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Lincoln Park
Zoo

Explore Africa's lush jungles, lakes and dry savannahs during an expedition through Regenstein African Journey

What: Lincoln Park Zoo's Regenstein African Journey is a fully immersive naturalistic environment that takes guests on an African journey of discovery. Filled with the sights and sounds of Africa, it replicates the natural homelands of two dozen African species from tropical rain forests to the dust and rock of dry thorn forests to the lakes of Great Rift Valley. It is home to some of the world's rarest creatures including black rhinos, wild dogs, dwarf crocodiles and pygmy hippos. Glimpse the giant webs of orb spiders, peak into the den of an aardvark, or simply enjoy the beauty of regal giraffes and doting lovebirds. An excursion through Regenstein African Journey is an educational adventure into the world of African wildlife conservation.



Size: 75,000-square-feet
Opened: 2003
Cost: \$23 million

Featured wildlife (see list of animals): <http://www.lpzoo.org/regenstein-african-journey>

Noteworthy awards:

- **Exhibit of the Year – 2005**
Significant Achievement Honor – American Zoo and Aquarium Association
- **Best of 2003 Awards**
Institutional Project of the Year – McGraw Hill/Midwest Construction Magazine
- **Merit Award – 2004**
Finalist: Rehab Construction Category – Chicago Building Congress

Conservation Science Underway at African Journey and abroad:

- **Serengeti Health Initiative (Tanzania):**
The Serengeti Health Initiative, led by Lincoln Park Zoo, makes sure everyone – from lions to children to wild dogs to family pets – has a healthy place to call home in one of the world's most delicate ecosystems. Lincoln Park Zoo empowers locals to stem the spread of rabies and distemper through vaccination

and disease prevention public awareness campaigns across thousands of communities bordering Tanzania's Serengeti National Park and Kenya's Maasai Mara National Reserve. Veterinarians and field teams provide free vaccinations against rabies, canine distemper, and parvovirus for domestic dogs living around the 5,700 square mile protected parklands.

The need for this project began in 1993 when a third of the Serengeti National Park's lion population had been lost to disease, African wild dogs had gone extinct in the region, and dozens of people – mostly children – died each year from rabies. The Serengeti Health Initiative aims to control and eliminate certain



infectious diseases that compromise the lives and health of local people, wildlife and domestic animals but vaccinating 70% of domestic dogs within a 5-10 km buffer zone around the national park. At that number rabies is not able to maintain itself in the reservoir host and is eliminated locally. Because of this initiative, there have been no human deaths due to rabies in the past few years; prior to the inception of the project, there were 250 annually. The lion population has rebounded dramatically, and between 2003 and 2009, there were only 2 cases of rabies recorded in Serengeti National Park carnivores. The African wild dog population to the east and south of the Serengeti has grown 17% every year since the inception of the project. Currently there are around 150-180 wild dogs living in the area. Learn more about the Serengeti Health Initiative here:

<http://www.lpzoo.org/conservation-science/projects/serengeti-health-initiative>

- **Reproductive health and well-being research:**



Scientists from the zoo's Davee Center for Epidemiology and Endocrinology, study wildlife well-being and assist with reproductive efforts of black rhinos, pygmy hippos and other endangered species. By using non-invasive techniques of extracting hormones from fecal, urine and saliva samples, researchers can monitor stress levels and track reproductive cycles to ensure the animals

have the best life and chances for reproductive success.

- **Species Survival Plans**: Many residents of Regenstein African Journey are a part of the Association of Zoos and Aquarium's Species Survival Plans (SSP). SSP is a cooperative breeding and population management program to ensure survival of animal species that are in danger of extinction. Member institutions participate in organized breeding programs and develop conservation strategies for captive and wild populations. In addition, SSP conservation activities include research, public education and support for field projects in the animals' native ranges.