

What to Know About Crowd Sizes When Planning Your Visit to Lincoln Park Zoo

Winter (December–February)

Winter is typically when you see the smallest crowds at Lincoln Park Zoo. Weekdays do not attract as many guests or large group visits. Many animals may still be active and visible, especially indoors.

Spring (March–May)

Spring break for local and out-of-state schools means a significant increase in crowds. Visitor counts are the lowest from the time the zoo opens until noon. School field trips, especially in May, pack the zoo from about 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a lull between 1–2:30 p.m.

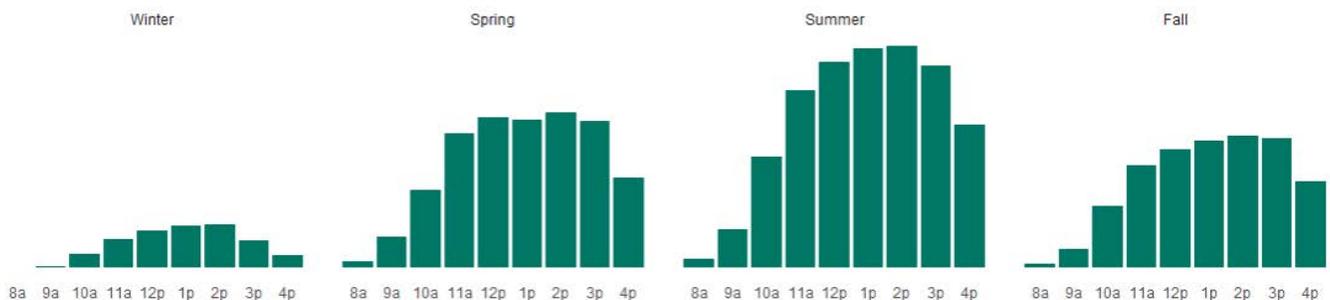
Summer (June–August)

This is the busiest season at the zoo. Weekends and holidays, like Independence Day, bring the largest crowds the zoo sees all year. On extreme heat days, attendance is the lowest. For the lightest crowds in the summer, plan to visit before noon on a weekday.

Fall (September–November)

Fall and spring crowds are similar in size and trends. On days when the zoo is open before 10 a.m., it is less busy from 8–10 a.m. School groups are not as frequent as in the spring, but they still come from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. There is an afternoon lull with fewer visitors until about 2:30 p.m.

When planning your visit, please be sure to check zoo hours, as they change seasonally. [Plan your visit here.](#)



How Do We Know This?

Like many outdoor venues, Lincoln Park Zoo uses security cameras to count the people who enter and exit the gates. This helps staff manage crowds and keep guests safe. These cameras keep track of the number of people at the zoo while protecting guests' anonymity.