



FALL/WINTER 2022

LINCOLN PARK ZOO

FOR WILDLIFE. FOR ALL.



Forging the Future

Surprising science,
holiday happenings,
programs connecting
teens to nature, & more

FALL/WINTER 2022

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2

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The work done by Lincoln Park Zoo scientists year-round helps people learn more about animals, fostering coexistence, better welfare, and conservation action.

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'Tis the season! From festive adults-only events to nights just for members, here's what's in store for you at ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ.

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Keeper Bryan Summerford recommits to caring for slow lorises and sharing their stories after spending time in the field in Indonesia, thanks to a Faey family grant.

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Explore these profiles of five alumni of the zoo's teen programs, who went on to become summer or full-time staff members. They're family now!

Our Impact Depends on You

Who funds Lincoln Park Zoo? You do! Zoo members, donors, and visitors help cover around 80 percent of our annual operating costs to keep this non-profit, privately managed institution open and free every day. You also support its mission of wildlife conservation, animal care, and learning. Support the zoo at lpzoo.org/donate.



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Cover: Lion cub, Pilipili, at Pepper Family Wildlife Center. Photo by Christopher Bijalba

LINCOLN PARK ZOO MAGAZINE

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Bright Lights, Big Science

Despite the shorter days, Chicago—and especially Lincoln Park Zoo—shines bright this time of year. But it's not just the million glittering lights of ZooLights Presented By ComEd and Invesco QQQ (which starts November 19; get tickets now!) that make us glow with pride. What makes us glow: coming out of our busy season knowing we've helped families and friends connect with nature and one another, and reflecting on the accomplishments of the year as we envision where we can take them in the next one.

No matter the season, Lincoln Park Zoo's care, community, and conservation work continues year-round. In this issue of the magazine, you will discover *Surprising Science* including primate color preferences, habitat updates for naked mole rats, local wildlife research, and science-based tips for how to live wildlife friendly every day of the year. You will also meet some of the individuals doing this work, including teen program alumni who participated in programs and returned to the zoo for full-time or recent summer positions. You'll even get tours of the green roofs on buildings across grounds—just one way we walk our talk.

And of course, as you take in all that science, we've also highlighted the best of ZooLights and our holiday offerings in this issue. We know many of you will be excited to see this year's Lincoln Park Zoo holiday ornaments, which are now available in our Gift Shop and at shop.lpzoo.org.

When I first took on the job of President & CEO, even though I knew people love the zoo, I was awestruck by the outpouring of support for this historic institution. As I close out my first year in the role, I continue to feel that way every day. I hope that never changes.

Here in the season of gratitude, I can't thank enough all of you who have supported Lincoln Park Zoo through the tumultuous past three years. Your donations, memberships, zoo visits, event attendance, and popcorn purchases keep the zoo free—and fund the critical work we do to make the zoo and the planet better places for animals and people.

I wish you the best in 2023, and I look forward to seeing you at ZooLights!
For Wildlife. For All. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan R. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive.

MEGAN R. ROSS, PH.D.
PRESIDENT & CEO

BY JILLIAN BRAUN



Photo by Kristin Dvorak

A Growing Cozy Colony

Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove welcomed a new penguin chick this summer! After a 38-day incubation period, an African penguin chick hatched on July 29 to experienced parents 16-year-old female Sunny and 13-year-old male T.J. The chick was hatched as part of the African Penguin Species Survival Plan®, a collaborative effort among accredited zoos to sustainably manage the population. After growing in size and strength behind the scenes in the chick's nest box and developing waterproof feathers, the chick can now be seen swimming around the habitat with the other 21 penguins. The chick is recognizable by its grayish feathers, as juvenile penguins do not develop their iconic tuxedo-like appearance in the first year.



Photo by Kristin Dvorak

Commitment to Community

Lincoln Park Zoo was honored to recognize Lifetime Trustee Sarah Pang for her 30+ year dedication to the zoo and for fostering relationships that have impacted the zoo's success. Pang has been a critical lifeline to the City of Chicago and the Mayor's Office during Richard M. Daley, Rahm Emanuel, and Lori Lightfoot's administrations, ensuring the zoo remained top of mind and getting critical issues on their respective agendas. In 2017, she played a crucial role in securing a commitment from the City of Chicago and reigniting the promise that Lincoln Park Zoo would remain admission-free until at least 2050. She has also helped advocate for critical capital campaign support and security measures across the zoo.



Photo courtesy of LinkedIn

To recognize Pang's philanthropic commitment to Lincoln Park Zoo and dedication to community engagement efforts, the director of community engagement position at the zoo has been renamed to the Sarah J. Pang Director of Community Engagement. To learn more about this position, see Zoo Family Album on page 28.



Photo by Kristin Dvorak

Pardon Our Dust

Like most of Chicago, summer meant construction here at Lincoln Park Zoo. For the past several months, the zoo has been updating the aggregate across zoo grounds to ensure smooth, accessible pathways around the 35 acres within zoo gates. The pathways surrounding Regenstein African Journey and the Camel & Zebra Area have been updated and work will continue this spring.

If you have visited the zoo lately, you may have also noticed an updated parking lot! The parking lot has been renovated to include additional speed bumps and tables as safety measures. It also has updated garden beds and is freshly seal coated. We appreciate your patience as we finalize these projects and continue to improve the zoo.



Photo by Christopher Bijalba

A Vaccine A Day...

OK, that's not quite how the saying goes. However, Lincoln Park Zoo is incredibly grateful that the impact of COVID-19 has been minimal on the animals in our care. Much credit should be given to dedicated animal care staff who have been diligent about personal protective equipment when engaging with the animals in our care, and to zoo guests who have helped protect the animals by wearing masks during their visit. That said, the animals should get some credit, too.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Veterinary Services and Animal Care had been working with colleagues and other disease experts to best understand the possible risks of COVID-19 on the animals in our care. The zoo is committed to ensuring the health and safety of the animals by using the best available scientific resources. As such, the most at-risk species at the zoo—including non-human primates, big cats and others—began receiving the COVID-19 vaccination, donated by Zoetis to zoos and other animal organizations..

This is where the animals come in. Chimpanzees, gorillas, lions, snow leopards, otters, howler monkeys, lemurs, and more participated in daily voluntary training sessions with keepers to present their shoulders, hips, or backs. These skills don't happen overnight. First,



Photo by Christopher Bijalba

the animals must engage with the zoo keepers during a training session where they shape the behavior until the animal is offering the correct body part. Then, keepers work on having the individual animals keep their bodies in place.

Next comes desensitizing the “poke” of receiving a vaccination. To do this, keepers will use a small dowel rod to get animals used to that body part being touched and then transition to a syringe. While all of these actions take place, the animals are rewarded with their favorite foods for positive reinforcement. After

many training sessions, that “poke” is replaced with the vaccination with little to no reaction from the individual. After all, they're busy eating their favorite snacks and have established trusting relationships with their trainers..

With these practices in place, the zoo is thrilled to share that all nonhuman primates at the zoo have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. All big cats—including cub Pilipili—are up to date, and several additional species have an added layer of protection against this illness.

Houston Family Play Treehouse

After 17 years of love and laughter, the climber at Pritzker Family Children's Zoo was removed this summer due to wear and tear. This removal presented an opportunity to re-envision the space and incorporate inputs from guest experience, animal welfare, accessibility and inclusion.

Now, the Children's Zoo is home to the Houston Family Play Treehouse! The structure offers a year-round indoor nature-based play space and nicely complements the Wild Sapling Play Forest nearby outside.

The new structure includes accessible and inclusive features. These involve elements such as a tunnel that provides tactile and other sensory experiences for wheelchairs to navigate inside and a variety of tactile animals placed around the structure to allow for variation with interaction while benefiting guests who are blind or have low vision. The treehouse also features interactive elements at all heights to be accessed by guests using a wheelchair. Space in and

around the structure encourages full exploration by guests using wheelchairs, white canes, crutches, and other assistive items.

One additional change? There will no longer be terrarium habitats incorporated into the new play structure; Lincoln Park Zoo research and animal welfare assessments showed the previous climber was disruptive to animals in those habitats. This is one of the many examples of the zoo's "evaluate and enhance" philosophy to continually research and adjust animal care practices in a way that benefits animal wellbeing.

The next time you're at the zoo, check out the Houston Family Play Treehouse!



Photo by Christopher Bijlba

Big Win for Big Cats

The Big Cat Safety Act passed in the House of Representatives and is moving on to the Senate! This resolution strengthens federal law by prohibiting the possession, sale, transfer, and breeding of tigers, lions, and other big cat species—except by qualified entities, including Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)-accredited institutions like Lincoln Park Zoo.

According to AZA President and CEO Dan Ashe, this bill effectively ends the unsafe and unethical use of big cats and their cubs for commercial photo ops, petting, and similar activities that undermine animal care and welfare, encourage exploitation, and incentivize unscientific breeding.

The bill was brought forth by Illinois Congressman Mike Quigley, a staunch advocate of wildlife and of Lincoln Park Zoo. The bill was cosponsored by 259 representatives and was adopted with a vote of 278–134. Lincoln Park Zoo has supported this bill and advocated for its passing. We are hopeful it will pass in the Senate and we will be one step closer to protecting all big cats in human care.

Introduced > Passed House > Passed Senate > To President > Became Law

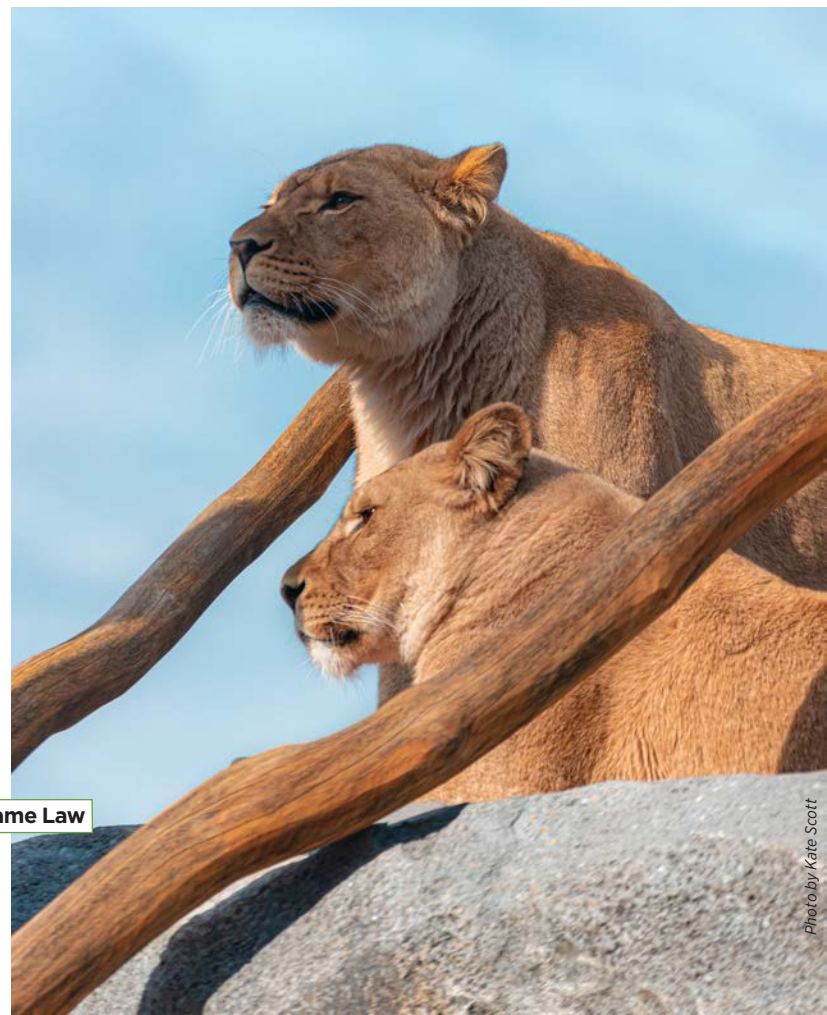


Photo by Kate Scott



Surprising Science

BY HELEN A. LEE

Lincoln Park Zoo scientists labor year-round on research projects designed to help humans learn more about animals in many different contexts. This type of work allows the zoo to better care for the individuals that reside here. Visitors don't necessarily see all the effort that staff put into projects like these—but can often see the results. For the animals in our care, this translates into more dynamic living spaces, improved enrichment, and actions that make life better, safer, and more natural. For animals in the wild, this leads to improved understanding and better conservation strategies and outcomes.

Dig Pits, Deconstructed

The naked mole rat habitat at Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House is a fascinating place, although you may not realize it at first glance. Most visitors take a peek at these animals huddling in their burrow and then move on without realizing how unusual and interesting these small, hairless rodents really are—and they may not realize all the surprising science going on in the habitat they’re viewing.



About Naked Mole Rats

Naked mole rats live underground in the eastern part of Africa, and are incredible because they can go without oxygen for 18 minutes, have an extremely high pain tolerance, and live up to 40 years. They are resistant to cell mutation, meaning that they have a natural immunity to conditions like cancer.

Naked mole rats are the only mammal that is eusocial; their society resembles that of certain insects who all work together for the good of the colony (think ants and bees). The workers are controlled by the queen not by pheromones, as happens with insects, but through behavior. These naked mole rats live exclusively in complex burrows that they dig together to expand.

Designing a Dig

Digging, for naked mole rats, is a social activity done in an assembly-line formation. One digs, several more sweep the dirt away, and one “volcanoes” the dirt out of a hole in the ground. However, in zoos, these animals traditionally live in various chambers connected by tubes; the habitats do resemble a naked mole rat burrow—but their fixed design has limitations when it comes to new space formation through digging. Naked mole rat burrows are constantly changing and can go off in many directions.

“Naked mole rats’ sight isn’t very good, but they have a really good sense of smell and they can sense vibrations through their whiskers and toes, allowing them to communicate through touch and map their spaces,” ZooMonitor Research Assistant Natasha Wierzal of the Animal Welfare Science Program notes. “It can be very hard for us to imagine what their world is like—we’re missing so much input that they use on a daily basis.”

So, Lincoln Park Zoo scientists and animal care staff began to ask what would happen if naked mole rats got more expansive opportunities to dig. And this required some ingenuity to create.

Lou Keeley, zoological manager, put together a prototype; he then tweaked it and worked with the facilities team here to build the current version. Animal caretakers connected the resulting dig box to the colony’s main habitat by a long tunnel that prevents dirt from being transferred back, ultimately designing and improving three models of dig pit boxes based on safety and behavioral data collected with the animal observation app ZooMonitor.

The researchers considered how the naked mole rat behavior changed from their original habitat design to each of the different types of digging opportunities the naked mole rats were offered as the design evolved.

Dig Pit Discovery

Watch the naked mole rats dig at lpzoo.org/digpit

Promising Results

First up—they dug! Naked mole rats at Lincoln Park Zoo had never dug through substrate and yet they jumped into action immediately.

As it turns out, naked mole rats exhibited more social behavior after being exposed to the dig pits. The animals also explored more, possibly because of the exciting new smelling and touching opportunities. Researchers also found that aggression in the colony decreased, while affiliative behaviors (which enhance unity) increased. The rodents also tried to dig at areas of their habitat that weren't movable less often with the true digging option available.

Ultimately, researchers found that providing the naked mole rats with firmly packed clay allows them to perform their assembly-line method, which helps to reinforce social structures within the group, enhanced their wellbeing the most. This makes sense given that they evolved in areas of hard, sun-baked clay.

The results of the project were shared at August's Association of Zoos and Aquariums national conference, hopefully inspiring other institutions to learn from our research and try this at their own zoos. "Showing that naked mole rats want to dig isn't groundbreaking research," Wierzal says, "But it's good to have data that shows that you can do a simple thing that makes a significant impact for the better of both individual and colony welfare."



Photo by Natasha Wierzal

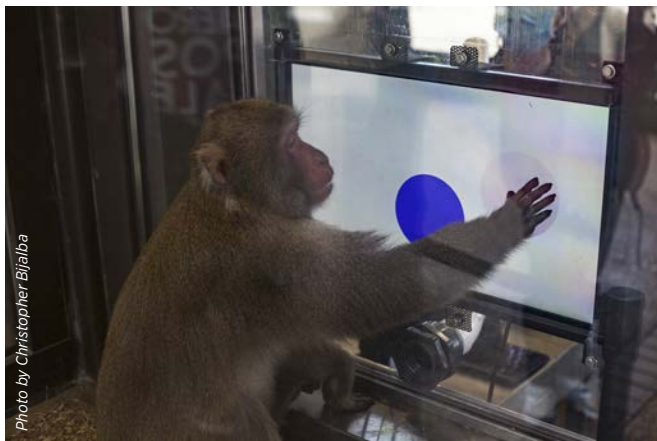
Care and Welfare

Today, the naked mole rats have constant access to the dig pit. It's refilled with soil every other week. "Animal care staff have made it part of their routine care," Wierzal says. "Every time it's refilled, the naked mole rats get a burst of excitement. They dive in again, map out more areas, and dig new patterns. We're able to add new enrichment and obstacles for them, too. And now this project has turned into a million other questions we're eager to answer with additional research."

So, the next step is naturally to keep analyzing data, and to learn more about the naked mole rats through the opportunities that have arisen from the inclusion of the dig pit. For example, staff can look more closely at how tunnel excavation opportunities versus simple digging affects their welfare and social structures. They can add items like rocks to see how the naked mole rats react. "The care team is excited to build upon this and see what else we can do," Wierzal says.

Primate Perceptions

Recently, Lincoln Park Zoo researchers studied the color preferences of primates, in a way that can help inform future cognitive work done with three different species.



On Colors

Colors influence people’s emotions in many ways—we find some calming and consider others to be warnings, and we feel certain ways about different hues based on social, cultural, and personal preferences. Nonhuman primates, who share a common ancestry with us, are no different.

In fact, color plays an important role in primate social development. Different colors convey different types of information to animals. For example, primates have evolved to detect certain colors associated with the foods they eat, like fruits and flowers; they may also use color to recognize and attract members of their own species. However, individuals also seem to prefer certain colors. Resident silverback western lowland gorilla Kwan, for example, clearly favors blue.

The Experiments

Recently, scientists at Lincoln Park Zoo wanted to explicitly investigate the preferences for distinct colors exhibited by

certain primates. “The preferences and biases of primates have important welfare implications. Learning more about what attracts their attention and what they prefer, even with basic stimuli such as colors, allows us to enhance the care we provide. At both the species and individual level, we could design enrichment items, positive reinforcement training sessions, and even future exhibits with their preferences in mind,” Jesse Leinwand, a researcher with the Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes, says.

So, they did two separate experiments, presenting seven chimpanzees, 11 western lowland gorillas, and 10 Japanese macaques with pairs of colors on a touch-screen display. The two experiments helped scientists determine whether the colors that captured the primates’ attention fastest were also their preferred colors, and how these preferences varied between the three species and 28 individual primates.

Primates could choose whether or not to participate, so any animals that preferred not to do the tasks did not have to. They receive rewards for their participation and touch-screen tasks are often changing, so the studies can be fun and enriching for them.

“One really exciting component of this study was that it was the first study that one of the three-year-old gorillas, Mondika, participated in,” Leinwand says. “Since then, we’ve also been able to include his half-brother, Djeke, in touch-screen tasks, with all nine gorillas in Kwan’s group now taking turns working on the touch-screen Monday through Friday.”

In the first experiment, the scientists conducted a test using what’s called a dot probe attentional bias paradigm. Basically, the primates looked at two squares of color for 300 milliseconds before they disappeared. Then, a dot replaced one of the colored squares, and the primates touched the dot to receive a reward. Participants will touch a dot faster when it replaces a

Photo by Todd Rosenberg

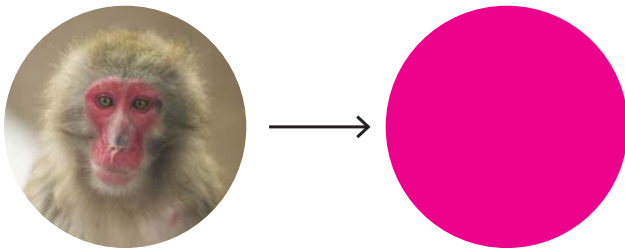
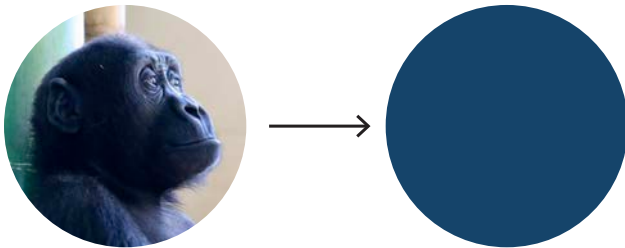


Photo by Diane Mohr



stimulus they are already looking at, so researchers can gauge where the primate's attention was located at the time when the squares were replaced by the dot.

The Results

What did zoo researchers discover? Well, it turns out Japanese macaques showed biases toward red and to a lesser extent, magenta, which makes sense since they have red parts on their bodies that offer social cues and sexual signals to other macaques. Gorillas and chimpanzees gave their attention to navy and black most frequently, and of course, these colors align with their own physical appearances.

In the second experiment, zoo staff used a forced choice paradigm. In this type of test, the primates looked at a pair of colors

until they selected one. Following this, researchers discovered that all three species picked red more often than other colors. However, chimpanzees on an individual level didn't pick red significantly more often than their second-most chosen color, and gorillas also chose black and navy. The bachelor gorilla group showed a bias toward black, although a few did not seem to care.

In general, in the second experiment, none of the species seemed to choose the colors plum and cyan. Most macaques showed a clear preference for red—except one. Unsurprisingly, gorilla Kwan picked navy blue most often, a persistent preference researchers had seen before that led him to repeatedly incorrectly select blue before red in a sequencing task.

Scientists did learn a few important things from this research: first, for the many other researchers around the world working on cognitive projects involving nonhuman primates, we can advise that they be wary of the color red and how it might skew results. Colors might influence these species in ways that could bias the results of studies that aren't looking specifically at color preference. So, using grayscale images might be a better option in some cases.

Next, Fisher Center researchers plan to explore the idea of social attention, investigating whether the primates can recognize their neighbors in Regenstien Center for African Apes, and if they show more attention to familiar or unfamiliar members of their own species. All of this work helps us better understand the minds of primates and make informed decisions about how to improve their care.

Misunderstood, Marvelous Bats

Most people either love or hate bats, but these animals—sometimes called “rats with wings”—get a bad rap in media and pop culture. They may seem scary, but they’re valuable members of their ecosystems. Lincoln Park Zoo’s Urban Wildlife Institute has been researching them for years in hopes of learning more about bats and about how to make sure these beneficial species are thriving in Illinois.

Not So Spooky

When you think of bats, you may picture small, dark, mysterious creatures of the night swooping down on leathery wings to capture wriggling prey with sharp teeth, using extra senses humans don’t possess. They’re fond of shadowy places, they’re often evoked in horror films, and they’re associated with vampires, which makes them popular icons around Halloween, the spookiest season of the year. There’s even a name for the fear of bats: chiroptophobia.

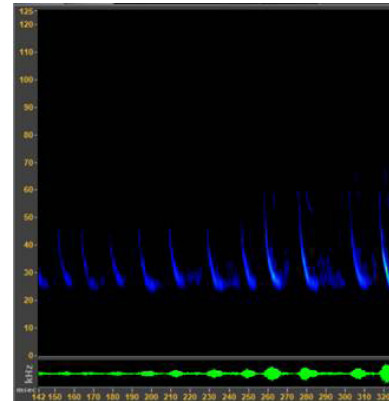
These fascinating little animals have long been misunderstood by humans, although in recent years scientists have been spreading the word about how beneficial bats can be as pollinators and insect-control specialists (each one can eat thousands of insects per night!). Hoping to improve their status and dispel some of the myths around bats, researchers at Lincoln Park



Zoo’s Urban Wildlife Institute (UWI) started a research project to learn more about bats in Illinois starting around 2013.

You see, back in 2010, UWI launched a biodiversity monitoring project in the Chicago area to understand urban wildlife. They use cameras at more than 100 locations to target terrestrial mammals, to understand the long-term changes urban wildlife populations are going through, and to learn more about animal habitats in a way that informs urban planning.

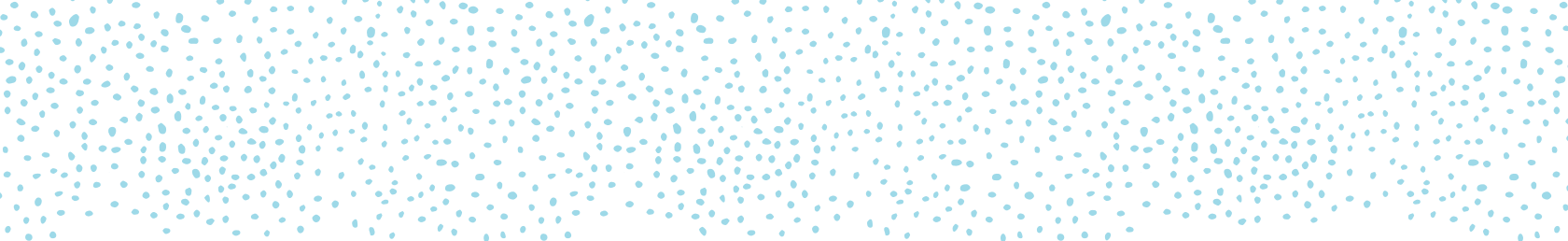
However, if you know anything about bats, you understand that that this kind of setup may not be the best way to go about getting information on them. They’re too fast, they’re too small, and they fly.



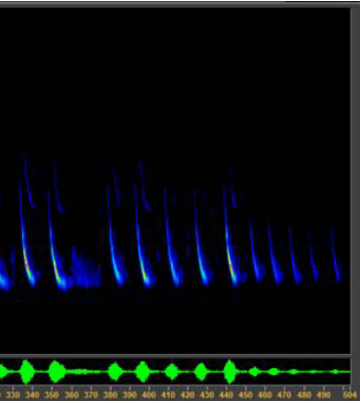
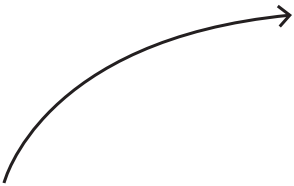
Gathering Intelligence Through Innovation

But zoo scientists also knew it was vital to get basic information about bats in Illinois, including which species were living here, especially as white-nose syndrome became more and more of a threat. This fungal disease, believed to have entered the U.S. through Europe around 2006, has been catastrophic for North American bat populations. A 2021 study in the journal *Conservation Biology* estimates that the disease killed 90 percent of three North American bat species (northern long-eared, little brown, and tri-colored) over a two-decade period.

So, researchers here at Lincoln Park Zoo, in conjunction with partners like Chicago Wilderness and the regional Bat Working Group, added an extra layer of observation to see if



Bat Signal?
 Listen to this
 big brown bat
 recording at
lpzoo.org/batsignal



they could figure out how local bats were responding to the threat.

“We can’t take pictures of bats, but we can record their echolocation calls as they fly around,” Urban Wildlife Institute Assistant Director Liza Lehrer explains about the process they now use. “These calls are ultrasonic, so they’re above human hearing levels, and we have to use special microphones to capture their sounds. What’s really neat is that, although they’re hard to observe naturally, when we record their sounds we can visualize the recordings with a spectrogram to see characteristics unique to each bat species.”

In this way, they have been able to detect which species are located in different areas, and this has provided a wealth of knowledge regarding the numbers, habits, and populations of the eight bat species that call the Chicago area home. But that isn’t the only method UWI scientists are using to understand the trends that affect local bats. They’re also getting help from community scientists. They’ve been working with local natural area stewards from organizations like the Chicago Park District, whose volunteers have been trained to monitor and record bat activity in their own territories.

The Work Continues

Not only does this work assist the scientists at UWI, it also provides an opportunity for those volunteers to spread the word about the good that bats do. For example, stewards at

West Ridge Nature Area often hold community events like “bat walks,” inviting local residents to come along, enjoy some nature, and learn about the essential role bats play in thriving ecosystems, from pollinating crops to providing guano for gardens.

UWI is finishing its 10th sampling season for bats, and the monitoring work continues. In the meantime, efforts like the above to upgrade the status of bats in the public eye appear to be working—at least on an anecdotal level. “Bats are the species that I’ve worked with over the years that people have been most excited about,” Lehrer says. “They’re polarizing, but many people are fascinated by them. They’re benefiting from this project because people are realizing the conservation importance, along with all the benefits they can provide. A lot of folks’ attitudes have changed.”



Photo by Julia Fuller

Saving Little Fire Faces

BY JILLIAN BRAUN
PHOTOS BY BRYAN SUMMERFORD

Darkness lies all around Lincoln Park Zoo keeper Bryan Summerford as he crouches in the fragmented forests of West Java, Indonesia, surprisingly nestled up next to coffee and other agriculture fields. Armed with a red flashlight, notebook, and camera, he waits. In a flash, the species he seeks darts across the bamboo thicke—as critically endangered slow lorises are anything but slow. The group of researchers he’s with takes note of the tracking device around the loris’ neck, part of a concerted effort to monitor and conserve these bug-eyed beauties.

“It was exhilarating the first time I saw a loris in the wild,” says Summerford. “Her name is Zippy and I observed her wake up from high up in her bamboo nest and immediately began foraging for tree gum, flower nectar, and insects. She was incredibly quick!”

Nighttime behavioral observations are only one of the many ways Summerford spends his two weeks in Indonesia as part of a designated annual keeper grant by the Faey family. The West Java rainforest is home to the Little Fire Face Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the loris through ecology, education, and empowerment. With this group, Summerford engages in daytime field work, motion-sensor camera monitoring, community engagement, and the release of rehabilitated lorises.

This subspecies of slow loris, the Javan slow loris, is recognized as a critically-endangered species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, with populations dwindling due to wildlife trafficking for the pet trade, exploitation for use in traditional medicine, and urbanization. These little nocturnal primates are less than a foot long and identified by their huge brown eyes which help spot prey and forage for food in the dark. They sport a short brown-and-gray coat and have opposable thumbs and strong hands that help them climb trees. Lorises share habitat with other obscure nocturnal animals such as colugos, pangolins, civets, and owls, which the Little Fire Face Project also observes opportunistically.

“It was eye-opening and heart-breaking to see the firsthand effects of wildlife trafficking and the pet trade on lorises and other Indonesian wildlife,” says Summerford. “But it was also very encouraging how organizations like Little Fire Face Project and Chikananga Wildlife Center are stepping up to help and educate current and future generations on the importance of conservation. It also made me proud that Lincoln Park Zoo is working to combat wildlife trafficking.”

During his trip, Summerford visits local schools to share nature-based curriculum about protecting wildlife and the students’ local ecology. He also visits a local zoo to assist creating habitats and enrichment for rescued or confiscated lorises. This ensures they have proper space for climbing, exploring, and engaging in species-specific behaviors.

With a renewed respect and enhanced passion for lorises and other lesser-known species, Summerford returns to Regenstein Small-Mammal Reptile House eager to continue caring for and sharing the stories of these curious creatures with zoo guests.

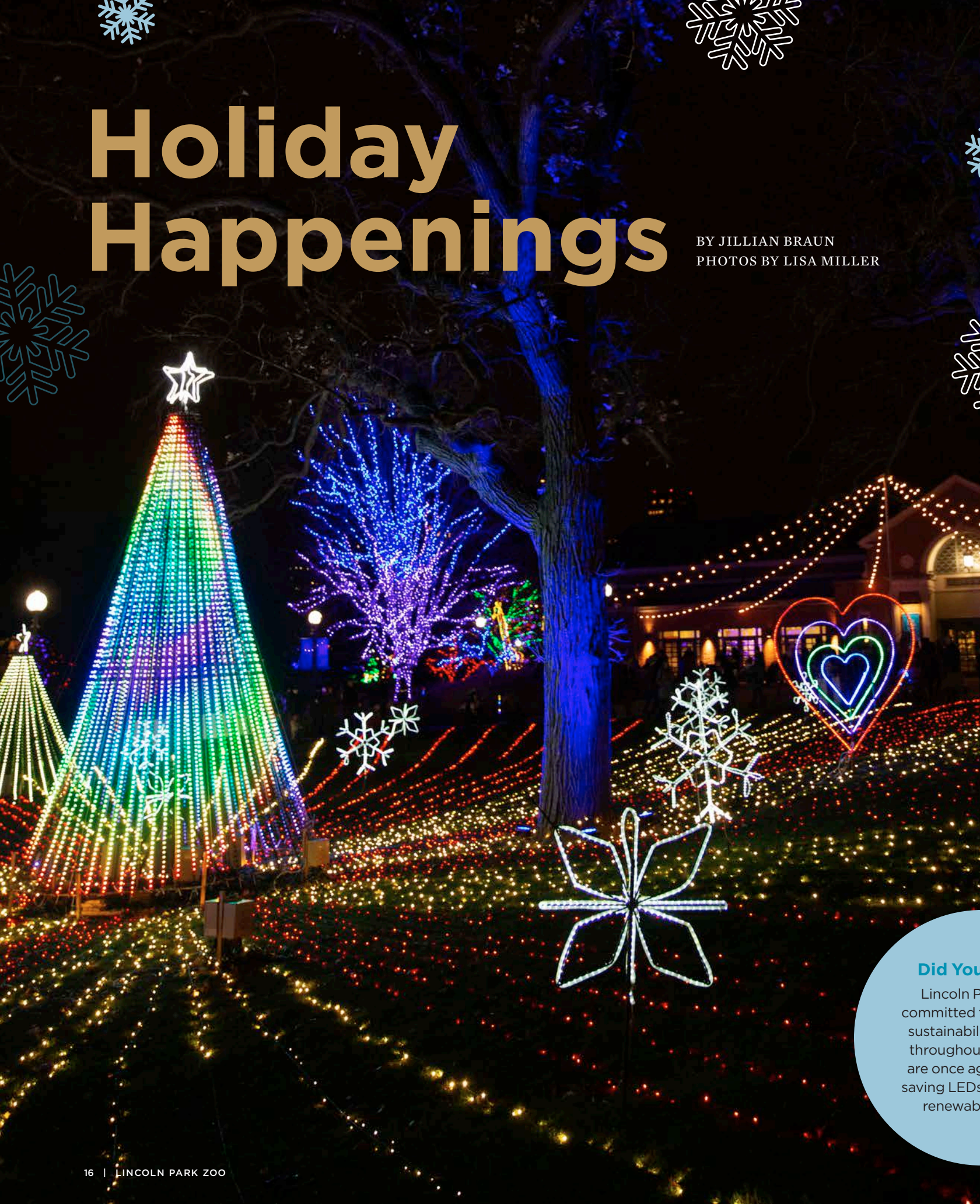
“In my short time in Indonesia, I learned so much about loris behavior and am excited to use that knowledge to enrich the lives of the lorises here at Lincoln Park Zoo,” he says.





Holiday Happenings

BY JILLIAN BRAUN
PHOTOS BY LISA MILLER



Did You
Lincoln Park Zoo is committed to sustainability throughout the year. Our energy audits are once again showing us how we can save LEDs and use renewable energy.



ZOOLIGHTS SCHEDULE

Open 4:30–10 p.m.

- ZooLights (\$5, Tickets Required)
- ZooLights (Free Admission, Tickets Required)
- Special Event (Tickets Required)
- Members-Only (Tickets Required)
- Sensory-Friendly Night

Keeping tradition alive, Lincoln Park Zoo transforms into a sparkling winter wonderland, kept warm with hot chocolate and nostalgic happiness. To celebrate the season, ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ returns with more than 2.5 million lights and hundreds of holiday displays. New this year, enjoy a tunnel of love, the return of the Ferris wheel, new themed lighting concepts, and more! Read on to learn about all the zoo’s holiday happenings.

“Zoo” Light Up My Life

ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ returns to Lincoln Park Zoo for the 28th year! Tickets are \$5 per person Tuesdays–Sundays and are free on Mondays. All ticket sales support the zoo’s world-class animal care, global conservation efforts, and innovative learning programs. Due to popular demand, Sensory-Friendly Night at ZooLights will also return on November 29. For this evening, music and blinking or moving lights will remain static or turned off.

Frosty the snowman isn’t the only new thing in town! Highlights of this year’s ZooLights include the return of the Ferris wheel, an expansive light tunnel on Main Mall, a Chicago-themed patio at Eadie Levy’s Landmark Café, and a re-envisioned crowd-favorite Comer Children’s Hospital Candyland Light Show on Winter Wonderlawn. Once again this year, guests can also “flip the switch” on the Winter Wonderlawn light show by purchasing a Light Up the Lawn experience.

Level up your ZooLights visit with experiences such as a walk through the twisting and turning Light Maze Presented by Invesco QQQ, a sip of cider at Snowy’s Spirits and S’more holiday pop-up bar, or an aerial view of the skyline from the top of the Ferris wheel. Learn more and purchase tickets at lpzoo.org/zoollights.

Did You Know?

Lincoln Park Zoo is committed to advancing sustainability. All lights at ZooLights are powered by solar energy.

November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Special Holiday Events

BrewLights Presented by Louis Glunz Beer, Inc.
December 1

Adults Night Out: Holidaze!
December 15

The Chris White Trio Tribute to A Charlie Brown Christmas
December 11

Zoo Year’s Eve
December 31



Mem
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Members-Only Magic

Active Lincoln Park Zoo members can enjoy two free Members-Only Nights at ZooLights on November 18 and December 14! Members-Only Nights include exclusive access to all ZooLights happenings including ice carvers, carolers and more, plus free rides on the AT&T Endangered Species Carousel and Lionel Train Adventure! Register at lpzoo.org/zoolights.

For “Glown”-ups

The holidays aren’t only for the young, but the young at heart! Sip and savor the night at BrewLights Presented by Louis Glunz Beer, Inc. on Thursday, December 1. Join the Auxiliary Board of Lincoln Park Zoo for holiday cheer—and cheers— as it hosts the craft beer festival. Adults Night Out: Holiday on December 15 is the perfect night out with friends filled with zoo-themed chats, live entertainment, and endless access to attractions. Warm your belly with a sip of champagne or other festive drinks while you ring in 2023 at Zoo Year’s Eve on December 31. Count down to midnight surrounded by loved ones and the joys of wildlife. All after-hours ticketed events help keep the zoo free and open 365 days a year. To learn more and buy tickets, visit lpzoo.org/events.



Proposals & Packages

Thinking of popping the question, or looking to host a holiday celebration? The zoo offers unforgettable holiday packages for those looking for a unique and intimate way to celebrate the season. Contact groupsales@lpzoo.org for more information.





Members-Nights:

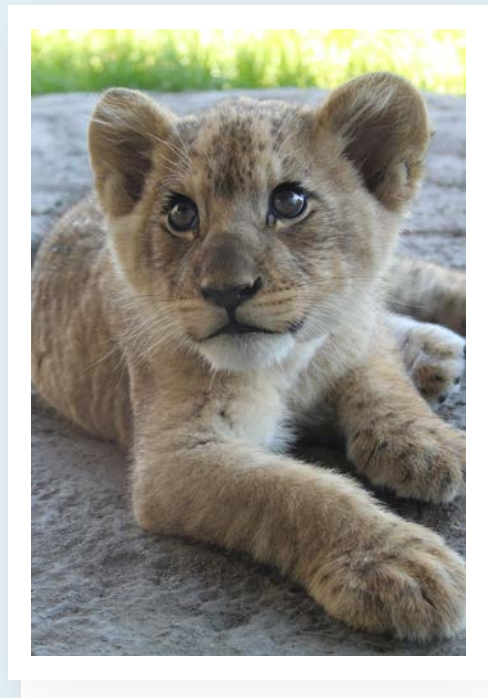
18 &
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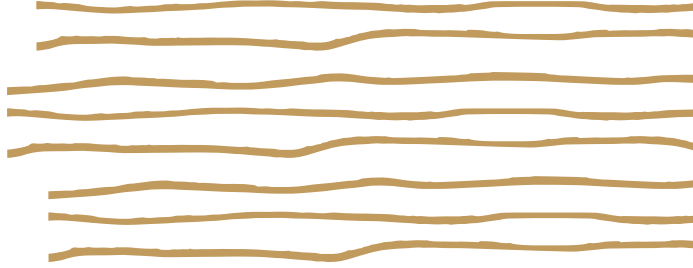
Shop “Zoo”-venirs

Stroll by the Gift Shop during your next visit for a polar bear brass ornament for your dearest cubs. Celebrate your troop with a hand-painted gorilla ornament by Jan Heyn-Cubacub or decorate your pride’s tree with a glass globe lion ornament.

Be the talk of the town with a “rawr”-some lion-inspired holiday card! Have your friends and family aww-ing over these cards featuring lion cub Pilipili.

Lincoln Park Zoo’s Holiday ADOPT packages make wildly unique gifts for the animal lovers in your life. Purchases support the zoo’s animal care efforts, so you’ll be making a difference for wildlife conservation, too! Stop by the Gift Shop, Member Center, or lpzoo.org/adopt to complete your ADOPTION today.





From Zoo Teen to Team Zoo

BY HELEN A. LEE

Lincoln Park Zoo's teen programs allow students in Grades 8-12 to participate in conservation activities, learn about future careers, and gain experience in fields like education and research. Participating teens also become part of the zoo family, which gives them access to mentors, peers who share their interests, and a network to support them in the future. For example, alumni return to the zoo each year for a reunion. Alums also assist with recruitment and planning, are invited back as speakers, can opt-in to receive updates (including job postings and animal updates) from the zoo, and receive memberships. And, as evidenced by a couple of the teen alums profiled here, they may even someday become full-time zoo staff!

Teen programs currently running at Lincoln Park Zoo include:

Malott Family Zoo Intern Program

This program allows high school students who live in the city of Chicago to become paid zoo interns, or ZIPs. You'll see them during their seven-week summer program on-grounds engaging in informal education opportunities—basically, teaching the public about animal science and conservation.

Counselor-in-Training

High schoolers who join this paid program, called CITs, work alongside Camp Counselors and Camp Teen Volunteers to run Conservation Camp each day. Conservation Camp is the zoo's summer camp for PreK-Grade 4 children, so this is a high-energy job that gives them experience in working with elementary-aged students.

Malott Family Research Apprenticeship Program

Residents of Chicago who are in Grades 10-12 can become RAPs. These paid interns participate in a seven-week paid program that lets them work alongside zoo researchers engaging in scientific endeavors. They are based in one of the zoo's science centers.

Conservation Ambassadors Board

As a CAB member, Chicago teens can learn more about the zoo and its conservation initiatives, while planning projects and events to share with their peers and the general public. This program lets teens sharpen leadership skills in areas like finance, marketing, event planning, and learning.

Camp Teen Volunteer

These volunteers, also called CTVs, earn service hours for spending five weeks assisting the day-to-day running of Conservation Camp. They help with and participate in camp activities, participate in professional development, and can join in a Recognition Night at the end of their session to celebrate their work.

Zoo Club

This free, remote experience lets teens from all over the world connect to each other and to the zoo remotely in sessions that help them build animal care, community-building, and conservation skills. They learn from zoo experts, practice new skills, and earn digital badges to earn zoo rewards.



NAME
GABRIELA GUZMÁN

FAVORITE ANIMAL
HOFFMAN'S TWO-TOED SLOTHS

FAVORITE PLACE AT THE ZOO
REGENSTEIN AFRICAN JOURNEY

TEEN EXPERIENCE
SUMMER ZOO CAMP VOLUNTEER,
MALOTT FAMILY ZOO INTERN
PROGRAM

CURRENT POSITION
LEARNING ADMINISTRATIVE
COORDINATOR

Teen program alumna Gaby Guzmán, a native of Chicago’s Little Village, turned a 2012 stint as a summer Zoo Camp volunteer and then a 2013 experience as a member of the Malott Family Zoo Intern Program (ZIP) at Lincoln Park Zoo into a full-time job. She’s one of the zoo’s newest employees, working in the Hurvis Family Learning Center as the Learning department’s Administrative Coordinator.

“Ever since I was young, I’ve wanted to be around animals and learn about them. As I grew older, I wanted to work with animals and care for them, but those opportunities were very limited as a young teenager living in an urban city,” Guzmán explains. “The ZIP program assisted with helping me realize that there are a number of different careers within the animal field, not just veterinarians. It helped me expand my knowledge and my love for wildlife and conservation.”

She says she has been inspired by some of the zoo’s past work, such as its initiative in vaccinating domestic dogs in the Serengeti to keep that ecosystem healthier for people and wildlife, and found lessons at Nature Boardwalk memorable—as the time she learned the meaning of the word “Chicago.” When she graduated from Infinity Math, Science & Technology High School, she went to the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, to pursue her childhood job of being a veterinarian.

After graduating in 2017, she started working with the shelter PAWS Chicago, where she had volunteered since 2013, eventually becoming a vet tech. Her job included prepping

animals for surgery, assisting in surgeries, and pulling controlled drugs to safely induce patients for surgery. “I was asking questions, I was staying later to help others out, and (the staff) saw that I wanted to learn and I wanted to grow,” she says.

Eventually, the chief veterinarian at PAWS left to start a new clinic and start consulting, taking Guzmán with her. However, after that business stalled due to logistical issues, Guzmán pivoted into a totally different career: law. She applied to a law firm and became a legal assistant and office manager.

When she learned about the open position at the zoo, Guzmán figured it was “a perfect circle” for her, with her administration and animal experience, and a return to where she’d started. These days, she coordinates events, schedules meetings, manages finances, and “makes sure everyone feels safe,” she says. “My day isn’t always the same, it’s constantly changing. In broad terms, I provide operational support within my department in hopes of helping things run more efficiently and smoothly.”

And while it’s not what she thought she’d be doing, she has no regrets about changing careers. So far, she likes the people and the environment, the amount of training she gets, and the social opportunities, such as an end-of-summer event she attended that was hosted by the zoo’s Culture & Inclusion committee. She says, “Although I’m not working with animals directly, I’m facilitating those programs that do reach out to teens and kids, and we’re getting them involved in conservation. It’s important to educate kids and teens because I don’t think enough people care about the environment, animals, and the consequences of our actions.”



Javier Lozano, Gaby Guzmán and Lindsey Johnson on zoo grounds.



NAME

LYNNE PAVLETIC

FAVORITE ANIMAL

AFRICAN LIONS, WESTERN
LOWLAND GORILLAS, AND
POLAR BEARS

FAVORITE PLACE AT THE ZOO
REGENSTEIN CENTER FOR
AFRICAN APES

TEEN EXPERIENCE

MALOTT FAMILY ZOO INTERN
PROGRAM, CONSERVATION
AMBASSADORS BOARD

SUMMER 2022 POSITION

MALOTT FAMILY ZOO INTERN
PROGRAM (ZIP) FACILITATOR

Although she's at the beginning of a career that's surely taking her places, there's one thing 2022 ZIP facilitator Lynne Pavletic knows—Lincoln Park Zoo is home.

Pavletic began her official association with Lincoln Park Zoo in 2015, as a rising high school sophomore. She was part of the Malott Family Zoo Intern Program (ZIP) that year, but also participated in the inaugural year of the Conservation Ambassadors Board (CAB) and did another year as part of CAB as well. This year, as a newly-minted graduate of University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, she decided to return while she figured out the next steps in her career.

In summer 2022, Pavletic acted as ZIP facilitator, supervising the seven-week paid internship in which 20 or so Chicago high school students get to learn about the zoo while educating others about animal and conservation science. You may have seen Pavletic on the zoo's Instagram this past August introducing some of the ZIPs and the mobile learning station about black-crowned night herons.

"I'm someone the ZIPs can rely on if they have questions and concerns," Pavletic says of her role as ZIP facilitator, which included mentoring and teaching lessons. "I'm a known face for

them, with insight from when I was a ZIP. Because my experience was like theirs, I think they find that incredibly helpful."

Pavletic hails from the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago, where Lincoln Park Zoo has partnerships and deep roots. She went to high school at Lane Tech College Prep, where she found out about ZIP from one of her friends. She credits the internship program with "literally saving my life, which has made me want to give back and provide inspiration like I was given."

She says that she spent much of her childhood wanting to get out of the South Side. "You feel helpless sometimes," she says, noting that her mother was bringing her and her brother up alone, and she felt that her options for the future would be limited.

However, becoming part of the Lincoln Park Zoo family and learning how to engage with guests, gave her more perspective—even though she traveled 1.5 hours to get here. "Positivity is contagious," Pavletic notes. "I loved learning about everything about the zoo. It's a happy place here and you feel it. It has affected me for the rest of my life and given me a connection to my neighborhood, and I'm grateful for that."

Now, Pavletic has more confidence in her future, her own personal skills, and her own ability to deal with change. And since leaving the zoo in August, she's already leveraged those skills into a new job with DePuy Synthes, the orthopedic arm of Johnson & Johnson. There, Pavletic is a Trauma Sales Associate; she provides clinical and customer support as a point of reference for surgeons using the company's products. Her job includes building and maintaining relationships and providing technical expertise. With what she's learned at the zoo, we're expecting to hear great things about her in the future.



Lynne Pavletic at the Camera Trapped mobile learning station, which she facilitated.



NAME
JA'LIA SHEPPARD

FAVORITE ANIMAL
POLAR BEARS

FAVORITE PLACE AT THE ZOO
REGENSTEIN MACAQUE FOREST
CONFERENCE ROOM

TEEN EXPERIENCE
CAREER EXPLORER -
HORTICULTURE

SUMMER 2022 POSITION
PUBLIC HORTICULTURE INTERN

Back in 2014, Ja'lia Sheppard had her first experience with the Horticulture department here at Lincoln Park Zoo. It was a two-week Career Explorer program, offering an administrative, educational perspective as she shadowed a horticulturalist. Once this program was completed, she graduated from high school and went on to Denison University.

After graduating with a Chemistry degree in 2019, she went out into the professional world. Sheppard worked for three years as a chemist at a pharmaceutical company, but decided she didn't like the industry as much as she loved pure chemistry. So she decided to make a career switch—and that led her back to Lincoln Park Zoo.

In summer 2022, she was back doing horticulture again, but this time, she did a deeper dive into the topic. This internship was more research and fieldwork-based, and she was able to put together a project focusing on native plant species and pollinator interactions. This required her to develop a plan, define protocols, and develop from scratch a project that can be

continued in future seasons by additional interns and staff members.

She did this while shadowing the Horticulture team, exploring landscape planning and design, and exploring new professional paths. "Taking advantage of this opportunity has provided me with a lot of clarity in my career goals. It has inspired me to potentially pursue a graduate degree in environmental engineering and jump-start a career in ecological restoration," she says.

As the Public Horticulture Intern, Sheppard's job included daily tasks like going out to make observations at Nature Boardwalk, doing data analysis, and helping out with other tasks such as watering, mulching, and otherwise "making the zoo look pretty." If you were out here this summer, you know that she and the Horticulture staff did an amazing job with that.

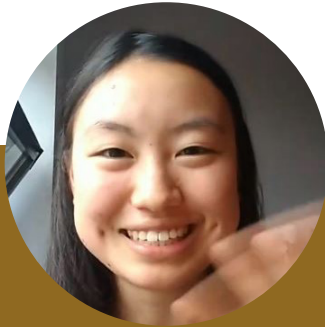
What did she love about the work? Being outside, enjoying summer, and experiencing something other than the 9-to-5 grind in an office. "We were at the end of this parking lot pulling weeds, and there were three other Horticulture teams out there, having casual conversation in a shady spot. It was just kind of nice—I've never had a moment like that in a professional setting before," Sheppard shares. "This is the way people should feel at work when getting a task done, when pulling weeds."

As Sheppard navigates the present—she's teaching English at a bilingual high school in Madrid, Spain until next June—and considers her future, she thinks her horticulture background might be a versatile one that can springboard her into the next chapter of her life, whatever that looks like. She's definitely interested in the planning of public spaces, in sustainability, and in issues surrounding alternate sources of energy that can combat climate change.

Sheppard also believes that engaging in things she is passionate about will help her accomplish her goals. Sheppard advises, "As long as there's some kind of passion about it for you, I think you should chase that, even though it's hard and you're bound to fail. Choose your hard, be open to new experiences, and make sure you find what you're passionate about."



Ja'lia Sheppard doing research on pollinators and native plants at Nature Boardwalk.



NAME

HANNAH XIE

FAVORITE ANIMAL

HORSES

FAVORITE PLACE AT THE ZOO

MCCORMICK BIRD HOUSE

TEEN EXPERIENCE

CONSERVATION AMBASSADORS
BOARD

SUMMER 2022 POSITION

CONSERVATION CAMP
COUNSELOR

Hannah Xie is a young student with a bright future and a resume that includes multiple stints at Lincoln Park Zoo. She's considering majoring in political science and minoring in computer science and Chinese at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, where she's currently a sophomore. She's also thinking about a career in law—maybe environmental—but she's got time to figure that out.

Xie may not be certain exactly what she wants to be when she gets out of college, but she knows this: "Later on, I want to be able to work with other people, be knowledgeable about the environment, and be able to teach groups of people," she says.

Xie first joined the zoo during her senior year as a member of the Conservation Ambassadors Board; she and her fellow team members organized two virtual conferences about conservation and sustainability efforts around the world. "It was there that I really got into conservation and learned about ways where I could personally contribute to conserving wildlife," she says. "I just found it a very encouraging environment to learn and grow in."

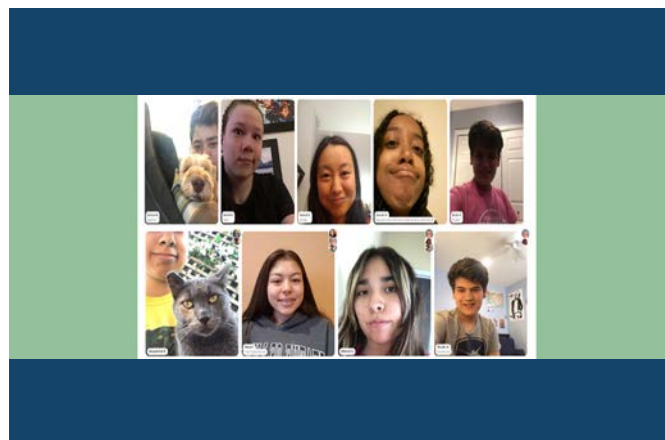
Now, just a few years later, she's back. She says she wanted to continue in that environment, which is why she returned—to teach conservation to a different type of audience. Instead of public speaking and outreach, the skills she has been utilizing this past summer as a Conservation Camp counselor "meant more curriculum planning and connecting with a (quite literally) smaller group of people for a longer period of time," she says.

Her job included working with a co-counselor and a counselor-in-training to keep children occupied with nature-based learning activities throughout the day. She notes that her work this past summer included keeping everyone safe and having fun, while keeping their curiosity intact and helping them stay engaged with different games and activities.

While most of the materials she and her co-counselors use are provided by the zoo's Learning Department, the job also allows her some creativity. Xie relates how, one afternoon as kids were being picked up by caregivers, she and her co-counselor developed an activity in which every child added something new to an illustration of an animal before they left for the day. Since not all the kids would see the end result before they go, the counselors left it on the board so they could all view the finished animal the following day.

And while she's been shepherding them around to animal habitats, playing with them outside, and helping them experience child-led play, Xie has been learning herself. Not only is observing her fellow camp counselors helping her to become a better educator and guide, she's learning more about children (she says she's learned kids are like adults, "but with a lot more excitement and a little more impulsiveness") and about herself.

"I've been more open to talking with other people, and more excited for other people's successes and the things that they enjoy," she says. "I feel like this will help me better connect and empathize with other people, especially when they need someone to support them."



Hannah Xie and other Zoo Club members showcasing their interests during COVID-19 pandemic virtual sessions.



NAME

JAEDA BRANCH

FAVORITE ANIMAL

WHITE-CHEEKED GIBBONS

FAVORITE PLACE AT THE ZOO

RAINBOW CONE (SEASONAL)

TEEN EXPERIENCE

MALOTT FAMILY ZOO INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

CURRENT POSITION

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS LEAD

Jaeda Branch once thought everyone who worked at zoos had to be interested in hands-on work with animals. And although she loves animals, she knew she didn't necessarily want that kind of career. However, thanks to the opportunities provided her through the Malott Family Zoo Internship Program (ZIP), she realized that her work could still include zoos—even if she didn't want to be a keeper.

"Things changed when I found out you could teach people about animals," Branch says. "After I was a ZIP, I told my family I wanted to be an informal educator for the rest of my life."

Branch has now been an employee at Lincoln Park Zoo for almost four and a half years. She is the Community Programs Lead here at the zoo.

While she was living in the Ashburn neighborhood and attending Morgan Park High School, Branch developed an interest in environmental issues. When her mother wanted her to find a job the summer before her junior year, she applied to the zoo and got accepted. The ZIP experience allowed her to learn about animals and then interpret them to guests.

Next, Branch attended the University of Chicago and graduated in 2018 with a degree in comparative human development. But before she even left school, she already had a job lined up—at Lincoln Park Zoo! She'd heard that the zoo was looking for a Community Learning Facilitator and got the job.

She was promoted to her lead position in 2020, helping coordinate the zoo's community engagement initiatives in the North Lawndale neighborhood. The zoo works with

community organizations and residents there to create change that benefits people as well as wildlife.

"A lot of my job is co-creating programs with community members, based on what they want for their neighborhood," Branch explains. "We also attend and facilitate community meetings. I spend more time in the community than zoo grounds."

Branch was deeply involved in the creation of Douglass 18, a mini-golf course in North Lawndale imagined and designed by teenagers. This project was supported by multiple partners to help build a sense of community in the area while bringing awareness of the 205 species of birds that migrate to that location each year. Her duties included writing lesson plans to help the teens understand the importance of the local birds.

"Just being the one who taught the team about the birds so they could create signage and other aspects of each of the holes was an accomplishment—I taught them. I inspired them to care about these birds," she marvels.

Today, much of her work also includes the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC) Greening Open Space Water and Sustainability (GROWSS) Youth Council. This initiative aims to create confident leaders who help build relationships with each other, their neighbors, and nature to create a healthier, more vibrant community. Over the summer, she led a weekly program with seven high school students teaching them about community garden stewardship and conservation as well as connecting to nature through photography.

And all this, Branch believes, is possible because of her ZIP experience. She says, "The ZIP helped me to be able to facilitate for a wide range of ages. I was really shy—I'm still shy, but it helped a lot with being able to be braver and to talk out loud, to be more comfortable with my voice. All of those are skills I learned as a ZIP."



Jaeda Branch and ZIP friends explore the People's Gas Pavilion at Nature Boardwalk.

Higher Ground

BY HELEN A. LEE
PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER BIJALBA

Did you know that Lincoln Park Zoo has 18 green roofs, scattered across its grounds? They aren't meant to beautify the grounds, as they're in hard-to-reach behind-the-scenes spaces, but they provide valuable services for the zoo and the city of Chicago.

The next time you're at Lincoln Park Zoo, look up. You might just see a glimpse of one of the zoo's green roofs. We're betting you didn't even know they existed.

As part of the zoo's commitment to sustainability, green roofs have been installed at 18 different sites here on zoo grounds. Also called "vegetated" or "living" roofs, green roofs lie over traditional building coverings and consist of a waterproofing membrane, a growing medium (think soil), and plants.

Why Green Roofs?

Green roofs provide many benefits, including the management of water runoff from surfaces like parking lots, streets and rooftops—an especially important consideration in an urban environment like Chicago, where a proliferation of paved walks prevents precipitation from being absorbed into the ground. Rain and snow can drain into nearby bodies of water like Lake Michigan, taking pollutants with them and damaging local water quality. Green roofs slow the flow of water from a roof by up to 65%, keeping nearby bodies of water cleaner.

Green roofs also make the zoo more energy-efficient; they cool buildings down, provide shading, and help regulate interior temperatures. On top of that, they can reduce the effects of urban heat islands, caused by the fact that concrete and

asphalt absorb and re-emit heat, warming up cities. This results in extra energy consumption and heat-related problems.

Ultimately, green roofs just make a lot of sense: they provide additional habitats for plants and animals (especially pollinators like insects), and last longer than regular roofs. Of course, it doesn't hurt that they add beauty to zoo grounds, even though most visitors don't even know they exist. Here in the Lincoln Park neighborhood, the skyline view from some these roofs is pretty spectacular.

Green on Grounds

Not all of the green roofs are viewable from ground level, but you can see a few of them while you're walking around. For example: look up from the viewing windows at Pepper Family Wildlife Center to view some of the green sites atop that building. You can also visit Bird's Eye Bar & Grill and look south across Main Mall for an even better view of these spaces.

Other green roofs at the zoo are located at Regenstein Macaque Forest, Hurvis Family Learning Center, Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove, Walter Family Arctic Tundra, Searle Visitor Center, Pritzker Family Children's Zoo, Regenstein Center for African Apes, and Pepper Family Wildlife Center. If

you're keeping track, that means they're pretty much all over the zoo, and some buildings have multiple roof garden areas.

All told, the zoo features more than 33,000 square feet of green roof space, a result of careful planning from the get-go. Green roofs require a certain amount of engineering to place properly, along with permits from the city and other requirements.

"The green roofs at Lincoln Park Zoo provide many benefits including improved air quality, building insulation, and improved storm water management. These roofs are one way the zoo shows its commitment to sustainability," says Director of Horticulture Katrina Quint.

Maintenance Moxie

Members of the Horticulture staff must be fairly nimble to get to some of these green roofs. A few can only be accessed by tall ladders, and some are also restricted when the animals are out on exhibit or during certain seasons when animals, like the polar bears, are denning. This means the plants that grow on top of the buildings have to be able to fend for themselves, to some extent. While many of the roofs have irrigation systems, zoo staff may only be able to access the roofs three to four times a year.

Despite their height, though, green roofs do get attacked by weeds. Juniper,

clover, sumac, solidago, mulberry dandelions, dogweed, crabapples, and other types of unwanted vegetation can easily make their way onto green roofs. That means that when Horticulture staff are able to access the roofs, they will do a certain amount of weeding to ensure the weeds aren't crowding out the intended plantings.

Plenty of Plants

Because most green roofs can't have a deep soil layer, only certain types of plants thrive in these environments. The plants of choice are low-maintenance perennials, like drought-resistant euphorbia and sedum.

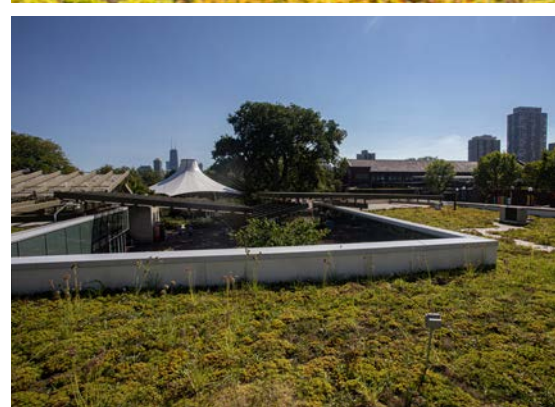
"The plants chosen for green roofs thrive in these spaces. Sedums and prickly pear cacti are shallow-rooted plants that require little water to survive and are ideal for use in green roof systems," Quint explains.

Sedum is a genus of green succulents with clusters of star-shaped flowers. Prickly pear cactus are one of the only cactus species native to Illinois.

Some roofs, like the ones at Pepper Family Wildlife Center and Regenstein Macaque Forest, are able to support a slightly deeper soil—up to 8 inches. This provides Horticulture staff with a little more freedom in what to plant, although these places also require more maintenance as a result. Here, you'll find grasses like prairie bluestem among others.

"On our semi-intensive roofs we are able to grow plants with larger root systems, like prairie dropseed and purple coneflower, which also allows them to be seen from the ground," Quint says.

These plants may not be as visible to zoo guests but they represent the zoo's commitment to creating a more sustainable future that's not limited to our animal care and conservation initiatives. It's one more way the zoo makes Chicago a better place—even if no one can see it.



Bridget Campbell

President, Women’s Board of Lincoln Park Zoo

Can you share your proudest accomplishment as part of the Women’s Board?

Being asked by the nominating committee to be the president is my proudest accomplishment. I am honored that my fellow members and past presidents believe that I can lead the board for the next two years. In addition, co-chairing Zoo Ball during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the spring of 2020, no one knew how the pandemic would impact the economy. It was not an easy time to ask for money, but we exceeded our fundraising goals and the in-person Zoo Ball returned in 2021.

What are your goals for the Board, as its new president?

I hope to host more in-person gatherings and social events. Zoom meetings are likely here to stay in some form but I do not want this to be the norm. There is wonderful energy when we gather in person as a group to plan fun and creative ways to raise money for the zoo. This board is filled with generous, smart and elegant women that serve as ambassadors to the community. I believe continuing to grow our board has the greatest impact on our ability to support the zoo.

Tell us about your connection to Lincoln Park Zoo and what it means to you.

I grew up in the city. I was once one of the many kids who rode a yellow school bus to Lincoln Park Zoo and enjoyed a free wildlife adventure. Many years later, I joined the Women’s Board, and with the support of my husband Matt, have been fortunate to actively raise funds to keep the zoo free and support its capital, conservation and education efforts. My connection to Lincoln Park Zoo and my desire to keep the zoo free for all the kids has come full circle for me. It is a gratifying moment and I feel very lucky to have had these experiences with our beloved zoo.



Photo courtesy of Bridget Campbell

Vincent B. Gómez

Sarah J. Pang Director of Community Engagement

What does your work at the zoo entail?

Since I joined the zoo family in December 2021, the opportunity to lead the zoo’s community engagement team has been deeply meaningful and motivating. My role is to ensure that the work we do in partner communities of Little Village, North Lawndale, and Austin is both inspired and guided by voices of the community.

How did you get into this type of work?

I am second-generation Mexican American and come from parents who both were very active in the Chicago community as activists, educators, and organizers. From a young age, I knew that families like mine dealt with different challenges than families from more resourced communities in Chicago. The obstacles we faced as a family—and continue to face as a community of BIPOC peoples—remains deeply concerning to me. Realizing that I could pursue my passion for serving others and my love of nature, simultaneously, is a driving force behind why I choose to pursue service to the community as a nature-based educator.

What are your goals for engaging with communities and creating accessible opportunities here at Lincoln Park Zoo?

We want to be intentional in making sure our programs connect, motivate, and equip community members to act on behalf of the environment in ways that are relevant to them. We are prioritizing the process of listening, re-listening and learning from each member of our team, our partners, and our program participants so that we clearly understand one another’s values and motivation.

What is your biggest work accomplishment so far?

Building authentic relationships with the community of professionals at the zoo. The zoo’s ambitious vision for our future can only be achieved by working together, so it means the world to me that our community has been so welcoming of me and my ideas. It’s amazing to work alongside a community of talented, dynamic professionals who bring high levels of passion and expertise to their work every day.

What is the best part of your job?

Everything! But seriously, the zoo is such an exciting place to work. To me, the opportunity to “think and do” in a manner aligned with the ideals of servant leadership is the best part of my job.



Photo courtesy of Vincent B. Gómez

Eastern Black Rhinoceros

Diceros bicornis michaeli

Regenstein African Journey has welcomed an 18-year-old male rhino named Utenzi (oo-TEN-zee)! He arrived from Cincinnati Zoo as part of the Eastern Black Rhinoceros Species Survival Plan®, in hopes that he will one day produce offspring with resident female rhino Kapuki. Eastern black rhinos stand up to five feet high at the shoulder, span 12 feet in length, can weigh up to 3,000 pounds, and have prehensile lips and two fibrous keratin horns. Each rhino has unique horns which help in identifying them. At Lincoln Park Zoo, female Kapuki has a long, sharp front horn, while her offspring Romeo has a wider, rounder front horn. New arrival Utenzi has a rough patch on his front horn in which the keratin that makes up the horn is visible. Keratin is the same material that makes up human hair and nails!

—Jillian Braun ■



LINCOLN PARK ZOO.
FOR WILDLIFE. FOR ALL.

2001 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60614
lpzoo.org

Upcoming Events

Perks for Zoo Members!

Lincoln Park Zoo members contribute to the zoo's care, community, and conservation initiatives. Thank you!

Your membership not only includes free or discounted parking, access to the Member Lounge at Searle Visitor Center, and invitations to sneak peeks and members-only events, it also includes discounts on all zoo events throughout the year!

Not a member?
Join today at lpzoo.org/join.

NOVEMBER

THURSDAY, 10

ZooLA

The premier live auction, hosted by the Women's Board of Lincoln Park Zoo, takes place at The Casino Club in Streeterville. Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as you bid on remarkable items and experiences to raise money for the zoo.

FRIDAY, 19

ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ

Celebrate the holidays with ZooLights, a family-friendly tradition that runs almost nightly through January 1. Enjoy lighted displays all over the grounds, get photos with Santa, and experience entertainment and festive treats.

DECEMBER

THURSDAY, 1

BrewLights Presented by Louis Glunz Beer, Inc.

The eighth annual event hosted by the Auxiliary Board of Lincoln Park Zoo features craft and seasonal beer on tap throughout the zoo. Enjoy specialty brews and plenty of seasonal entertainment under the glow of holiday lights.

SUNDAY, 11

Chris White Jazz Trio's Tribute to "A Charlie Brown Christmas"

How can you celebrate the season without this classic holiday soundtrack from Vince Guaraldi? The Chris White Jazz Trio comes to Café Brauer for two live musical shows suitable for all ages.

TUESDAY, 15

Adults Night Out: Holidaze!

Leave the kids at home and head to the zoo for an after-hours event featuring multiple bars, animal chats, a live DJ and plenty of fun. Enjoy the light displays and stroll the grounds with a beer, cider, or wine in hand.

SATURDAY, 31

Zoo Year's Eve

Countdown to 2023 at this adults-only event, set among a backdrop of millions of lights. Cash bars, a DJ, games, giveaways and a dance party at Pepper Family Wildlife Center are highlights of this special night.

JANUARY

TUESDAY, 3-FRIDAY, 6

Winter Break Camp

Registration is now open for this camp, which offers fun and exploration for nature lovers in grades PreK-5. Students can learn about animals, the environment, and Lincoln Park Zoo's care and conservation work.

THURSDAY, 12

Learn, Explore, and Play (L.E.A.P.) Winter Series

Thursdays and Fridays from January 12-March 10, children and their adult caregivers can explore the natural world through play while enjoying the animals here at the zoo. Registration opens November 15.