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**Nature
Boardwalk**
LINCOLN PARK ZOO

New Nature Boardwalk Opens Today at Lincoln Park Zoo *Oasis Offers Environmental Education Programming*

Chicago (June 24, 2010) — Mayor Richard M. Daley and State Representative Sara Feigenholtz (D-12) helped Lincoln Park Zoo today unveil the newly created **Nature Boardwalk**. Joined by school children from Sieden Prairie Elementary School who sang an original tune celebrating the pond, and a ceremonial release of fish, Nature Boardwalk was officially opened to the public.



“This is an environmental zoo,” said Mayor Daley to a crowd of approximately 80 attendees including donors of the new habitat. “It teaches us how the environment and nature can coexist with an urban society. I look forward to taking a wonderful walk here. This will be a special place, not only for my children, who I’ve spent a lot of time here with, but also my grandchildren.”

Representative Feigenholtz called the zoo a “jewel” and “a reprieve from city living...a little oasis.”

The 14-acre Nature Boardwalk offers visitors an opportunity to immerse themselves in a multi-sensory, interactive ecosystem. The landscape of this newly naturalized oasis in the heart of the city has been completely transformed to provide a haven of native trees, plants and animals and



offers unique opportunities for visitors to engage and connect with the natural world like never before. Educational programming is a key feature of the pond ecosystem experience.



Educators host daily tours and talks which provide hands-on opportunities for kids to learn and interact directly with the environment. Adult and family-oriented activities including a family overnight camping program and yoga are offered this summer.

With the environment completely transformed, wildlife ecologists will be studying the effects of the naturalization for years to come. As various species such as turtles, frogs and birds slowly find their way to this urban haven, biologists will conduct wildlife surveillance studies of the wildlife and plant populations to ensure sustainability of the habitat.

On the north end of Nature Boardwalk sits the beautiful and historic Café Brauer. This landmark features a new contemporary eatery called the Patio and offers a cocktail bar, outdoor waterside seating and fresh menu items designed for sharing. The Patio is open for lunch daily, as well as dinner until dusk Mondays – Thursdays to offer Chicago professionals a unique new after work destination. It is open for lunch only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The Great Hall at Café Brauer is a popular private rental space for weddings and special events, and the Patio is available for private rental on Friday and weekend evenings.

Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo has been made possible through the support and generosity of the Chicago Park District, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Brooks McCormick, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Peoples Gas, The Regenstein Foundation, the Women’s Board of Lincoln Park Zoological Society as well as the generosity of numerous zoo friends and other private and corporate foundations.

Plunge into this fresh new natural ecosystem this summer! To learn more about Lincoln Park Zoo, please visit www.lpzoo.org.

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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.