

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2008



Media Contact: Sharon Dewar
312-742-2246
SDewar@lpzoo.org

Lincoln Park Zoo announces restoration plans for South Pond

Lincoln Park Zoo announces its commitment to renovate and completely restore the historic South Pond to a healthier, natural and inviting environment for people and wildlife. Groundbreaking is scheduled to begin this fall.

The estimated \$12 million renovation project recently received a significant boost of support from the Chicago Park District Board who approved \$2.5 million toward the effort. With these funds, along with those raised by the zoo, the project has \$4 million committed to date.

"We are working with a volunteer committee to raise 90 percent of the funds by this fall so we can break ground on this important renovation project," said Christine Zrinsky, vice president of development for Lincoln Park Zoo.

The goal of the renovation is to empty and dredge the pond, remove the concrete and steel surrounding the water, deepen the pool and replace it with natural landscape and soft edges that will host native and migratory wildlife.

"Currently the pond is too shallow for wildlife to survive because it freezes in winter. Without native plants and wildlife, the pond's water quality and filtration is very poor," explained Zrinsky. "When we deepen the pond, native wildlife such as frogs and turtles can thrive year round, and we'll add natural vegetation that will help maintain the water quality."

In addition to natural landscaping, the pond renovation project will include a new boardwalk to provide a safe and tranquil pathway for the community to enjoy their oasis in the city. The South Pond will also serve as a living classroom with outdoor activities designed to help children forge a deeper connection with nature. Education programs and interactive learning stations will enable visitors to experience the richness of pond life.

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For more information about the project, or to contribute to renovation efforts, please contact Lincoln Park Zoo's development department 312-742-2332.

About Lincoln Park Zoo:

Lincoln Park Zoo, a historic Chicago landmark founded in 1868, is dedicated to connecting people with nature by providing a free, family-oriented wildlife experience. A leader in conservation science both globally and locally, the zoo exemplifies the highest quality animal care and educational outreach. The not-for-profit zoo, managed by The Lincoln Park Zoological Society, is a member-supported organization and one of the nation's only free, privately managed zoos. For more information, call (312) 742-2000 or visit www.lpzoo.org.

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