

MEDIA CONTACT: Sharon Dewar, PR Director
312-742-2246; sdewar@lpzoo.org
WEB SITE: www.lpzoo.org



Lincoln Park Zoo Overview

Lincoln Park Zoo is a world class zoological institution located in Chicago's historic Lincoln Park district. Founded in 1868, the zoo is rich with architectural treasures as well as award-winning progressively designed animal habitats. A conservation haven nestled in the heart of Chicago, the zoo operates one of the country's largest zoo-based conservation and science programs. Committed to saving species locally and globally the zoo employs highly specialized experts in veterinary medicine, landscape ecology, cognitive and behavioral research, endocrinology, epidemiology and population biology. The not-for-profit Lincoln Park Zoo attracts an estimated 3 million visitors per year and is one of America's last remaining free admission zoos.

- SIZE:** 49 acres on Chicago's beautiful lakefront.
- ANIMALS:** Home to more than 1,100 mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians; thousands of fish & insects; the zoo collection represents approximately 200 different species of animals – many of which are rare and endangered.
- ADMISSION:** **Free Admission!** Open 365 days a year.
Lincoln Park Zoo is one of the country's last remaining free zoos.
- ANNUAL ATTENDANCE:** Approximately 3 million
- LOCATION:** Cannon Drive at Fullerton Parkway
Chicago, IL 60614
- PRESIDENT & CEO:** Kevin J. Bell
- FUNDING & GOVERNANCE:** Lincoln Park Zoo is a non-profit institution managed by The Lincoln Park Zoological Society. The annual operating budget is approximately \$21 million. One quarter of the budget is funded by the Chicago Park District. The remainder is raised through fundraising efforts of the Women's Board and Auxiliary Board, donations from individuals, corporations and foundations, and revenues from programs, memberships, facility rentals, corporate sponsorship, gift shops and eateries.

**ECONOMIC
IMPACT:**

Cultural institutions including museums, zoos, aquariums and botanic gardens are the top reason tourists visit Illinois, contributing an estimated \$1.1 billion in revenue to the state.

AFFILIATION:

Lincoln Park Zoo is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

AWARD-WINNING

ZOO:

Lincoln Park Zoo's Regenstein African Journey and Regenstein Center for African Apes have both been honored with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' 'Exhibit of the Year' awards. Additionally, the zoo has received numerous awards for excellence in architecture, landscape, accessibility, preservation, museum service and environmental improvement.

NEW

DEVELOPMENTS:

Lincoln Park Zoo is investing \$12 million to restore, transform and revitalize the South Pond of Lincoln Park – a 140-year-old manmade structure currently in a state of serious disrepair – into Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo. This lush and revitalized landscape will be asset to the community and provide a haven for native birds, frogs, turtles, fish, insects and mammals. The sharp concrete and steel borders will be replaced with natural earthen sloped edges. Native vegetation will naturally filter the water, creating cleaner and healthier water quality. Native wildlife will be introduced to create a natural ecosystem. Once restored, the pond will be more aesthetically pleasing for the public and will be home to wildlife and migratory birds. A boardwalk will surround the entire pond and an over-the-water gazebo will be added providing new opportunities for the public to enjoy and experience nature.

**CONSERVATION
SCIENCE:**

Lincoln Park Zoo is home to one of the nation's largest zoo-based conservation and science programs dedicated to sound science and innovative research to improve animal management and wildlife conservation. Zoo scientists combine expertise in a range of disciplines to identify threats to zoo and wild populations and develop strategies to ensure their continued existence. The zoo's research and conservation efforts focus on programs in small population biology, applied animal behavior, conservation of wild populations, epidemiology, endocrinology, cognition and learning, veterinary medicine and nutrition.

These disciplines are organized into five primary centers and programs, each with its own dedicated research staff, support staff

and funding. These include the Population Management Center (PMC), Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes, Alexander Center for Applied Population Biology, Davee Center for Epidemiology and Endocrinology, and the Urban Wildlife Institute.

GREEN SCENE: Lincoln Park Zoo is one of Chicago's premier green institutions and has been awarded "Green Museum" certification by the city's Department of the Environment. As a measure of the zoo's dedication to preserving Earth's delicate ecosystems, a comprehensive multi-year plan has been instituted to improve the zoo's overall ecological impact.

Several accomplishments to date include the installation of seven green roofs, solar panels, energy efficient lighting, sustainable transportation for employees and increased recycling opportunities for everything from paper, plastic and aluminum to cell phones, toner and batteries. The zoo's latest environmental initiative is the debut of Café at Wild Things! This new seasonal café showcases all organic or local foods and sustainable servingware such as recyclable cups and compostable flatware. Every element of the café was conscientiously chosen for its environmental credentials.

**EDUCATION &
INTERNSHIP
PROGRAMS:**

Lincoln Park Zoo's Education Department offers year-round programs and opportunities for children, teens, adults, families and school groups to learn about and connect with wildlife. From summer camp to after-school programs, professional development for teachers and student internships, the zoo offers a wide array of learning opportunities.

Research Internship program: The zoo's Research Internship program provides unique opportunities for undergraduates and recent graduates to gain research experience on exotic species in a zoo setting. The zoo is committed to training young scientists to conduct independent research projects that are relevant to the management and conservation of zoo and wild populations. Several of our staff scientists hold faculty and adjunct positions at the University of Illinois and the University of Chicago where they supervise graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. In addition, the zoo can provide a great "field site" for graduate research projects.

Exploring Ape Behavior program: This unique 75-minute educational program, designed for teens and adults offered multiple days each week throughout the year, puts participants in

researchers' shoes. Using state-of-the-art handheld computers, participants get the inside scoop about great ape behavior, and a behind-the-scenes experience showcasing the important research being conducted at the Regenstein Center for African Apes.

www.lpzoo.org/eab

VOLUNTEERS: Lincoln Park Zoo benefits from a dedicated team of volunteers who perform diverse roles for the zoo from guest service representatives who welcome and assist visitors, to education volunteers who engage guests with information about animals, habitats and conservation through one-on-one interactions. Volunteer gardeners plant, prune, water and weed to help keep the zoo looking beautiful. For more information contact the Volunteer Services Office at 312-742-2124 or email volunteer@lpzoo.org.

MEMBERSHIP: Several levels of membership are available to support the zoo's efforts to keep admission free to the public year round. Membership lets individuals forge a closer connection with amazing animals and includes exclusive invitations to zoo events, free and reduced parking, discounts on zoo programs and purchases and free or reduced-rate entrance to more than 100 zoos and aquariums nationwide.

GROUP SALES: Lincoln Park Zoo hosts to a variety of private functions from meetings and picnics, to weddings and corporate or holidays parties. There are a mixture of areas and options available for groups of 10 to 10,000. For more information on renting out the zoo for special events please visit our website. http://www.lpzoo.org/info/plan_event/index.html

STORES: Discover unique gifts for children and adults, including educational toys and books, signature clothing, cuddly plush animals and nature jewelry at **Wild Things!** retail shop. Find all things feline—from big cat T-shirts to specialty souvenirs—at the **Safari Shop** in the Lion House, open seasonally. The zoo also offers the Wild Things! Online Shop making shopping for unique and exotic gifts simple and just a click away: <http://lpzoo.tamretail.net/>. All purchases support Lincoln Park Zoo's conservation mission.

RESTAURANTS: Check out the zoo's newest "green" eatery – **Café at Wild Things!** This new seasonal café showcases all organic or local foods and sustainable serving ware such as recyclable cups and compostable flatware. Every element of the café was conscientiously chosen for its environmental credentials.

The zoo offers a host of taste-tempting delights to satisfy every appetite. Select from made-to-order entrees including pasta, tacos, burgers and deli sandwiches and salads at **Park Place Café**, the zoo's year-round food-court. Or grab a bite at one of our seasonal restaurant locations including the Chicago landmark, **Café Brauer**, where guests can cool off in the summer with a draft beer or a hand-scooped ice cream at **Café Brauer's Ice Cream Shoppe**. Create Chicago-style hot dogs with all the fixings at **Landmark Café** on the zoo's Main Mall. Or sample Dippin Dots, pretzels, funnel cakes and soft drinks at **Safari Café**.

HOURS:

April–May
10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Memorial Day–Labor Day
Weekdays 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Weekends 10 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

September–October
10 a.m.–5 p.m.

November–March
10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC TRANSIT: Lincoln Park Zoo is serviced by CTA bus routes 151 and 156.

PARKING RATES:

<u>April 1-Sept 30</u>	
0-30 minutes	no charge
31 min-3 hours	\$17
3-4 hours	\$19
4-5 hours	\$25
5+ hours	\$30

<u>October 1-March 31</u>	
0-30 minutes	no charge
31 min-3 hours	\$17
3+ hours	\$19

GENERAL INFORMATION: (312) 742-2000

WEB SITE: www.lpzoo.org

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