



ZOO & YOU

Summer 2024 | Member Magazine
Reid Park Zoological Society





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For more information, contact Gail Brown at gail@reidparkzoo.org or (520) 881-4753.

Reid Park Zoological Society

1030 South Randolph Way
Tucson, Arizona 85716

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1030 S Randolph Way
Tucson, AZ 85716

ZOO HOURS:

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



More Chances to Spot a Tamandua

Reid Park Zoo is home to four southern tamanduas. They live behind-the-scenes at the Zoo, and come out for animal encounters from time to time.

These days, the tamanduas are getting a little more time to visit the Zoo grounds! You might spot them in the outside sloth habitat (when Gwen the sloth is resting inside and not using that space), or in the new presentation space just opposite the Andean bear habitat.

The tamanduas are still adjusting to spending time in both locations and have no set schedule, but lucky guests may get to see them in either spot.

All four tamanduas will rotate spending short amounts of time in each area with staff supervision.



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 Samantha Hoffman

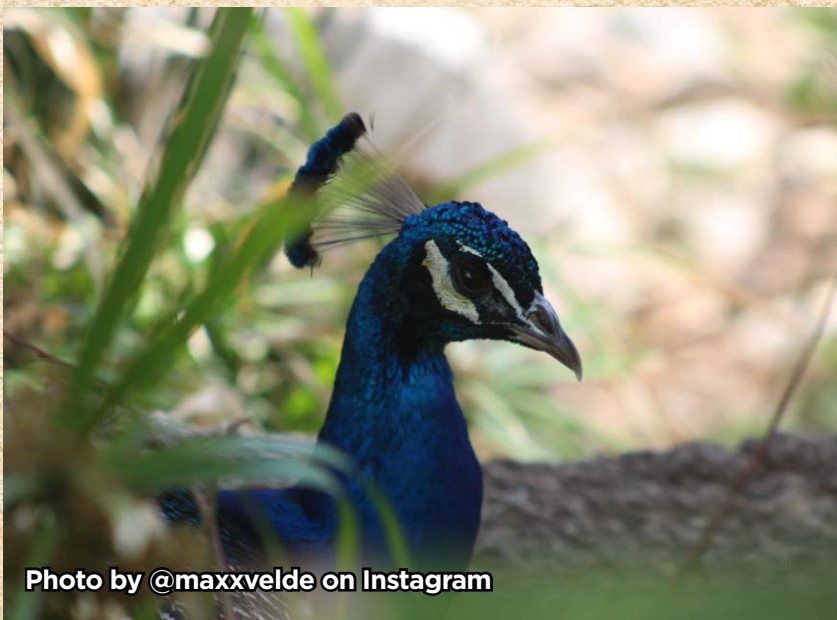


Photo by @maxxvelde on Instagram



Photo by Scarlett Gates

Committed to Conservation in All We Do

You know Reid Park Zoo supports programs around the world, but did you know we are equally committed to protecting the environment through the choices we make as a business?

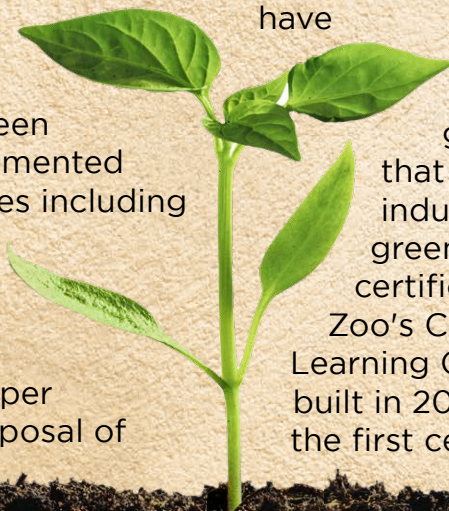


In April, Reid Park Zoo received a green business certification from Local First Arizona, reflecting our long-term dedication to sustainable practices.

While the Zoo has a long-term commitment to practicing sustainability, this is the first time the Zoo has received certification as a green business.

Reid Park Zoo established an internal Green Team in 2018 to reduce the Zoo's environmental impact and motivate the team to take action and become conservation-minded.

In fulfilling its mission, the Green Team has implemented various measures including plastic glove recycling, implementing new waste streams for proper recycling or disposal of



Turn Your Home into a GREEN House

You can fold green living into your daily practices, too! Take a look at these ideas to help you get started:

- Reduce the use of single-use plastic
- Recycle properly following your local guidelines
- In Tucson? Follow the Tucson Environmental Services Facebook Page to stay up to date on the latest info!
- Watch the virtual Home Energizer Workshop offered by Tucson Electric Power and the Environmental Education Exchange to see how you can save energy at home. www.eeexchange.org/tep-hew
- Schedule a water audit to address any hidden water leaks. www.smarthomewaterguide.org



Visit reidparkzoo.org/conservation to learn about more resources

items, and installing bee boxes for humane bee capture and relocation to name just a few. As the Zoo has grown over the past 10 years, intentional choices have been made to construct sustainable, green buildings that meet industry-leading green building certifications. The Zoo's Conservation Learning Center was built in 2016 and was the first certified LEED

(Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) platinum building in Southern Arizona! Our commitment continues as we plan for the Zoo's Pathway to Asia expansion as the Kasser Family Lotus Pavilion will also be built to green building standards.

Over the next year, Reid Park Zoo will be working to address areas that were identified through our green business application as opportunities



to further reduce our environmental impact.

Through a water audit, we were able to identify several locations where we could save water by installing low-flow sinks and toilets.

Additionally, the Zoo's Maintenance and Animal Care teams have worked together to develop a new protocol for pool maintenance which will save water while maintaining the highest quality of animal care. Similarly, using recommendations from an energy audit, we have a plan in place to help conserve energy within all of our office buildings, several of which already have solar panels on their roofs, producing energy for the TEP power grid.

Want to learn more about the Zoo's green practices? Please visit reidparkzoo.org/conservation



Tag, You're It

You've probably heard the Zoo talk about Species Survival Plans, also known as SSPs, which ensure zoo populations are biologically healthy. Another tool zoos use are Taxon Advisory Groups or "TAGs". TAGs look at the sustainability and conservation status of a whole taxa, or group of organisms. There are currently 42 TAGs.

Reid Park Zoo Animal Care Supervisor Alex serves on two TAGs: one for Columbiformes (pigeons and doves) and one for Passerines (songbirds). Alex is the Vice Program Leader of the Passerine TAG, meaning it is her responsibility to help compile data from all 29 of the songbird SSPs and work with population managers to create goals that ensure the populations are managed responsibly.

This information is used to create a Regional Collection Plan (RCP) every four years, deciding

which species become/remain SSPs. This is done in part based on a rubric given to us by the AZA Population Management Center (PMC). While it would be wonderful if zoos had the resources to help every species thrive, we instead choose to focus on the animals we are best able to help and those with the highest conservation needs.

If these acronyms appear overwhelming, don't fret, all you need to know is that we are all working to ensure your zoos have healthy animal populations.



Trimming a Rhino Horn

Southern white rhino Yebonga, age 51, is living out her golden years here at Reid Park Zoo. With a median life expectancy of 36.5 years, Yebonga is considered a geriatric individual and with this title there is a lot of specialized care that goes into Yebonga's husbandry.

While she has her daily care regime (including a custom fly mask and lots of pampering), there is one special care task that only happens every few years: horn trimming.

Rhinos spend a large amount of time shaping their horns into that picture perfect shape that we all imagine when we think of a rhino.

While the Zoo's male rhino, Fireball, maintains his horn in this characteristic shape, Yebonga has changed how she cares for her horn as she's gotten older.



Yebonga showing off her freshly trimmed horn

Fireball showing a more typical horn shape thanks to his diligent maintenance



Reid Park Zoo Celebrates Legacy Donors

The Zoo recently held its annual luncheon honoring Legacy Circle Members. This year's event was held at Hacienda del Sol and featured guest presenter Terrence Lee, a researcher with the Red Panda Network. The network is the world leader in the effort to save red pandas and their habitat across one million acres of forest and 50% of Nepal's red panda range.

Legacy Circle Members are generous individuals who support the Zoo through their estate plans or life income gifts. These gifts



provide a stream of revenue that secures the future operations of your Zoo.

our Legacy Circle and gift options, visit www.reidparkzoolegacy.org

To learn more about

Create a Lasting Legacy

Be Part of the Reid Park Zoo Family by Joining the Legacy Circle



reidparkzoolegacy.org

GOING FOR GOLD

The world's top athletes will be going for the gold at this year's Summer Olympic Games, but you don't have to travel to Paris to witness amazing physical traits and abilities. Come to the Zoo where you can catch some athletic animals displaying their own remarkable skills.



Artistic Swimming: From rolling to diving to floating, Pfeiffer the spotted-necked otter is a swimming champion who makes her elegant moves look effortless. Otters can stay submerged underwater for more than 5 minutes at a time.



Gymnastics While Olympians jump over hurdles that are 2.5-3.5 feet tall, elephant calf Meru, being just over 3 feet tall, is still learning how to get over logs when playing around the elephant habitat. You can often see her crossing over and back...over and then back like a pro.



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100 Meter Dash Behind the scenes at the Zoo's Health Center, Gnocchi, the blue duiker calf could challenge the world's fastest runners. Whenever he gets the zoomies, which is often, he sprints around his temporary habitat at record speeds. This fast movement is an adaptation that duikers use in the wild, running and diving into brush to escape predators.



Upcoming Events



SUMMER
SAFARI

SUMMER SAFARI NIGHTS

Saturdays through August 10

6 - 8 p.m.

Come to Summer Safari Nights, Presented by **TMC Health** and enjoy the Zoo in the cooler evening hours! Each week will feature keeper chats, animal encounters, artifact stations, giraffe feedings, carousel rides, crafts and games. Face painting and glitter tattoos will be available for purchase. Refresh with dinner and a cold drink at the Flamingo Grill, listen to live music by some of Tucson's best bands. Check out the Zoo website for details on each week's incredible theme!

Free for Zoo Members

WATERMELON WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday in July

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 they smash whole watermelons.

Free with Zoo Admission

WILD ABOUT TEACHER APPRECIATION DAYS:

August 3-4, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Zoo is extending its gratitude to teachers by offering complimentary admission to both public and private educators on this special weekend! Simply present valid teaching credentials such as a faculty ID to redeem this offer at the gate. While you are at the Zoo, learn about field trips and education resources.

WORLD ELEPHANT DAY AND NANDI'S 10TH BIRTHDAY

Saturday, August 17, 8 a.m.- Noon

Show your love for Nandi as she turns 10 years-old and celebrate the lives of elephants everywhere for World Elephant Day. Watch as Nandi and the herd receive some pachyderm-sized treats, join in a bubble toast, and learn about the latest advances in saving wild elephants through special zookeeper chats and elephant-themed activities. We'll have free cookies while supplies last. Elephants love mud wallows, so be sure to stop by the Event Garden between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for some special "mud" activities for the kids. Make sure they wear their swimsuits or clothing that can get dirty and be hosed off.

GRANDPARENT'S DAY

Sunday, September 8

Bring grandma or grandpa to the Zoo and explore animal families.

Grandparents of all generations receive free admission with an accompanying paying admission.

FIRST RESPONDER'S DAY

Saturday, September 29, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join Reid Park Zoo and the Erik Hite Foundation in honoring our hometown heroes who protect our community and their families. First responders - members of the police, firefighters, ATF, EMT's, correction officers, 911 personnel, and others involved in direct law enforcement and up to 4 family members will receive \$1 admission to the Zoo with valid identification. Discount is available at the gate only and cannot be combined with any other offers.

ZOOCSON

Friday, October 4

Save the date for a wild night benefiting Reid Park Zoo! ZOOcson will feature Tucson's favorite restaurants, auctions, animal ambassador presentations, and live music! Enjoy a specialty cocktail as you outbid your friends for a chance to win amazing experiences during the live auction.

Education Programs

Advance registration required

Please check reidparkzoo.org/events to view the full list of education programs

DR ZOO

Saturday, August 31, 9-11 a.m.

Saturday, September 28, 9-11 a.m.

Ages 6-12

Learn how Zoo vets use science and math to care for the animals at the Zoo through this hands-on interactive program.

\$20 Members, \$25 General Public

JR ZOO

Saturday, September 14, 9-11 a.m.

Ages 6-12

Through this interactive, hands-on program your child will experience a snapshot of a day in the life of a Zoo Keeper.

\$20 Members, \$25 General Public

LITTLE CRITTERS

Ages 3-5

These interactive programs encourage families to learn about the animal world together. Each program features a different animal theme and includes animal ambassador encounters, movement-based activities, and a simple craft. The activities are based on Arizona's Early Learning Standards to develop motor, social, and cognitive skills.

Cost: \$20 members, \$28 non members

One adult participant included in fee

Amazing Animal Textures

Friday, August 23, 9-10 a.m.

Soft or rough? Smooth or bumpy? Dry or wet? This Little Critters is all about exploring different types of animal textures and why animals have fur, feathers, skin, or scales. Up close encounters with animal ambassadors will let your little one safely explore different textures in the animal world.

Patterns in Nature

Friday, September 27, 9-10 a.m.

Whether it's swirls on a snail's shell, hexagons in a honeycomb, or stripes on a zebra's coat, patterns can be found everywhere in the natural world! Little critters will discover patterns in plant and animal communities through sensory exploration and animal encounters.

Tributes

List of tributes received January 1- March 31, 2024

In Honor of zebra "Anna"

Patricia Le Foll

In Honor of Brittany Caldwell

Robin Cook

In Honor of Hazel Dickey

Kimberly & Darrell
Wimberley

In Honor of Ruth Strand

Eleanore Johnson
Lauretta Olson
Patricia Sirls

In Memory of "Ransom"

Quillen

Tucson Veterinary Dental
Specialists

In Memory of Edith Deuel

Janna Clark-Deuel & Terry
Deuel

In Memory of Richard Guilbault

Newcomers Club of Tucson

In Memory of zebra "Tikiti Maji"

Aimee Cohen
Patricia & Paul Gilman

In Memory of Ann Forsberg-Doyle

Lynn Bissell
Robert & Linda Dahlsgaard
Jeremiah & Mary Jane Doyle
Gretchen Gottschalk
Karma Kientzler
Susan Llewellyn
Ellis & Lynn Locher
Susan & John Nelson
Constance Travers

In Memory of Betty White

Christina Hornyman

In Memory of Ric Fetter

Rodney and Connie Boorse

In Memory of Rita Nordmeyer

Jennifer Burros
Cindy & Mickey Petersen





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ZOOUCSON

OCTOBER 4, 2024 | 6 - 9 P.M.
FOOD • ENTERTAINMENT • AUCTIONS

