

ZOO & YOU

Summer 2023 | 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

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Fighting for Feathered Friends

Did you know Reid Park Zoo is leading the charge in flamingo conservation?

Reid Park Zoo is a leader in Andean Highland Flamingo SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) initiative from its start. The program coordinates securing funding for existing and new research taking place for the three species of flamingos - Andean, Chilean, and Puna (James's), which live in the South American highlands.

Reid Park Zoo coordinates all education and

conservation materials used throughout AZA zoos to educate our guests about these species, as well as the conservation challenges threatening their survival. This includes establishing calls to action to save habitat for these unique birds.

Flamingos are tough enough to handle extreme hot and cold conditions, but preserving their vulnerable habitat is key to their continued sustainability.



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.

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 Tammy Orr



Photo by Nancy Martignetti on Instagram



Photo by photography.marissaj on Instagram



Bringing Back Tigers

In anticipation of bringing tigers back to Reid Park Zoo, we are also working to bring back tigers to their home range in Malaysia!

Working through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' **Tiger Conservation Campaign**, Reid Park Zoo supports work taking place in the Endau-Rompin region of Malaysia to protect tigers, their prey, and their habitat.

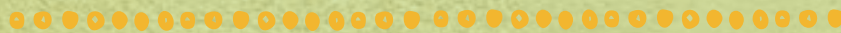
Worldwide, there are fewer than 3,500 tigers left in the wild. There are five remaining species of tigers – ranging from Russia, through India and to the tip of Indonesia.

Tigers are considered an

How YOU Can Help Tigers

Tigers face threats from poaching and forest conversion to oil palm plantations.

Be an informed buyer when taking vacations. Make sure your purchases aren't harming endangered species, like tigers.



Purchase products made with sustainable palm oil that is grown in a way that does not harm tiger habitat. Learn more on the Zoo's conservation website page.

umbrella species, meaning if tigers are doing well in a habitat it is an indicator that the entire habitat is healthy. Sadly, tigers and their prey both suffer from poaching and habitat loss.

The work that the Zoo helps fund in Malaysia is aimed at reducing poaching and

protecting tiger habitat. Camera trapping efforts monitor Malayan tigers using their unique stripe patterns to determine how many individual tigers are in a specific location. This identifies areas where tigers are present and therefore need protection. Recently, this work has

helped the Endau-Rompin Johor National Park to be recognized as an ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Heritage Park; it is the 4th ASEAN Heritage Park in Malaysia and 51st overall. ASEAN Heritage Parks are protected due to their unique biodiversity. The Endau-Rompin region is 90% ancient rainforest habitat and over the past few years has seen an increase in tigers.

With fewer than 150 tigers in Malaysia, the government there is also working on anti-poaching efforts through the development on the National Tiger Conservation Task Force. The task force employs community members to patrol and protect tigers, and other animals that share their habitat, from poaching.

Reid Park Zoo has been proudly supporting tiger conservation in Malaysia for the last two years. In addition to assisting wild tigers, this relationship is helping the Zoo prepare educational materials for the new tiger habitat which is part of the Zoo's Pathways to Asia expansion. Zoo staff has received information and photos from the research team in Malaysia that will be used for graphics around the new tiger habitat.



Have You Seen This Tree?

If you've ever paid attention to the plant life in the Zoo while exploring the South America Loop, chances are you've spotted a silk floss tree — also known as *Ceiba speciosa*.

This spiky wonder can be found just outside the Zoo's South American Aviary. It stands tall with a thick bottle shaped trunk and thorny bark.

The tree is popular both among Zoo guests and local wildlife. We recently spotted a night heron getting cozy in the upper branches, as pictured to the right.

The silk floss tree is native to South America, and can thrive in warm, dry climates. These trees are most commonly known for their spiny bark, but can also put on a dramatic display during the blooming season when each branch bursts into waves of pink flowers, which are popular with pollinators.



The Practice of Incredible Care

Reid Park Zoo's Wellness Program is designed to encourage physical and mental health for the animals in the Zoo's care. The goal is to guide animal wellness from good to excellent through proactive assessment, evidence based management, and using data to ensure the animals have an exceptional quality of life..

FIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO THRIVE

The animal welfare model has evolved from the original Five Freedoms created in 1965 to the new Five Opportunities to Thrive Model designed in 2012. At the Zoo, Animal Care Staff use the Five Opportunities to Thrive standards, evaluating animal welfare by combining animal outputs – or how the animal is actually doing – with caretaker inputs (what caretakers provide the animal with, such as enrichment).

1. OPTIMAL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH:

Ensure rapid diagnosis and treatment of injury or disease, provide supportive environments that increase the likelihood of healthy individuals and animal(s), and maintain clear lines of communication between all departments responsible for the care of the animals.

At Reid Park Zoo: All of the animals receive preventative checks by veterinary staff to make sure they are healthy and up to date on all of their vaccines. In the photo to the right, Veterinarian Dr. James Jarchow looks over a yellow-spotted Amazon river turtle to make sure his shell and skin look clean and healthy.

2. EXPRESS SPECIES-SPECIFIC BEHAVIOR:

Animals express meaningful behaviors at a frequency that meets the needs of the species' natural history, including appropriate developmental conditions (social/cognitive/life stage), enriched social environment, complex environmental experiences, lack of undesirable behaviors, and a strong and responsive relationship with the environment.

At Reid Park Zoo: Ring-tailed lemurs are very social animals. Two ring-tailed lemurs jump and play as part of their natural behaviors.



3. STRATEGICALLY PRESENTED, WELL BALANCED DIET:

Use current scientific knowledge to create animals' diets and ensure they are fed in an appropriate way that encourages natural feeding behaviors, physically and mentally.

At Reid Park Zoo: Lions in the wild spend a lot of time eating. To encourage this at the Zoo, Tony the lion receives large frozen ice pops with meat and blood that encourage him to spend time licking and chewing his food slowly.

4. SELF MAINTAIN:

Provide appropriate environment including shelter and species specific substrates and structure that encourage opportunities to self-maintain.

At Reid Park Zoo: Birds spend a lot of time taking care of their feathers. Roseate spoonbills can do this by preening their feathers with their beaks or bathing with dust or water.

5. CHOICE AND CONTROL:

Provide conditions in which animals can exercise control and make choices to avoid distress, engage in meaningful behavior, acquire beneficial resources and emotional states. Animals are given the opportunity to make choices related to spatial and social organization, and training programs are based on the principles of positive reinforcement. Enrichment and exhibit conditions include problem solving and opportunities to make choices based on varying degrees of challenge that the animal is motivated to engage in.

At Reid Park Zoo: All of the training done at the Zoo uses positive reinforcement, meaning that if the animal chooses to participate, they will be rewarded with their favorite treats. If the animal decides not to participate, they can walk away any time and they will receive the same snacks later in the day.



Grab a Bite at the Flamingo Grill

The Zoo's cafe is now the Flamingo Grill! Flock in on your next visit to the Zoo and taste their new menu, including sandwiches, fresh salads, flatbread pizza and more. Where else can you dine outside and get an up-close view of beautiful Chilean flamingos?

See the Menu



Is your child having a birthday? You can book the Grill's back patio for a wildly different celebration that includes Zoo admission. A portion of purchases at the Grill benefits the Zoo!

Birthday Party Details



New Projects Progressing at Reid Park Zoo!

Sloth exhibit construction continues in the Zoo's South America area, as seen above. This new home to a Linne's two-toed sloth is expected to open late this summer.

Angel Charity for Children World of Play is moving quickly as the Antarctic Ice Cave (pictured below) and Redwood Sequoia tree take shape. This wonderful play area for kids of all ages is expected to open early this fall.



ANGEL CHARITY FOR CHILDREN

New parking lot for Reid Park including Reid Park Zoo, is under construction and is expected to open in October.

Pathway to Asia, home to red pandas, Komodo dragon, tigers, and more, will start construction once the parking lot is open and is expected to be complete in Fall 2025.

Thank you to the voters and donors who made these projects possible!





Zoo Crew Teen Volunteers Venture to Saguaro National Park

On a cool Spring morning, five intrepid Zoo Crew teen volunteers and two Zoo staff members ventured to Saguaro National Park to join National Park staff in an effort to remove invasive fountain grass. Accompanied by Don Swann, National Park Service Biologist, and Gabriel Leon, an American Conservation Experience Intern, the Zoo group hiked down to the Loma Verde Creek at the base of the Rincon Mountains.

Traversing into the steep hillside, the team had its first unintentional encounter with cholla cactus. This spikey encounter tested the group's resolve — what made this trip worth doing? There are obvious benefits: a day spent outside and learning about the ephemeral stream ecosystem is always a day well spent, but there is also a great deal of hard work involved and unexpected hazards along the way.

The job of uprooting fountain

grass with pickaxes is physically demanding and probably not quite what the teens had in mind when they signed up for this trip. Perhaps their motivation was fueled by what the work represents more than the work itself? This popular ornamental grass is native to Africa, but is an invasive weed in Arizona. The aggressive, fire-adapted grass, quickly reproduces and out-competes native plants. Fountain grass amplifies the intensity and spread of fire, resulting in severe damage to native desert species, including cactus. The group's goal for the morning was to remove as much fountain grass as possible.

National Park Service sponsors (Friends of Saguaro National Park, National Park Foundation, and Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management) provided funds for the Park Service's interns in addition to supplies and snacks for their morning project.

Armed with pickaxes and gloves and energized with

snacks, the team set to work. Spacing themselves along the stream, they stomped, hacked, and pulled all the fountain grass they could — quite literally — get their hands on. Don and Gabe, seasoned fountain grass pullers, removed several masses while the newcomers struggled removing one, but they persevered.



The air was mixed with bird song and chatter from teens Maddie, Eva, Jay, Abby, and Kira as they cheerfully wielded their pickaxes at the grass. Shouts of glee surged as bundles of fountain grass finally uprooted.

Don tracked the team's effort with pre and post work photos (like those you see at the top of the page), and the teens reveled in the work they accomplished.

As they labored towards a common goal to eradicate an invasive plant, they learned more about the natural ecosystem and each other.



Rockin' Summer Ideas

This year at Summer Safari Nights we're rocking out with some animals at the Zoo! Show us your rock star style or follow along with these punk tips from the animals. Tag us on Instagram @ ReidParkZoo



Zebras:
Zebras are very fashion-forward, from their stripes to their stellar mohawks! Grab a parent and try to spike your hair up or wear some wild patterns for a day.

Lions:
These big cats know how to Rock and ROAR! You can too by showing your teeth and roaring out some of your favorite lyrics.



Tanzania:

At the Zoo near the elephants you might remember playing some drums inspired by the instrument **djembe** that originated in West Africa. These instruments have been used to celebrate community and bring peace since the 1200s! See if you and a parent can follow the instructions below to make your own drum.



Materials:

- a clean empty can
- a balloon
- scissors
- two pencils
- rubber bands

Step 1: Use your scissors to cut off the balloon tail



Step 2: Stretch the balloon over the top



Step 3: Use the rubber bands to make sure the balloon stays on the can nice and tight.



Step 4: Grab your pencils and rock and roll!

Thank you to our Business Members!

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Universal Avionics

Rhino's Crash:

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Upcoming Events

SUMMER SAFARI NIGHTS

Saturday Evenings
6 - 8 p.m.
May 27 - August 12



SUMMER SAFARI NIGHTS

Saturdays May 27 through August 12
6 - 8 p.m.

Free for Zoo Members!

Who has the biggest hair? Who's the loudest? Who has the smoothest sound? Meet a different animal 'rock star' each evening and find out! Visit the animals in the cooler sunset temperatures. Explore with special theme nights and activities. Listen to live music from a variety of local bands. Enjoy animal encounters and games. Join us for some grammable moments and wildlife discoveries!



RED, WHITE AND ZOO: HONORING OUR MILITARY MEMORIAL DAY AND JULY 4 HOLIDAYS

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. May 29

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. July 4

As a special thank you for your service, we will be 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 military dependents (up to 6) on Memorial Day, May 29 and on July 4, 2023. Military members do not need to be present for dependent discount.

NANDI'S NINTH BIRTHDAY BASH

Saturday, August 19

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Free to Zoo Members!

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. Nandi loves mud wallows, so in addition to the festivities in Tanzania, stop into the Event Garden between 10 a.m. and 1 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.



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, investigating puzzle feeders filled with slices of watermelon, and having fun while they smash whole watermelons.

ZOOCSON 2023

Friday, October 6

6 - 9 p.m.

Save the date and join us for the 30th anniversary of ZOOcson! This party with a purpose is a wildly elegant and all-inclusive fundraiser featuring sumptuous food samplings from local restaurants, live music, animal encounters and one-of-a-kind auctions.



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SUMMER SAFARI NIGHTS

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