

**Take a walk in the woods and discover North American  
wildlife at the Pritzker Family Children's Zoo**

**What:** Guests are invited to take a walk in the woods at the Lincoln Park Zoo's Pritzker Family Children's Zoo – a wooded habitat devoted to North American wildlife.

Four large natural outdoor habitats feature North American black bears, red wolves, beavers, and river otters. Indoors, visitors will find owls, snakes, turtles, insects and more critters who call North American woods and backyards home. The exhibit was designed to raise awareness about the importance of understanding and protecting wildlife right here at home.

By bringing together animal habitats, interactive elements, and educational activities all in one special place, the Children's Zoo goes beyond simply displaying animals to encouraging children to think about the ways in which these animals live and survive, and the interdependency among all living things.

The indoor portion of the exhibit takes on a more whimsical approach to the woods in a giant toy-like atmosphere. The space features the Polk Brothers Treetop Canopy Climbing Adventure, which soars 20 feet in the air. Children can ascend high into this stylized forest canopy with layers of leaves made from curved pieces of polar plywood covered in a soft yellow and green padding. Along their adventure, climbers will experience unique views of the Children's Zoo while getting a feel for what it's like to live in the trees.

**Size:** 105,220 square feet

**Opened:** 2005

**Cost:** \$13.9 million

**Featured wildlife:** North American black bears, red wolves, North American river otters, American beavers, American kestrel, Eastern fox snake, Eastern screech owl, Eastern box turtle, spotted turtles, American toad, Blanding's turtle, garter snake, grey tree frog, lubber grasshopper, midland painted turtle, rough green snake, tiger salamander, and woodland duck.

**Noteworthy awards:**

- **American Architecture Award – 2007**  
The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design
- **Honor Award for Built Design – 2005**  
Arkansas Society of Landscape Architects

- **Distinguished Building Award – 2007**  
AIA Chicago
- **Interior Architecture Award – 2007**  
AIA Chicago
- **Divine Detail Award – 2006**  
AIA Chicago

### **Conservation Science underway at the Children’s Zoo and abroad:**

#### **Conservation efforts for red wolves:**

The red wolf is one of the world’s most endangered wild canids. Once common throughout the southeastern United States, red wolf populations were decimated by the 1960s due to intensive predator control programs and loss of habitat. A few individuals were found in Texas and Louisiana. After being declared an endangered species in 1973, efforts were made to round up as many wild red wolves as possible. Of the 17 remaining wolves captured by biologists, 14 became the founders of a successful managed-breeding program. Consequently, the US Fish and Wildlife Service declared red wolves extinct in the wild in 1980.

By 1987, enough red wolves were bred in zoos to begin a restoration program on the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern North Carolina. Since then the experimental population area has expanded to include three national wildlife refuges, Department of Defense and state-owned lands and private property, totaling 1.5 million acres. The main threats to the wolf’s survival remain loss of habitat due to development and persecution by humans.

Lincoln Park Zoo is assisting the recovery efforts by participating in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan.