$4 for members, \$5 for non-members, and can be purchased at the ride, near the exit of Regenstein African Journey.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Leap Into Hot Winter Night

**Leap Day, Feb. 29, 2008
8 p.m. – Midnight**

The Auxiliary Board of Lincoln Park Zoo is coming out of the cold, and celebrating the year of the frog with a leap year party at Café Brauer. Leap Into Hot Winter Night welcomes guests to an evening of dancing, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres to celebrate the important conservation work underway at Lincoln Park Zoo.

Breakfast with Lincoln Park Zoo's Apes

**Mar. 29, 2008
9:30 – 11 a.m.**

Share an exclusive breakfast at Regenstein Center for African Apes with Curator of Primates Sue Margulis, Ph.D. as she shares fascinating facts about our chimpanzees and gorillas. After breakfast, privately observe the apes as they explore their habitats while Margulis explains their behavior. Tickets: \$50-\$75 (purchase at www.lpzoo.org)

International Wildlife Reintroduction Conference Public Lecture

April 16, 2008

Lincoln Park Zoo and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) will host the First International Wildlife Reintroduction Conference on April 15-16, 2008. Conservation biologists from around the globe will convene at Lincoln Park Zoo to share information on the successes and failures of these high-profile conservation endeavors. On April 16, a special public lecture will offer insight into the triumphs and tribulations of restoring species to the wild. Special speakers include Lincoln Park Zoo's Steve Thompson, Ph.D., and Mike Phillips of the Turner Endangered Species Fund who will highlight stories from the field, notably the reintroduction of gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park and red wolves to Alligator National Wildlife Refuge. Tickets are \$15-20, and can be purchased at www.lpzoo.org More information about the conference: www.reintroduction.org

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Harvest Days

Presented by John Deere at the Farm-In-The-Zoo

Oct. 4 – 5, 2008

11am – 2pm

Celebrate the harvest as you watch a blacksmith in action, make crafts, enter a tractor race or decorate a pumpkin. Enjoy music, animal activities and much more. Harvest Days activities are free.

ZooLights Presented by ComEd

Fri, Sat & Sun nights beginning Nov. 28

Nightly Dec. 15 – Jan 4 (excluding Dec. 24 & 25)

5 - 9pm

Marvel at more than 1.5 million lights while strolling through the zoo. Visit Santa, make crafts, see live ice-carving, ride the carousel, sip hot cocoa or warm spiced wine and view the animals at night.

ZOO HOURS:

General Hours:

Grounds 9 a.m. . 6 p.m.

Buildings and Farm 10 a.m. . 5 p.m.

Winter Hours:

Nov. 1- March 31

Grounds close at 5 p.m.

Buildings close at 4:30 p.m.

Summer Weekends:

Memorial Day- Labor Day (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays)

Grounds open until 7 p.m.

Buildings and Farm open until 6:30 p.m.

PARKING RATES: 0 - 30 minutes . No charge

0 - 3 Hours . \$14

3 - 4 Hours . \$16

4 - 5 Hours . \$20

5+ Hours . \$24

GENERAL

INFORMATION: (312) 742-2000

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