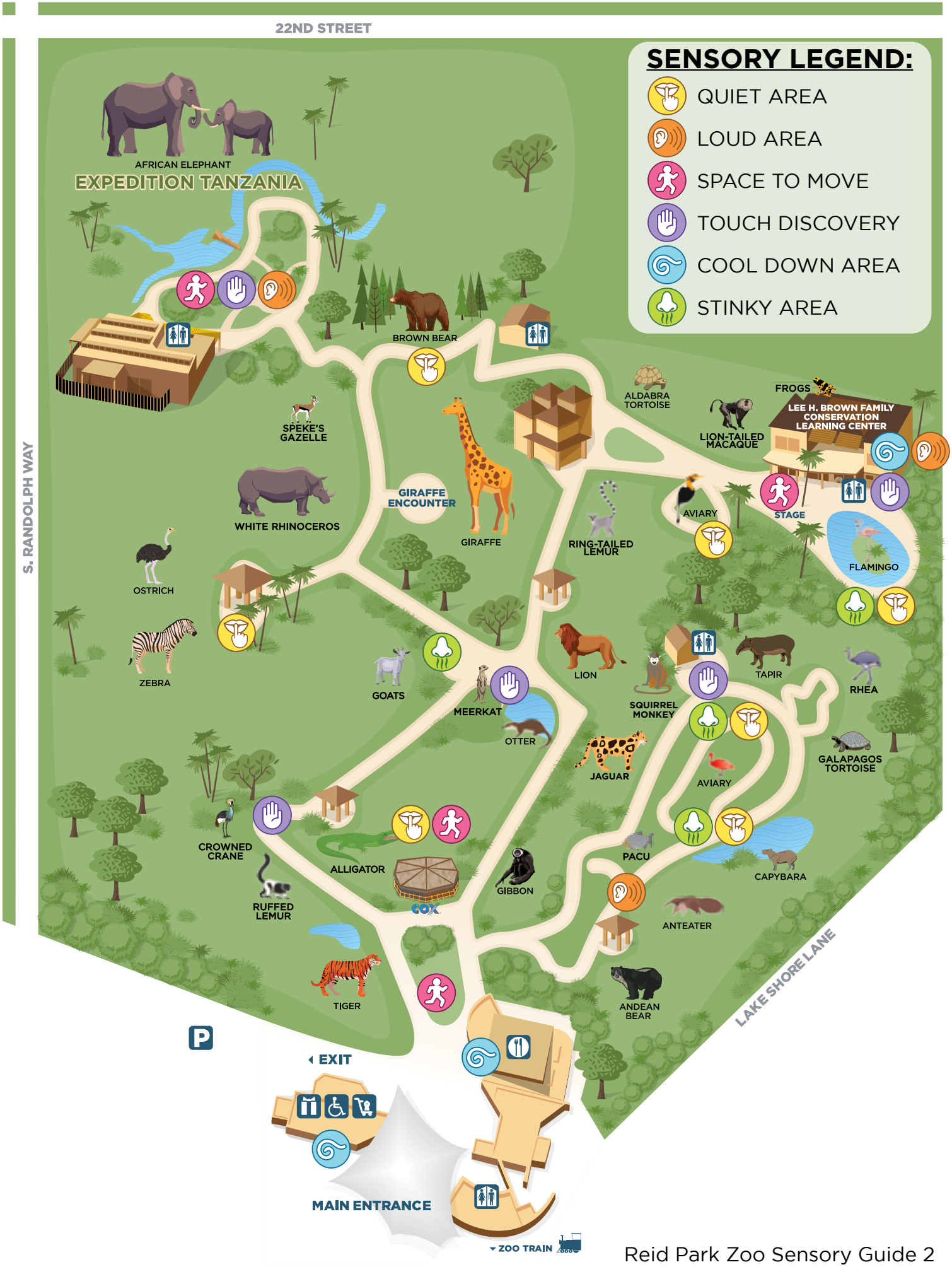
SENSORY GUIDE

REID PARK ZOO


22ND STREET
S. RANDOLPH WAY
LAKE SHORE LANE
SENSORY LEGEND:
QUIET AREA
LOUD AREA
SPACE TO MOVE
TOUCH DISCOVERY
COOL DOWN AREA
STINKY AREA
AFRICAN ELEPHANT
EXPEDITION TANZANIA
BROWN BEAR
SPEKE'S GAZELLE
WHITE RHINOCEROS
GIRAFFE ENCOUNTER
GIRAFFE
ALDABRA TORTOISE
FROGS
LEE H. BROWN FAMILY CONSERVATION LEARNING CENTER
LION-TAILED MACAQUE
AVIARY
STAGE
RING-TAILED LEMUR
FLAMINGO
OSTRICH
ZEBRA
GOATS
MEERKAT
OTTER
LION
SQUIRREL MONKEY
TAPIR
RHEA
JAGUAR
AVIARY
GALAPAGOS TORTOISE
CROWNED CRANE
RUFFED LEMUR
ALLIGATOR
GIBBON
PACU
CAPYBARA
ANTEATER
TIGER
ANDEAN BEAR
EXIT
MAIN ENTRANCE
ZOO TRAIN

PREPARE FOR AN ADVENTURE

The greatest explorers study their route before a big adventure. Here is a guide to help you navigate Reid Park Zoo and have a wild time!

ENTERING THE ZOO

I wait in line to get tickets before entering the zoo. I can ask for a map at the front entrance, or ask other questions too. I can ask if there is a sensory bag available if I need extra fidgets or sensory tools. Once inside, I can see what is happening at the zoo on the daily Event Boards.

GIRAFFE ENCOUNTERS

During certain times of the day, the giraffe can be fed by zoo visitors. If I am going to feed the giraffe, there are certain rules I will have to follow. Sometimes I will need to wait in a line for my turn to feed the giraffe. That's ok, a lot of people like to see the giraffes up close, and I will get my own turn too! Giraffes are shy animals who do not like to be pet, so I will not try to touch them. Once it is my turn, I will use hand sanitizer to keep the giraffe's food clean. I will keep the food pieces whole, and hold them in my palm for the giraffe to take. Giraffes have sticky tongues which might make my hand sticky too! I can use hand sanitizer or wash my hands at a bathroom after feeding the giraffes. Once a giraffe takes all of their food from me, my turn is over, and someone else gets to feed them.

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

Animal Encounters are when a zoo staff member presents a small animal in hand or a display case. I will listen quietly, while the presenter tells me and other guests all about the animal. If I have a question, I can raise my hand before asking. I might be able to touch the animal, but if not, that is ok! If I am able to touch the animal, I will approach it slowly and quietly so it stays calm. The zoo staff will help me touch the animal with one or two fingers so the animal and I both stay safe. After I touch the animal, I use hand sanitizer to clean my hands.

AT THE LEARNING CENTER

The Conservation Learning Center has a lot of fun things to explore! There might be staff or volunteers presenting small animals inside too. The Learning Center is a great spot to cool down in or rest if I need a break. Outside the Learning Center is a grassy circle that I can play in! There may be lots of other people playing. I can ask if they want to play together, or take turns using the space.

KEEPER CHATS

Keeper chats happen daily, and I can see where and when they will be on the day's Event Board or ask a staff member. A zookeeper will come talk to zoo guests about an animal they take care of. I can ask the zookeeper questions about the animals they take care of. If there are a lot of people, the zookeeper may not be able to answer all of the questions. It's ok if they need to leave to take care of the animals. I can try to ask any staff member my questions too!

VISITING THE AVIARIES

I can see a lot of different birds at the zoo's aviaries. The birds can fly freely in the aviaries and so there are special rules to keep them safe if I go in. There are two doors to pass through. I will wait for the first door to close, before opening the second one, so birds do not fly out! There are bird ID guides I can use to see what types of birds there are. I will walk on the paths. Birds may come close to me, but they will not hurt me. Even if a bird comes close, I will not reach out to touch them. If I don't like the aviaries, I can leave through the double doors.

CAROUSEL RIDE

The carousel is fun to ride on, but can play loud music and has a loud bell. If I go on the carousel, there are lots of animals to choose from! If someone else is on the animal I want to ride, I can pick another animal. Before the ride starts, I will put on my seatbelt. While the ride is spinning, I will keep my hands on the pole handle. Some animals move up and down too. I will stay in my seat until the ride stops. After my ride, I will walk to the exit, and leave the carousel.

TRAIN RIDE

The train is fun to ride on! The train ride goes around the pond and fountain in the park. Sometimes, the conductor may ring a bell! If I ride the train, I will stay seated for the whole ride. I can wave to people outside the window! Once the train stops, I will exit the train so others can ride!

FINDING HELP

If I need help, I can ask staff or volunteers at the zoo. I can ask them questions too! Staff at the zoo wear a shirt or jacket that says “Reid Park Zoo Staff”. Volunteers at the zoo wear a red or grey shirt that says “Reid Park Zoo Volunteer” or “Docent”.

SEEING THE ANIMALS

Being patient can be hard, but I will wait politely to view the animals. I remember that other people are trying to see the animals too. Fences and guardrails are in place to keep animals and people safe, so I will stay on paths to look at the animals. The peacocks are special animals who can walk anywhere in the zoo! If I see peacocks on the sidewalk, I will give them space and not try to touch them. It is okay if I don’t see every animal at the zoo. Animals like to have choices just like I do, so if I do not get to see an animal, I remember it is their choice!

NEEDING A BREAK

The zoo is fun, but can be overwhelming. If I need a break in a quiet space or time to move my body, I will tell the people I am with. I can use the sensory map to find a good spot for me, or ask an adult. It is ok to take breaks. Animals take breaks too!

GOING HOME

When we are done at the zoo, I get ready to go home. Coming to the zoo helps save animals in the wild! I can come to the zoo another time to see the animals again. I return sensory bags to the front gate before leaving.