

## **Travel around the world in one special place: Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House**

**What:** Lincoln Park Zoo's Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House (SMRH) features approximately 60 different species of small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds in a naturalistic, mixed-species environment divided into two distinct areas "The Gallery" and the "Ecosystem." Upon entering the building, guests first discover the wet and wonderful world of amphibians and the important role of reptiles. The Gallery features a vast array of these species, including Mexico's mysterious and highly endangered axolotl, vibrant green pythons and stunning poison dart frogs, as well as rare Eastern massasauga rattlesnakes. It also features a 25-seat auditorium for educational programs, videos and presentations.

As visitors journey through the Gallery toward the steamy, tropical Ecosystem they'll encounter a magnificent baobab tree that measures 25 feet in diameter forming a dark cave where straw-colored fruit bats "hang around." Take a peak into the underground burrows of naked mole rats that live inside the termite mounds beneath African dwarf mongoose.

Visitors will feel, hear and smell a world of lush tropics as they immerse themselves into the Ecosystem, a humid jungle area covered by a 45-foot-high glass dome. Featuring several mixed species habitats, this area is home to cotton-top tamarins, howler monkeys, sloth, dwarf crocodiles, otters and much more.

**Size:** 32,000-square-feet

**Opened:** 1997

**Cost:** \$11.8 million

### **Featured wildlife:**

#### **Mammals:**

Black howler monkey  
Brush-tailed bettong  
Bushy tailed jird  
Cotton-top tamarin  
Dwarf mongoose  
Fennec fox  
Golden mouse  
Golden-headed lion-tamarin  
Hoffman's two-toed sloth  
Lesser Madagascar hedgehog

#### **Reptiles/Amphibians**

Aruba Island rattlesnake  
Axolotl  
Black tree monitor  
Burmese python  
Central American river turtle  
Dumeril's ground boa  
Dwarf caiman  
Dyeing poison arrow frog  
Eastern massasauga  
Green iguana

Naked mole rat  
Oriental small-clawed otter  
Patagonian cavy  
Ruwenzori long-haired fruit bat  
Pygmy slow loris  
Prevost's squirrel  
Sand cat  
Scrub wallaby  
Slender tail cloud rat  
Small-spotted genet  
Southern three-banded armadillo  
Straw-colored fruit bat  
White-faced saki monkey

**Birds:**

Bali mynah  
Green aracari

**Insects/Arachnids:**

King baboon spider  
Leaf cutter ants

Green tree python  
Henkels leaftail gecko  
Hispaniolan slider  
Kenyan sand boa  
McCord's snake necked turtle  
Madagascar tree boa  
Matamata  
Mexican beaded lizard  
Mudpuppy  
Ornate spiny tailed lizard  
Yellow-spotted Amazon River turtle  
Radiated tortoise  
Red-footed tortoise  
Solomon island leaf frog  
Standing's day gecko  
Sungazer  
Three-toed box turtle  
Prehensile-tailed skink

**Fish:**

Giant guapote  
Red devil

**Noteworthy exhibit awards:**

- **Environmental Improvement Award – 1997**  
Award of Merit  
Associated Landscape Contractors of America
- **Excellence in Landscape Awards – 1998**  
Gold Award  
Illinois Landscape Contractors Association

**Conservation and Science Efforts Underway at SMRH and abroad:**

- **Conservation efforts for Eastern massasauga rattlesnake**  
The Eastern massasauga rattlesnake is listed as rare, of special concern, threatened, or endangered by every state or provincial government in its range. In 2007, Lincoln Park Zoo became the lead zoo for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Species Survival Plan. In addition to leading a zoo-wide effort to ensure the continued genetic diversity and demographic stability of these snakes within the zoo community, Lincoln Park Zoo is part of a multidisciplinary team including US Fish & Wildlife Service and Illinois Department of Natural Resources diligently working to conserve and recover this rare species throughout its native range.

- **Conservation efforts for Aruba Island rattlesnake**

The Aruba Island rattlesnake is a critically endangered species, primarily impacted by human development throughout its native range in Aruba. The zoo is one of 35 participants in the Aruba Island Rattlesnake Species Survival Plan which manages approximately 100 animals. The goal is to grow the population to 175, a number that would maintain 95 percent genetic diversity in the managed zoo population for the next 100 years. These initiatives include programs for Aruba's educators, support of the island's Arikok National Park and creating a field research project to determine the effect of competing species on the rattlesnake's survival.