

ZOO & YOU



FUTURE OF
YOUR ZOO

**THE ZOO
NEEDS YOU!**

INSIDE:

What prop 202 & 203
mean for the future
of your zoo



REID PARK
ZOO

Fall 2017 | Member Magazine
Reid Park Zoological Society



ZooFriendZ is a very special circle of people who are invested in the future of Tucson's Reid Park Zoo by donating \$500 or more annually.

Join **ZooFriendZ** Today!

For more information, contact Diana Whitman at diana@reidparkzoo.org or (520) 837-8217.

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BEARS OF THE SOUTH AMERICA LOOP

Andean Bears, Lucy and Worf, are highlights of the South America Loop at Reid Park Zoo. These bears spend their nights resting comfortably on a cushioned bed. They choose between a keeper-made hammock or a nest they have built on their own from leaves, twigs, and hay carefully nosed into just the right spot. Daytime naps are taken in the base of the main tree in their habitat or

at the treetop. Generally Lucy, the lightweight bear, sleeps at the top of the tree, while Worf nestles at the bottom of the tree. In the wild these bears make nests and often sleep or rest in treetops.

When morning brings a burst of energy, they search their habitat for fruits, vegetables, and bear biscuits. Unlike grizzly bears, Andean bears eat very little meat. The wild bears eat fruit and many succulents along with limited meat, mostly insects and rodents. Andean bears in the wild were often mistakenly targeted by poachers who believed the bears were preying on cattle. These poaching events, along with habitat fragmentation, have caused the bears to be classified as a vulnerable species.

The bears at the Zoo rarely eat insects or rodents, rather they delight guests when they delicately eat a banana, careful to open and remove the peel as we would. Additionally the bears will carefully remove the shell from a hard-boiled egg, only eating the inside. A trip to the grizzly bear habitat quickly shows the difference between the dining skills of each species.

During the summer time, Worf spends his afternoons wading in his pool, while Lucy seeks the shade and sometimes a fruity popsicle. Cooler fall weather results in more active bears. They playfully wrestle and sometimes tumble down the gentle hillside in their habitat. They will chase one another, play with enrichment items, and climb on the tree in their habitat.

While they still play and wrestle like young bears, Worf is nearly 25 and Lucy is almost 23. So, any time of the year they enjoy a good midday nap.



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ReidParkZoo.org

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Reid Park Zoological Society's Zoo & You prints quarterly

GOOD TIMES AT ZOO EVENTS

SUMMER CAMP RECAP: CREATING LIFELONG MEMORIES

With nearly 300 participants this past summer, camps reached maximum attendance. Campers were able to create lifelong memories while learning about animals and conservation. Meerkats, anteaters, and many other animals within the Zoo received enrichment items made by the campers to help meet the animal's social and cognitive behavioral needs. The activities were not just for fun. Campers learned about a variety of adaptations that allow animals to survive in their natural habitat as well as actions we can take to protect wildlife and wild places. Thanks to a generous donation from Zoo supporter, Bonnie Kay, Reid Park Zoo was able to offer 30 children summer camp scholarships this year.





**FUTURE OF
YOUR ZOO**

NOVEMBER 7, Tucson residents will vote on Propositions 202 and 203. Both ballots must pass to determine the future of your Zoo.



PROP. 202

Allows for a temporary, one-tenth of one cent sales tax increase.



PROP. 203

Officially raises the sales tax for 10 years to improve the quality of life for the animals.

Together, these measures will ensure your Zoo remains a beloved, affordable community asset by expanding educational programming, welcoming new attractions, and replacing and repairing aging infrastructure. Funds can only be used for Reid Park Zoo.

YES ON BOTH
FOR REID PARK ZOO

IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE ANIMALS

Prop. 202 and **203** will fund a new, much-needed, bigger, tiger habitat, create a spectacular rhinoceros exhibit and build Tucson's first "underwater" homes for hippopotamus and crocodiles. At the same time, visitors will enjoy the Safari Lodge, great playground and more interactive feeding experiences.

MAINTAIN AFFORDABILITY

With **Prop. 202** and **203**, your visit to Reid Park Zoo will remain affordable for years to come while bringing new attractions for guests and habitats for animals.

SECURE ZOO FUNDING FOR 10 YEARS

Prop. 202 and **203** would provide \$8 to \$10 million a year to the Zoo over the next ten years. Thus providing the necessary funds to bring new attractions to the Tucson community as well as expand and renovate current habitats.



UPDATE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Most of Reid Park Zoo's critical infrastructure was built around World War II. And in fact, there are virtually no utilities within the Zoo's central area. Modern-day gas, sewer, water and electricity needs to be installed. With **Prop. 202** and **203** new fences and shade structures would be built making the Zoo an even better place for animals and guests.



EXPAND EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

For many local kids, a field trip to the Zoo provides an experience they would not get otherwise and opportunities to learn conservation and animal education first hand. **Prop. 202** and **203** would help expand this important work.



**ESTIMATED COST
TO TUCSON CITIZENS**

\$.60 PER MONTH

(one-tenth of one percent)



Sketch of future Safari Lodge.

REBECCA EDWARDS: CURIOSITY TO CAREER



In 1994, Rebecca Edwards was drawn to the Zoo because she was fascinated by wild animals and as a teen needed a summer activity. Her curiosity led her to become a teen volunteer at Reid Park Zoo. In Rebecca's mind, she was set on becoming an educator at the Zoo. Like many teens she began building her resume through volunteerism. She enjoyed showing Zoo guests the ball python, pine snakes, and rainbow boas because guests reacted the most to the snakes. Even as a young teen Rebecca quickly realized she had the ability to change people's minds about snakes from creepy to cool.

At the age of 18, Rebecca aged out of the teen volunteer program and became an adult Docent. She continued to handle a variety of live animal ambassadors as her interest in the Zoo grew. She realized her dream of working with kids at a Zoo was becoming a reality when she was hired as a part-time Educator in 2000. While pursuing a degree at the University of Arizona, she conducted formal outreach programs at schools as well as maintained fun and safe sleepovers at the Zoo. She enjoyed every wakeful minute of the night at the sleepovers, but soon another opportunity presented itself.

One of the Zoo Keepers asked Rebecca if she would be interested in volunteering as an Animal Care Intern. Rebecca jumped at the chance to see the Zoo from the other side. She had spent her time passionately talking about the lions and bears at the Zoo. Now she would have a chance to see the Zoo from a new perspective - the animal care side. She became captivated with all the details of animal care, from preparing special diets to hiding delicious treats for the animals. When a part-time Zoo Keeper position became available, Rebecca shined and was given the position.

In 2006, Rebecca became a full-time Zoo Keeper and was soon the primary caretaker for many of the animals in the South America Loop. Rebecca says that these animals may not be as popular as the lions and giraffes, but they are every bit as interesting. The anteaters challenge their keepers daily by digging holes in search of food and fun. Rebecca spent her days dragging in rotted logs for the anteaters to tear apart with their claws. The tapirs would enjoy a long spell of floating in their pool which Rebecca dutifully cleaned for them several times a week. The capybara, with giant rodent teeth, enjoyed training sessions with Rebecca where they would bare their teeth for her to inspect.

A challenging choice came in 2017 for Rebecca. Her path through the Zoo had led her from volunteer educator to Zoo Keeper. She now had the opportunity to be the Supervisor of the area she cared for as a keeper. Rebecca rose to the challenge. She currently oversees about a third of the animal collection and works with her Zoo Keepers to give the animals the best quality of life. Supervisors work with the vet to make healthcare decisions, assist with setting animal diets, help keepers establish daily training and enrichment plans, and care for integrity of the exhibits and night house areas. Most of all they support Zoo Keepers in their work to make sure the animals receive the best care. Rebecca is off to a great start as our newest Zoo Area Supervisor, continuing her dedication to Reid Park Zoo.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NATURE PLAY

Saturdays, October 7th, November 25th,
December 30th

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Ready, Set, Dig! Join us at the Conservation Learning Center for Nature Play - a kid-friendly activity free with regular Zoo admission! This interactive play area will allow kids the opportunity to dig, build, and splash.

LITTLE CRITTERS PROGRAMS FOR 2-5 YEAR OLDS

Slithery and Scaly: October 20th,
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Animal Superpowers: November 7th,
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

\$20 per person

\$12 per Zoo member

Come with us on a journey to explore a themed topic. Each class includes live animal ambassadors, educational crafts and stories. One adult chaperone is required and is included in the program price.

ZOOCSOON PRESENTED BY CASINO DEL SOL

Friday, October 13th

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

\$120 per person

\$90 per member

Join us for a night of fun, food, entertainment and auctions at ZOOCSOON, presented by Casino Del Sol. Silent Auction Sponsor: Cemrock. Event Sponsors: A Thru Z Consulting & Distributing, Buffalo Exchange, and Lloyd Construction Company. Graze on a variety of small tastings throughout the Zoo while Zoo staff members introduce you to some of our animal ambassadors. Enjoy a specialty cocktail as you try to outbid your friends at the silent auction. Auction items include vacation getaways, power tools, fabulous food & beverage baskets as well as unique Zoo "art" created by some of our animals at the Zoo! To close out the evening, raise your paddle during a live auction featuring rare Zoo experiences. Tables of 8 and 4 are available for sponsorship. This is a 21 and older event.

YOUNG EXPLORERS FOR 6-12 YEAR OLDS: GHOSTLY ANIMAL TALES

Saturday, October 15th

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

\$20 per person

\$15 per member

Are ghosts and werewolves real? During this program we will explore the animals behind the myths through special close encounters.

SMASH BASH

Saturday, October 21st

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Come see the animals squish squash their way around at SMASH BASH - free with regular Zoo admission! Animals throughout the Zoo will enjoy pumpkin enrichment activities and treats. Without a doubt, the animals will enjoy their treats and this activity will provide a fun and unique experience for all our Zoo animals and their guests!

BOO AT THE ZOO PRESENTED BY CARONDELET MEDICAL GROUP

Friday, Saturday, Sunday

October 27th, 28th, 29th

6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Line opens at 5:30 p.m. for Zoo members

\$10 per person

\$8 per member

Don't miss out on the Bigger, Better, Boo at the Zoo! Visit the Zoo for some spooktacular fun! At this new, expanded event you will meet your favorite pirates, superheroes, princesses and wizards inspired by great books and movies. With no more lines inside the Zoo, children will play old fashioned games and activities and listen to music in Rancho Sahuarita's Fall Festival area, and explore a western ghost town at a pace that works for your family. Event sponsors will have treats sure to please the whole family.

TEDDY BEAR CLINIC

Saturday, November 4th

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Does your child have a teddy bear or stuffed animal in need of some TLC? You're in luck! Bring your stuffed friend to the Zoo for a "check-up." The Zoo staff and volunteers will help you measure and weigh, diagnose, and even bandage your buddy. Activities are free with regular Zoo admission.

NATURE CLUB MEETING

Saturday, November 4th

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Free with Zoo admission, Registration is required

Nature Club encourages families to get outside and experience nature. During this hands-on instructor led program, families will meet Reid Park Zoo animal ambassadors; listen to nature stories, do nature themed arts/craft activities, visits from guest speakers, and more!

TEP ENERGY SAVING WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 11th

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

This is an adult only workshop and does require advance registration.

At this free adult workshop hosted by Tucson Electric Power at Reid Park Zoo, learn why saving energy matters and get the tools to save energy in YOUR home. We'll begin the program with an up-close animal experience to learn how our actions affect wildlife around the world. TEP staff will then show you free and low-cost options to save energy and money.

SAVE THE DATE:

BREW LIGHTS

Saturday, December 2nd

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

ZOO LIGHTS PRESENTED BY TEP

December 7th to 23rd

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

WINTER CAMP

December 27th to 29th

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

ZOO LIGHTS ENCORE!

December 26th to 30th

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

HOST YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE ZOO!

Looking for a holiday party that will entertain guests of all ages?

Have your party during our annual Zoo Lights event. The beautiful deck overlooking the Mill Pond or an inside option are available for a reception or dinner, fully catered by Taste Catering. Guests may enjoy Zoo Lights from 6-8pm in December.

Reid Park Zoo is the perfect location for other events too, such as weddings, office barbecues, or elegant evenings under the stars. The Zoo offers wild one-of-a-kind experiences you and your guests are sure to enjoy. Book an appointment with one of our event specialists today. Call 520-881-4753 or email events@reidparkzoo.org.

For more information on these and other upcoming events and education programs, please visit our website at www.reidparkzoo.org.

Check back often to see what's new at the Zoo!
As programs fill, we often add additional dates or times.

Interested in becoming a sponsor of Reid Park Zoo events?

Contact 881-4753 or
gail@reidparkzoo.org



Reid Park Zoological Society
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ZOOcSON

FOOD + ENTERTAINMENT + AUCTIONS

Friday, October 13th + 6-9pm at Reid Park Zoo

Food from a variety of Tucson restaurants.
Entertainment by Cirque Roots, Jovert and Eduardo Minozzi Costa.
Live & Silent Auctions.

\$95 for Zoo Members | \$125 for Non-Members

For reservations call 520.881.4753 or visit ReidParkZoo.org.

Ages 21 and older only event.

