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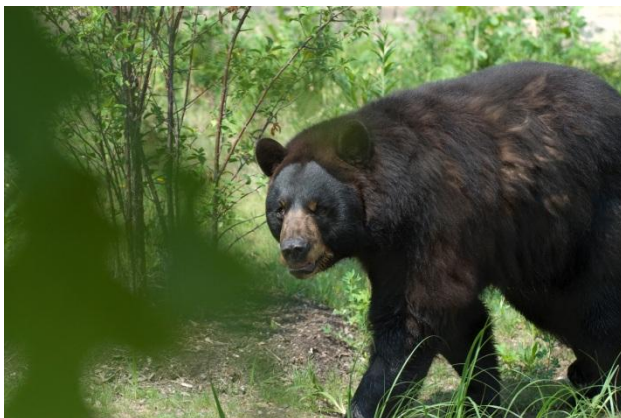
Lincoln Park
Zoo

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 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. 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 (see list of animals here): <http://www.lpzoo.org/pritzker-family-childrens-zoo>

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:



Lincoln Park Zoo has bred and released six critically endangered red wolves back into the wild in North Carolina as part of the Red Wolf Recovery Program (this species was extinct in the wild in the mid-1980s). Two wolves from the zoo were released in 2010, and four were released in 2009.

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.

Smooth Green Snake Recovery & Conservation:

Smooth green snakes are native to northern Illinois, but their numbers have declined in the region—and throughout their range—due to habitat loss. The Lake County Forest Preserve District has restored habitat in recent years in the hope the vibrant species would reestablish itself. But the



snakes failed to return on their own, and so the forest preserve district began a conservation partnership with Lincoln Park Zoo.

Zoo scientists and forest preserve biologists are working together to restore the smooth green snake to Lake County. The first step is a zoo-based breeding program, designed to build numbers and manage snakes recovered from the wild for eventual release.

Juvenile snakes are currently being raised both at the zoo and in outdoor shelters in the forest preserve. By comparing growth and survival rates between the two settings, scientists will determine the best “head start” conditions for a successful release—an important step in the smooth green snake’s recovery.