

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



## **Lincoln Park Zoo Fact Sheet**

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, gardens and 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 and award-winning educational programs. Committed to saving species locally and globally the zoo employs highly specialized experts in veterinary medicine, 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 donations from individuals, corporations and foundations and fundraising efforts of the Women's Board and Auxiliary Board, 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:**

The zoo's newest creation: Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo has received numerous significant awards for its positive environmental impact as well as architectural design. The 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 international conservation, educational programming, architecture, landscape, accessibility, preservation, museum service and environmental improvement.

**NEWEST  
FEATURE:**

**Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo** opened June 2010. Visitors immerse themselves in a lush, newly naturalized ecosystem in the heart of the city. This completely transformed oasis of native trees, prairie and wetland plants provides a haven for wildlife and offers unique opportunities for visitors to connect with nature.

Rare migratory birds, such as the black-crowned night heron, can often be spotted nesting from spring to fall, while turtles sun themselves and dragonflies skim the water. This newly restored habitat attracts many more spectacular wildlife sightings than ever before.

**CONSERVATION  
SCIENCE:**

Lincoln Park Zoo is home to one of the nation's largest zoo-based conservation and science programs. It is dedicated to sound science and innovative research aimed at improving 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 scientific centers of excellence, 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.

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 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.

**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.

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 Nature Boardwalk which features a half-mile boardwalk made from recycled materials. The newly engineered pond saves an estimated 10 million gallons of water per year and has been awarded several environmental awards. The zoo also features Café at Wild Things! – a seasonal café offering 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. It is a Certified Green Restaurant ® awarded by the Green Restaurant Association.

**EDUCATION PROGRAMS:**

Lincoln Park Zoo's Education Department offers year-round programs and opportunities for children, teens, adults, families, teachers and school groups to learn and connect with wildlife. Daily, engaging and hands-on educational experiences for visiting school groups and families, professional development for teachers,

summer camp programs for kids, and internships for teens are just a few of the dynamic educational programs here at the zoo.

Free educational resources are available for download – such as curriculum guides and Zoo Tracks – thematic, self-guided tours that are tied to classroom curriculum and state science standards. Find a vast array of educational programs and resources offered here: [www.lpzoo.org/education](http://www.lpzoo.org/education)

**VOLUNTEERS:** Lincoln Park Zoo benefits from a dedicated team of volunteers who perform diverse roles for the zoo from guest relations volunteers who welcome and assist guests, to education volunteers who engage guests with information about animals 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](mailto:volunteer@lpzoo.org).

**MEMBERSHIP:** More than 12,000 members support Lincoln Park Zoo's conservation and education mission and efforts to keep admission free to the public year round. There are several levels of membership available offering opportunities for individuals to forge a closer connection with wildlife. Membership includes exclusive invitations to zoo events, free and reduced-rate parking, discounts on zoo programs and purchases, and free or reduced-rate entrance to more than 100 zoos and aquariums nationwide. Learn more about membership benefits here: <http://www.lpzoo.org/support/become-member>

**PRIVATE EVENTS:** 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. The Great Hall at Café Brauer is a popular private rental space for weddings and special events. For more information on renting out the zoo for special events please visit <http://www.lpzoo.org/events/host-private-event>

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** **LPZOO Children's Train** is a kid-friendly locomotive. Open seasonally. Suggested ages 3-12 years old. Tickets are \$2.50.

**The AT&T Endangered Species Carousel** features 48 artisan-crafted wooden animals and two chariots and can accommodate up to 50 riders. The menagerie is made up of rare and endangered

animals, many of which are represented in Lincoln Park Zoo's collection. Wheelchair accessible. Open seasonally. \$2.75/ride.

**Hurricane Simulator** allows visitors of all ages a chance to experience a category 1 hurricane with a 78mph wind force. Cost: \$2.00.

#### **STORES:**

Discover unique gifts for children and adults, including educational toys and books, signature clothing, cuddly plush animals and nature jewelry at **Wild Things!** gift shop. Find all things feline—from big cat T-shirts to specialty souvenirs—at **Safari Shop** in the Kovler Lion House, open seasonally. While visiting gorillas and chimps stop by **Great Ape Gifts** inside the Regenstein Center for African Apes and take home a souvenir, 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 and education mission and help keep admission free year round.

#### **RESTAURANTS:**

On the north end of Nature Boardwalk sits the beautiful and historic Café Brauer. This landmark features a new alfresco eatery called **The Patio**. Open seasonally the Patio offers a large selection of wine and beer, outdoor waterside seating and fresh menu items designed for sharing.

Don't miss the zoo's "green" eatery – **Café at Wild Things!** This 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. It is a Certified Green Restaurant ® awarded by the Green Restaurant Association.

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 hand-scooped ice cream from the **Café Brauer's Ice Cream Shoppe**. Create Chicago-style hot dogs with all the fixings at **Eadie Levy's 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.  
Holidays & 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:**

Jan 2 – March 31, 2012  
0-30 minutes ----- no charge  
31 min or more --- \$20

April 1 - Sept 30  
0-30 minutes ---- no charge  
30 min -3 hours -\$20  
3 - 4 hours----- \$24  
4 - 5 hours----- \$30  
5+ hours----- \$35

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** (312) 742-2000

**WEB SITE:** [www.lpzoo.org](http://www.lpzoo.org)

###