

ZOO & YOU



Summer 2021 | Member Magazine
Reid Park Zoological Society





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Reid Park Zoological Society

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SUNDZU IN SUNNY SAN DIEGO

Adolescent elephant Sundzu has matured and outgrown his mother's herd. This Spring, Sundzu moved to the San Diego Zoo Elephant Odyssey habitat to establish a herd of his own.

Sundzu's new care team reports that he is settling into his new home! While he is still gaining confidence in learning to navigate the elephant care center, he is already an expert in navigating his new habitat with his half-brother and new companion Inhlonipho

(known fondly as "Nipho"). Sundzu and Nipho have quickly formed a close relationship as they start their lives as a bachelor group. They can often be seen sharing food from a feeder, spending time getting dirty in a mud wallow, and even laying side by side overnight. Both elephant care teams, at Reid Park Zoo and San Diego Zoo, are excited to have Sundzu assimilating successfully and thriving with his new family.

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 Ann Marie Donoghue on Facebook



Photo by Debb Hart Oebker on Facebook



Photo by A@cindyinthedesert on Instagram



A herd of elephants in Tarangire National Park, Tanzania.

COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION

Despite the hardships of COVID-19 quarantines, restrictions, and closures, Reid Park Zoo and its conservation partners remain committed to protecting wild animals and wild places. We have been amazed at what our conservation partners have accomplished this year and admire their dedication, even during these tough times. We'd like to highlight some of their achievements and introduce you to some new conservation opportunities. Funding to support these projects comes from a portion of all Zoo general revenue, private donations marked for conservation, and funds raised during special conservation events.

Thank you to everyone who has helped fund conservation projects by visiting Reid Park Zoo.

Tanzania Science and Conservation Program

Formerly known as the Tarangire Elephant Project, this program works to preserve elephants by creating safe travel corridors. Just this past year, an additional 365,000 acres of elephant habitat have been protected. In total, almost 1.5 million acres are now protected in the Tarangire ecosystem.

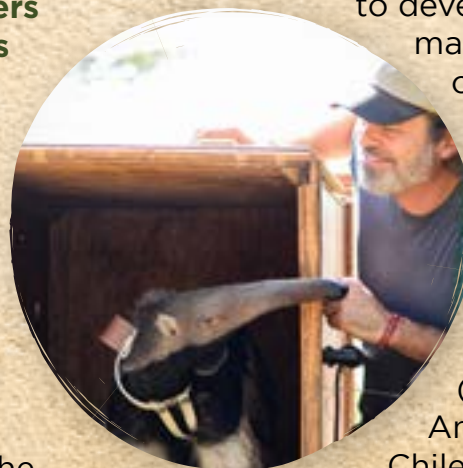
Giant Anteaters and Highways

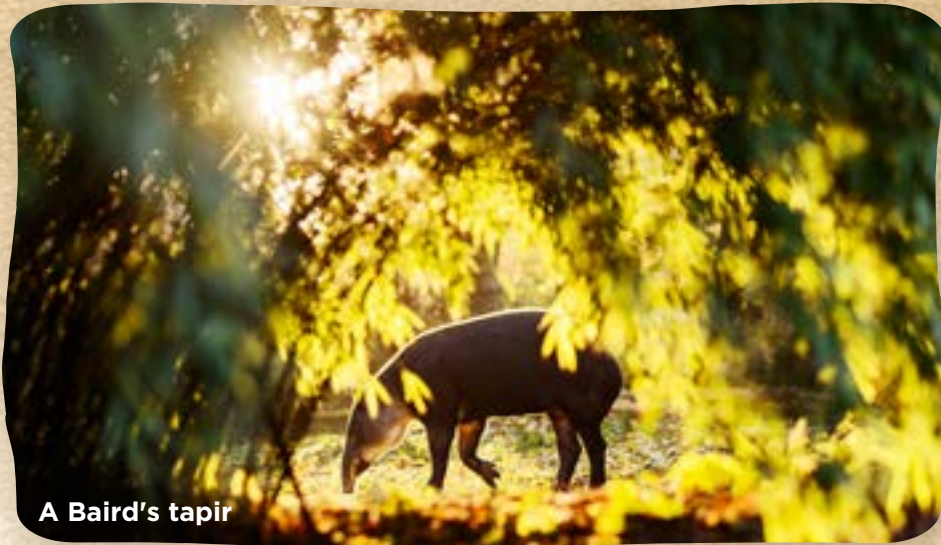
- This project worked with mayors in several different states within Brazil to create educational campaigns highlighting the need to watch out for wildlife and to slow down to protect anteaters and the

many other species killed on roadways each year. Educational materials they developed this year received approval to be included in the state-wide education curriculum for all school children.

SAFE Andean Highland Flamingo

- As the leader of this Saving Animals from Extinction program, Reid Park Zoo worked with partners around the world to develop educational materials to celebrate International Flamingo Day and flamingo conservation. Continued research on the Puna (James's), Andean, and Chilean flamingos will be used to guide future conservation action and educational programs.





A Baird's tapir

Baird's Tapir Survival Alliance – This year, the Alliance developed virtual educational materials to share with schools throughout the Baird's tapir range, from Mexico to Colombia. They have continued to protect tapirs and their habitat through local community patrol groups and by establishing responsible tapir-based tourism opportunities for when it is safe for all to travel again.

SAFE Giraffe– Funds from the Zoo supported *Operation Twiga V* (twiga is Swahili for giraffe). This conservation effort relocated 15 giraffe to Pian Upe, the largest wildlife reserve in Uganda to re-establish giraffe into this wildlife preserve. This project also runs the Twiga Tracker Initiative, which monitors more than 200 giraffe in 10 African countries. This is the largest GPS satellite tracking study

ever done on giraffe.

In addition to continuing to support the programs listed above, this year Reid Park Zoo will also support conservation and research projects focusing on tigers, Andean bears, lions, and jaguars. Additionally, we will be supporting local wildlife conservation and rehabilitation by supporting the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, Tucson Wildlife Center, and supporting internships with the Tucson Bee Collaboration.

We are excited at the many opportunities we have to continue to expand our support for the conservation of wild animals and wild places both globally and locally.

Explore more about what your Zoo is doing for conservation and how you can get involved by visiting our website.



Win a 2021 Bronco Sport Badlands!

Support your Zoo and enter to win a 2021 Bronco Sport Badlands, two round-trip first-class tickets to anywhere in the world, or \$5,000 cash when you participate in the Jim Click Millions for Tucson Raffle!

More information and tickets at ReidParkZoo.org



IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY IN THE SOUTH AMERICA LOOP

In the mid-90's, the South America Loop at Reid Park Zoo was the newest section of the Zoo. Currently home to 59 animals, it has always been a favorite passageway in the Zoo known for its cooling effect in the summer. Surrounded by bamboo and tall trees (like the incredible silk floss tree), it gives the feeling of being more secluded than other areas in the Zoo.

The South America Loop is home to our two Baird's tapirs, Tessa and Tupi. In past years they have had multiple youngsters together. Once Tessa has given birth, she

needs time away from Tupi to care for the baby. To make that happen there are two neighboring habitats that they can use. However, this spring the habitat has received a big improvement: the rock walls were modified to allow the tapirs to use the full habitat space when separation is not necessary. Additionally when we can return to having keeper chats, the modifications will help improve guest experience as the tapirs will be closer to guests for viewing. Keeper chats here will allow staff to educate guests about the tapirs and

the conservation work the Zoo supports in countries where tapir are naturally found.

The rheas, Galapagos tortoises, capybaras, crested screamers, and anteaters all had new rockwork walls added to their habitats. In the case of the anteaters, a special enrichment device was added to the wall itself to provide tasty snacks. Anteaters use their long, sticky tongues to slurp up insects. The new wall features long tubes specially designed to hold treats like insects, honey and avocado for the anteaters. The



anteaters, Nico and Zola, need to stand up on their hind legs to reach some of the treat tubes — which is great for strength and balance. For our guests, it will be an opportunity to see the anteaters' tongues and their agility. Next time you're in the South America loop, be sure to check out the new signage at the anteater overlook to learn about the research and conservation work of the Anteaters and Highways program.

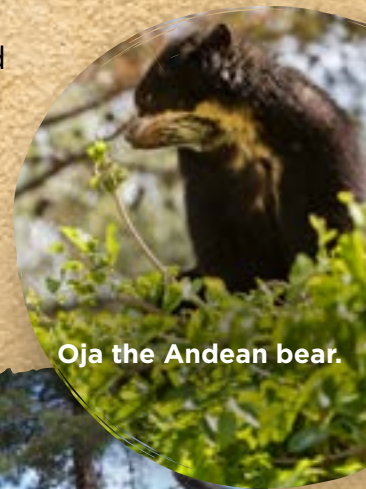
The underwater viewing Pacu cave recently got a makeover with the addition of tiny diorama habitats featuring the native homes of animals you visit in the South America Loop. Take a peek at miniature habitats and find the animal that occupies each one. The display teaches kids to patiently locate the animal and also has lots of information about habitats and conservation in the Pantanal Region of South America.

Nearly all the mammals in South America are fans of warm weather and have an indoor bedroom to retreat to in the winter. These climate controlled spaces were aging and needed some updating. Just like we change doors in our homes — the mammals in the South America loop had their bedrooms doors replaced. The new doors help with maintaining heat and cooling, as well as keeping our animals safe and secure.

The final big change in the Loop is an expansion of the Andean bear habitat and behind the scenes bedrooms. Oja, our female bear, is temporarily in our Animal Health Center while her habitat is modified. While she is away, her habitat is growing! We are filling in the moat and

changing the rockwork so there will be more usable space. In this new space animal care staff will have the ability to hide treats more creatively to challenge Oja. Additionally there will be more bedrooms added to the behind-the-scenes area. This will provide ideal space for possible cubs in the future.

Don't forget to visit Bella the jaguar, whose habitat was recently renovated, peek in on the South America Aviary with many new species, and visit the squirrel monkeys in the Temple of Tiny Monkeys!



Oja the Andean bear.



The Andean bear habitat under construction.

BRINGING PATHWAY TO ASIA AND WORLD OF PLAY TO LIFE

Thanks to the support of Tucson voters in the 2017 election, Reid Park Zoo has been hard at work making needed improvements. The funds that voters approved made it possible to make important repairs and upgrades throughout the Zoo, such as replacing rusted guardrails, fixing broken walkways, and installing automatic door openers to increase accessibility for guests using strollers or wheelchairs. The funding has allowed us to increase animal care staff and pays the salary for our first-ever full time veterinarian.

This funding is also bringing incredible new experiences to Reid Park Zoo. In addition to the Temple of Tiny Monkeys and recently-completed Flamingo Lagoon, the Phase 1 of the Zoo's 10 year Master Plan includes the addition of an exciting 3.5 acre addition called "Pathway to Asia" and a new playground, the World of Play Adventure Zone.

Pathway to Asia will bring incredible species such as red pandas, komodo dragons, and fishing cats to your Zoo. In May, we received direction from the Mayor and Council to adjust plans for Pathway to Asia in a way that preserves beloved park amenities and minimizes the use of green space. The project will be designed in the area north



and west of the Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center. Our first consideration, which is shared by the City of Tucson, is always what will be in the best interest of the animals in our care. We have been diligently working to ensure Pathway to Asia is designed to give the animals the best environment to thrive.

With the World of Play Adventure Zone, Reid Park Zoo is bringing an appreciation of biological diversity to the playground! Children will chill out in cool Antarctica, hear the rhythmic sounds of the South American rainforest, and and marvel at the magnitude of the North American redwoods. Parents will have a shaded area to watch as their kids climb to great heights, peek at animal ambassadors, and connect with the Earth through Nature

Play. World of Play will be accessible for children of all abilities and will be located inside the Zoo replacing the former flamingo habitat.

As always, thank you for your support and for being with us on this journey to bring Pathway to Asia and the World of Play Adventure Zone to our Southern Arizona community. These two new areas will be transformative for Reid Park Zoo and will further our mission to be the best Zoo we can be — a respected center for wildlife conservation and education inspiring guests today and for many generations to come.

We are excited to bring these projects to life and, once they are complete, to turn our attention to making more improvements within the current footprint of the Zoo.

**“This Zoo is
Tucson’s greatest
asset!”**

- Ellen W. Lewis



A JOYFUL SIGHT

Ellen Lewis was a docent at Tucson Museum of Art and the Mini Time Machine Museum (Tucson’s Museum of Miniatures) prior to joining the Reid Park Zoo Docent Program in 2009. She graduated from the program in 2010.

“As a docent, I see a tremendous value for such a diverse community — citizens of all ages with many interests. This is the biggest bang for their buck but most importantly, it’s here because of a love of animals and what these animals bring to the community in terms of educating children and adults, combined with fun.”

When asked what her favorite animal in the Zoo is, she’s quick to respond with “Jed!” (Reid Park Zoo’s Donor Relations Specialist/ Zoo Personality), but one of the best things for her is “to hear Billy the gibbon singing” as she pulls into the parking lot.

When visiting the Zoo, it’s hard to miss the various places her name appears on recognition plaques because she has helped make so many habitats come to fruition over the years. Habitats for lemurs, grizzly bears, rhinos, elephants and the Animal Health Center are just a few. Most recently Ellen provided a lead gift to

the flamingo habitat.

“It’s such a joyful sight to walk into the Zoo now and be greeted by those beautiful pink birds.” She laughed as she remembers when Dr. Sue Tygelski needed an enormous amount of sand for the elephants barn prior to Nandi’s birth. “I never imagined I would be providing thousands of pounds of sand for elephants at the Zoo. That was fun!”

When asked about the Zoo’s next project Ellen says “I’m passionate about donating to things I love and will never stop!”

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER SAFARI NIGHTS PRESENTED BY TMC HEALTHCARE

Saturday evenings, 5:30-8:30pm
Through August 14

FREE for Zoo members

**\$10.50 adults, \$8.50 seniors, \$6.50
children, free for ages under 2**

Swing in for wild summer fun.

- Visit the animals in the cooler evening temperatures
- Listen to live music from local bands
- Enjoy games and activities with Tucson Parks and Recreation's Ready, Set, Rec!
- Explore with wildlife activities and presentations
- Refresh with food and drink specials including prickly pear margaritas, craft beer and wine

Special thanks to Pyramid Credit Union entertainment sponsor and Cox Communication.

A different theme each evening:

June 26: Art in the Animal Kingdom

July 3: Red, White and Zoo

July 10: Weird Science

July 17: Rad Reptiles

July 24: Dog Days of Summer and
Astronomy Night

July 31: Animal Athletes

August 7: Fit for the Future

August 14: Happy Herd



Summer Safari Nights is presented by by



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Interested in becoming a sponsor of Reid Park Zoo events?

Call 881-4753 or email gail@reidparkzoo.org



RED, WHITE AND ZOO

Sunday, July 4
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FREE with Zoo Admission

Celebrate America at Reid Park Zoo with a day of fun-filled patriotic animal activities, including a self-guided scavenger hunt in search of red, white and blue animals. As a special thank you for your service, all veterans and activity duty military will get free admission to the Zoo with current military ID and their dependents will get admission of \$5 each on July 4th.



WATERMELON WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday in July

FREE with Zoo Admission

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



ZOOCSON 2021

Friday, October 8

6- 9 p.m.

\$110 per Zoo Member Adult Ticket
\$130 per person Adult Ticket
\$200 per person VIP Ticket

Bring your appetite for adventure and enjoy Tucson's wildly elegant, all-inclusive fundraiser featuring delectable food samplings from local restaurants, music, animal encounters and one-of-a-kind auctions. This year's event is inspired by the Zoo's new pack of African wild dogs. Join us for an enchanting evening in the jungle and under the stars at the Zoo.



NANDI'S SEVENTH BIRTHDAY

8 - 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 21

FREE with Zoo Admission

The Zoo's beloved Nandi is turning seven, and you're invited to help celebrate her life and the lives of elephants everywhere. Join us in Expedition Tanzania as our pachyderm princess and elephant herd get some jumbo-sized enrichment treats, and learn how you can help save wild elephants through special zookeeper chats and elephant-themed activities. We'll have cupcakes for the first 300 guests. While Nandi's actual birthday is August 20th, we're celebrating on Saturday to give more guests an opportunity to take part in the fun.



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SUMMER SAFARI NIGHTS

Saturdays ★
Through August 14
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Cool evening viewing
Live entertainment
Animal chats and activities
Food and drink, including beer, wine,
prickly pear margaritas, White Claws,
and more!



Tickets at ReidParkZoo.org
Free for Zoo members!