

# ZOO & YOU



Summer 2022 | Member Magazine  
Reid Park Zoological Society





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**Reid Park Zoological Society**

1030 South Randolph Way  
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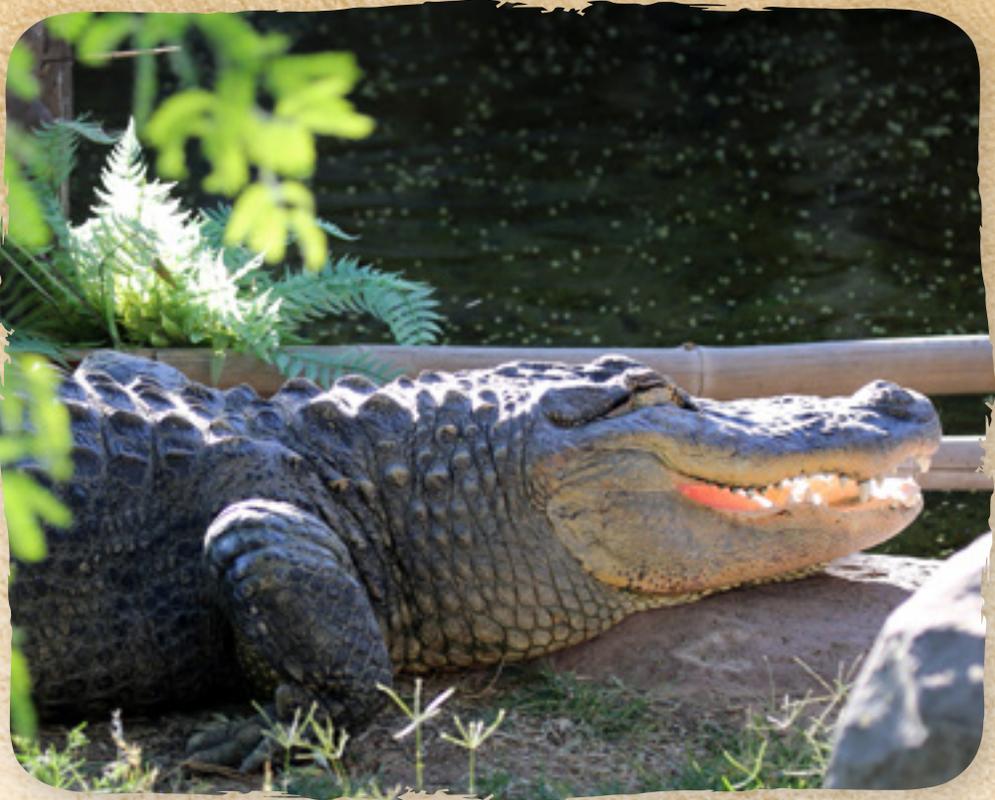
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**Sunning in the Summertime**

One of the first animals you can see when visiting Reid Park Zoo is American alligator, Bayou Bob!

participating in a health check with his care team, enjoying a sun bath, or chowing down on some fish!

Now is definitely the time to stop by and visit with him. Reptiles, such as Bayou Bob, slow down during the cool winter months by entering a state of brumaion. During the winter, his activity level drops, he eats significantly less, and often spends several hours resting at the bottom of his heated pool, only occasionally needing to come up for air.

As the weather warms up so does Bayou Bob! You might spot him swimming,



1030 S Randolph Way  
Tucson, AZ 85716

**ZOO HOURS:**

October-May 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
June-September 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

# THE ZOO BY YOU

Here's a look at the Zoo through your eyes! Tag us on social media to enter your own photos for the next issue of Zoo & You!



Photo by @marycatherine84 on Instagram



Photo by @skylarjmace on Instagram



Photo by Tammy Orr



Photo by @lindzz\_\_ on Instagram

## Penzi's Milestones

It's hard to believe, but Tucson's most beloved elephant calf is now two years old! Penzi, whose full name "Mapenzi" translates to "beloved" in Swahili, spends most of her time with her big sister, Nandi. She loves watermelons and fruit punch as special treats. She ventured into the 98,000-gallon elephant pool for the very first time the afternoon of her second birthday party, and has been seen regularly swimming with her sister ever since!



What kind of birthday cake do you make for an elephant? Well, we made an ice pop! Penzi's frozen birthday treat took a week to make! The layers are made of Gatorade, lettuce, oranges, carrots, and watermelon, and the pop is created a layer at a time. Semba, Penzi's mom, enjoyed the first bites of the celebratory snack!

**Zoo & You 4**



## A Day to Celebrate the Ocean

World Ocean Day is celebrated annually on June 8. Though Reid Park Zoo is far from the ocean, this is an important cause for our community as the ocean plays a vital role in the lives of every species on Earth. Just like a heart pumps blood throughout our bodies, the ocean currents pump nutrients, heat, and moisture around the world. By circulating nutrients, the ocean provides food for many species, humans included! By pumping heat and moisture, the ocean plays a critical role in the Earth's climate. Just like we need a healthy heart to survive, we also need a healthy ocean!

Here are some actions you can take to take care of the ocean to keep it healthy:

### Be Plastic Free

Many of the plastics we use end up in the ocean, and plastic does not ever truly disappear. In the ocean it forms large floating plastic islands or breaks down into tiny microscopic pieces, which are ingested by marine animals. Throughout July, we invite you to join us for the Plastic Free Ecochallenge. Can you go a month without using single-use plastic? It is easier than you may think!

Please watch the Zoo's Facebook page at the end of June for more information on how you can take the challenge!



### Reduce your Carbon Footprint

As we burn fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and gas, we release excess carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which creates a thick blanket of heat-trapping gas around the Earth. As the Earth warms, so does the ocean. As the ocean warms, the circulation of warm and cold water is altered. This in turn alters the ocean's currents and how it pumps heat and moisture around the Earth, resulting in changes to the Earth's climate. By reducing our individual carbon footprint and working in our communities to burn fewer fossil fuels and by supporting alternative energy sources, we can reduce our impact on the ocean.



### Buy Sustainable Seafood

Sustainable seafood is caught or farmed in a responsible way. By choosing sustainable sea food, we can help maintain healthy populations of marine animals while protecting their habitat. To help you identify sustainable options, visit [seafoodwatch.org](http://seafoodwatch.org).





## Meet the Newest Members of the Meerkat Mob

Meerkat pups at the Zoo mimic their wild counterparts in their infant and toddler behavior. When the pups were born, they wriggled around to climb onto mom and nurse. With just two pups to look after, our meerkat mom had no trouble keeping track of them. These two youngsters did often move in different directions, but mom could easily grasp them with her mouth or paws to bring them close to her. Wild meerkat moms can sometimes have large litters. When in an underground burrow, the pups can wriggle down the wrong corridor moving

farther away from mom. However, meerkat families work cooperatively and other members of the mob will bring the pups back to mom.

After the first weeks, the young pups' eyes open and they begin to explore more, but their bodies are still not very coordinated or strong. Each day there is more movement around the burrow or, in our case, the tunnels that are throughout the meerkat house. The staff carefully monitor the family and provide lots of extra food for mom as her calorie needs are higher while feeding the youngsters. Dad

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our meerkat pups are constantly growing and learning natural behaviors that integrate them into valuable members of their meerkat group, or mob. When meerkats keep an eye out for any threats, and then alert the mob, they are performing their natural behavior of being a sentry.

is also a helpful guardian and pillow for the pups at any given time.

Once the pups started following the adults and were able to navigate over small things like sticks and rocks, it was time to venture



out of the indoor tunnel to the great outdoors. The parents bounded out of the meerkat house after being cooped up for a few weeks with the babies. The pups were a little more reserved, spending lots of time in the doorway peering out. Mom and dad patrolled and dug and ran enthusiastically around the habitat. Mom would occasionally check on the pups at the doorway, but then she was back to digging. The animal care staff created a nice dirt ramp from the meerkat house into the habitat so the pups would not have a big climb in or out of the house. One of the first things mom

did was dig that ramp away. The dirt was fresh and new and perfect for pawing through.

Without the ramp, the pups had about a two inch drop — not much, but a bit of a hop down when you are just learning. Once the pups made it out into the habitat, they sniffed and pawed, and then darted back to the doorway. They are just like their wild cousins, fearful of new noises and sounds, always retreating to safety. The first several days they spent most of their time in the doorway. As the days went on, the pups grew braver following mom and

dad around the habitat, but never too far from a tunnel to duck into if needed. With every plane overhead or noisy bird, they quickly went in a tunnel.

Now the two pups are more confident in their exploration. They will stay out in the open more, becoming accustomed to some noises. They are working hard on their digging skills and starting to sit up like a sentry. Most times they still tumble over, but it takes a lot of practice and dedication to become a lookout for the mob!

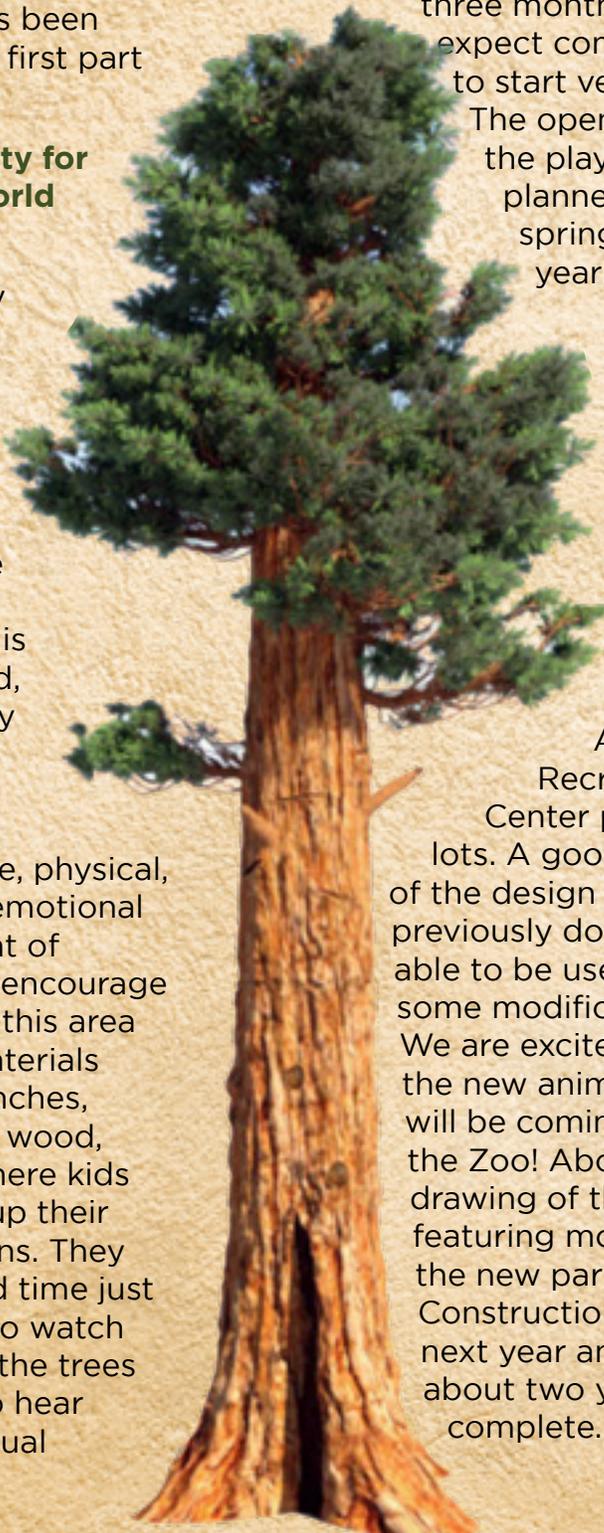
## FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

# World of Play & Pathway to Asia Updates

In the last member magazine, we announced that redesign for these two exciting projects began in December. We are glad to tell you that the projects are moving quickly and great progress has been made in the first part of 2022!

### Angel Charity for Children World of Play

This sensory adventure zone will engage kids to learn about nature while they play. Nature Play is unstructured, informal play in outdoor settings, and aids in the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development of children. To encourage nature play, this area will have materials such as branches, sticks, rope, wood, or leaves where kids can dream up their own creations. They might spend time just looking up to watch the birds in the trees and listen to hear each individual

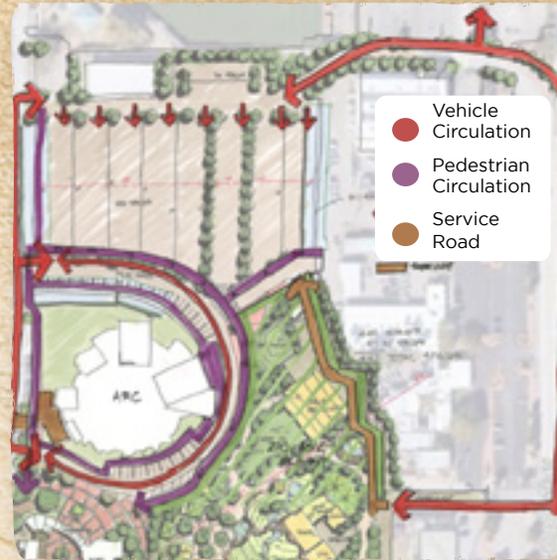


song! This project had only minor modifications and has been submitted to the City of Tucson for their permit process.

This process takes one to three months, so we expect construction to start very shortly. The opening of the play area is planned for late spring of next year!

### Pathway to Asia

This new exciting area will be located in the current Zoo and Adaptive Recreation Center parking lots. A good portion of the design that was previously done was able to be used with some modifications. We are excited about the new animals that will be coming to the Zoo! Above is a drawing of the layout featuring mostly the new parking lot. Construction will start next year and will take about two years to complete.



### New animals planned for Pathway to Asia:

- Red panda
- Komodo dragon
- Asian small-clawed otter
- Malayan tiger
- Fishing cat
- Fruit bat
- Siamang
- Indian star tortoise, python and other reptile species
- Pheasants and other bird species



Thank you for being with us on this journey!

**Nancy Kluge**  
Reid Park Zoo President & CEO

## Volunteer Spotlight: Joey Finkle



### Interested in volunteering at the Zoo?



Visit [ReidParkZoo.org](http://ReidParkZoo.org) and click on the "Get Involved" tab to learn about the volunteer opportunities at the Zoo! From photography to community engagement, there are many ways your skills can help the Zoo!

Please note that volunteer positions open on an "as needed" and seasonal basis. If a position you are interested in isn't currently accepting applications, check back later or email [volunteer@reidparkzoo.org](mailto:volunteer@reidparkzoo.org) for more information!

Reid Park Zoo has an incredible team of volunteers. Some help events run smoothly, some help educate guests about the animals in our care, and some help out in the office. There are 15 types of volunteer positions that help with operations around the Zoo, and the staff are incredibly grateful to those who choose to donate their time and talents.

Joey Finkle is one of those individuals, and she dedicates her time across multiple avenues of volunteering.

Joey first came to the Zoo in 1976. It was the year she graduated high school and she took a trip over

Spring Break to explore the possibility of coming to the University of Arizona for college. She moved around a lot over the following years, but kept up with the Zoo on and off before becoming a volunteer in the 2010's.

"I have loved this Zoo from the get-go. I just love being around here, I love the people around here, I love who I'm working with, I feel like I'm a part of a team that is a good, close, strong team," Joey said. "That means a lot to me. One of the things you start to miss in your life when you retire or when your kids move on is a sense of purpose and one of the things that this has

given me that is so important for me is a sense of purpose."

Joey volunteers at events, on the ZOOcson committee, in the office, and with the Zoo's goats. "I've always loved animals and always had a dream of being in a zoo and now I get to do it and do it on my own time," Joey said. "I would highly recommend volunteering. It's something I don't think people realize can be so fulfilling."

We are so thankful for the time and love Joey has given to the Zoo — and to our other volunteers as well. We couldn't Zoo it without them!

# A Multitude of Meerkats!

A group of meerkats is called a **mob**. The mob at Reid Park Zoo has 11 meerkats! Can you spot all 11 below?



Look for meerkats!



## THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

### Elephant Herd:



Aviation Building & Supply  
Greene Enterprises Drywall  
Greene Enterprises Material

### Lion's Pride:

Universal Avionics

### Rhino's Crash:

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Sunshine DTA  
Dauntless Racing  
Olathe Claws LLC  
Sunrise Developments LLC  
Elder Health

## SUMMER SAFARI NIGHTS

Presented by TMC HealthCare  
Select Saturdays through August 13  
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

### Free for Zoo members!

- Visit the animals in the cooler evening temperatures
- Explore with special theme nights and activities
- Listen to live music from a variety of local bands
- Enjoy animal encounters and games
- Information on each theme night and tickets at [ReidParkZoo.org](http://ReidParkZoo.org)



## BREW AT THE ZOO

Presented by Lloyd Construction  
Saturday, June 18  
6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

**\$45 Zoo Member Ticket**  
**\$50 General Admission Ticket**  
**\$25 Designated Driver Ticket**  
*Ages 21 and over only*

Taste a wide selection of craft beer, hard ciders, lagers, and ales from Arizona's finest brewing companies as you travel around the Zoo in this one-of-a-kind sampling event. Proceeds support the Zoo's animal care, conservation, and education programs. Listen to live music in the Event Garden and in Tanzania, enjoy games and fun photo booths and take home a commemorative tasting glass. Pub style food will be available for purchase throughout the Zoo.

## ALES FOR ANIMALS EXPERIENCE:

Enhance your Brew at the Zoo experience with a special VIP Package:

**\$130 Ales for Animals Premium Experience**

**Members receive \$5 off**

- Early entry at 6 p.m.
- Special behind-the-scenes and feeding experience with the Zoo's giraffes
- Souvenir T-shirt and Swag Bag

## RED, WHITE, AND ZOO

Monday, July 4  
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

As a special thank you for your service, we are offering free admission for active duty (reserve and guard) veterans and retirees of the military (with military, VA, or retiree ID) and discounted admission of \$5 each for up to six military dependents on Monday, July 4. Military member does not need to be present for dependent discount.



## WATERMELON WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday in July  
**FREE with Zoo Admission**

Watch as the Zoo's animals enjoy a sweet treat as part of a special summer enrichment. Every Wednesday, guests can observe animals enjoying watermelon flavored ice, investigate puzzle feeders filled with slices of watermelon, and have fun while the animals smash whole watermelons.

## NANDI'S EIGHTH BIRTHDAY

Saturday, August 20  
8 - 10:30 a.m.

### Free with Zoo Admission

**Show your love for Nandi and** celebrate the lives of elephants everywhere. Join us in Expedition Tanzania as Nandi and the herd receive some pachyderm-sized treats. Join in singing Happy Birthday and a bubble toast, and learn how you can help save wild elephants through special zookeeper chats and elephant-themed activities. We'll have cookies for the first 300 guests.

## ZOOCON 2022

Friday, October 7  
6 - 9 p.m.

**\$125 Zoo member**  
**\$150 General Admission**  
**\$250 Premium Experience**

Slow down and party for a purpose at the 2022 ZOOcon, Tucson's wildly elegant and all-inclusive fundraiser featuring sumptuous food samplings from local restaurants, live music, animal encounters and one-of-a-kind auctions. This year's event will spotlight a future addition to the Zoo's South America Loop: a two-toed sloth. Hang out with fellow Zoo lovers and join us for an enchanting and inspiring evening under the stars at the Zoo.

For more information on these and other upcoming events and education programs, please visit our website at [www.ReidParkZoo.org](http://www.ReidParkZoo.org)  
Check back often to see what's new at your Zoo!

Interested in becoming a sponsor of Reid Park Zoo events?

Call 881-4753 or email [gail@reidparkzoo.org](mailto:gail@reidparkzoo.org)



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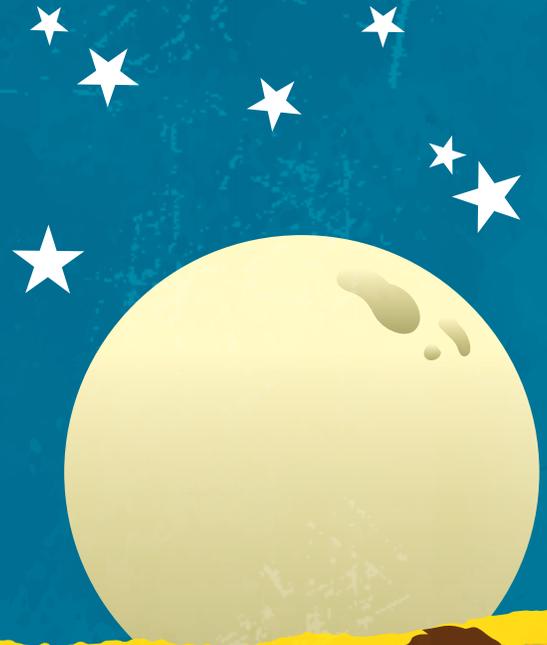
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# SUMMER SAFARI NIGHTS

Presented by



Select Saturday Nights  
5:30-8:30 p.m.  
Starting May 28



Tickets & information at [ReidParkZoo.org](http://ReidParkZoo.org)