

Grizzly Bears at Reid Park Zoo

Reid Park Zoo is now home to two Grizzly bears, named Ronan and Finley. The brother and sister cubs were rescued from Montana, because their mother was teaching them the problem behaviors of raiding chicken coops, breaking into barns for grain, and feasting on the contents of garbage cans. Being dependent on these food sources brought the bears into close contact with humans, which is dangerous.

The decision was made by wildlife officials to relocate the bears, but they quickly returned to the same area and the same dangerous behaviors. Unfortunately, when bears are dependent on humans for food, there are very few options that are safe for both bears and humans. The cubs' only chance of survival was a home at a Zoo. Luckily, Reid Park Zoo had recently completed a new habitat with the intent of providing a home for rescued grizzly bears.

The Grizzly Crossing Habitat

The Grizzly Crossing habitat at Reid Park Zoo was originally built to house polar bears. The habitat has been modified for the grizzly bear species, including the addition of shallow water areas and a running stream. The dig yard has been seeded and landscaped, and several large branches have been added. Finally, graphics and interpretive elements tell the stories of Ronan and Finley while also educating Zoo guests about how to safely enjoy bear habitat.

Bear Biographies

The yearling cubs we rescued in July, 2013. It was estimated that they were 18 months old at the time. Ronan and Finley were both named for locations near the Flathead Indian Reservation where they were captured.

Ronan is the larger of the two bears. He is darker than Finley, and has a longer snout. Ronan enjoys eating meat, fish, dry chow, carrots, and sweet potatoes. He has taken to operant conditioning (behavior training) very quickly.

Finley, the female, is the smaller of the two bears. She is lighter colored than her brother with a more "grizzled" appearance. She is the more reserved of the two bears, and watches her Keepers cautiously. Finley enjoys eating fruit popsicles and is a very fast learner.

Bear Resources for Media

- For media only, resources and photos can be accessed through <http://reidparkzoo.org/media-info/>
- photos may also be downloaded directly at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/reidparkzoo/sets/72157635565191691/>