

Z Points



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Thank you to our Community Partner:



110 years old - and diving into the future

Planning underway for Pacific Rim Aquarium, Rocky Shores and Polar bear exhibit renovations; Master Plan nears completion for Point Defiance Park

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Point Defiance Park both turn 110 years old in 2015. And what better way to celebrate than laying plans for generations of conservation work, recreation and environmental education to come?

In the coming weeks members of the public are invited to participate in the final phases of the master planning process for the park and to get first-hand details about exciting improvements coming to the Zoo.

At the Zoo, planning is underway for the new Pacific Rim Aquarium, which will replace the half-century-old North Pacific Aquarium. Repairs and renovations to the marine mammal exhibits at Rocky Shores also are on the drawing boards, as are renovations to the Polar bear exhibit. And upgrades to critical life-support systems for marine mammals are in the works.

Each of these projects was made possible by voters' approval last year of a \$198 million Metro Parks Tacoma bond issue, with \$65.4 million earmarked for capital improvements at the Zoo.

In addition, the Zoo and the Science and Math Institute (SAMI) of Tacoma Public Schools are collaborating on a new Education Center for students and staff on Zoo grounds.

A public meeting to discuss what's in store for your Zoo is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Zoo Education Center. Timelines are not finalized, but construction work is expected to begin on the new aquarium and the Rocky Shores exhibit in late 2016 and on the polar bear exhibit in late 2017.

At Point Defiance Park, a new Master Plan is nearing completion. It builds on the collaborative vision and direction set forth



in the 2008 Concept Plan and will guide improvements to the beloved, 765-acre park well into the future.

A series of public meetings is scheduled this winter and spring to both inform the public and get input as the process moves forward.

Exciting times are ahead for two crown jewels of Tacoma—your Zoo and the amazing park in which it lies.

Learn more and watch for updates at: pdza.org/capitalprojects and DestinationPointDefiance.org.

Public meeting on Zoo projects

- **Wednesday, Feb. 18:** 6 to 8 p.m. in the Zoo Education Center

Get facts, share your views on Point Defiance Park

- **Feb. 26,** 6 p.m. at the Point Defiance Park Pagoda
- **March 26,** 6 p.m. at the Point Defiance Park Pagoda
- **April 23,** 6 p.m. at the Point Defiance Park Pagoda

New at your Zoo

Fresh faces, wide eyes greet visitors

Bright eyes peek out from behind watchful mom Jaya. You've likely seen the endangered Sumatran tiger cubs at Asian Forest Sanctuary. And by now, you probably know their names, too. But the baby tigers aren't the only new young 'uns on Zoo grounds.

We've got a kit and caboodle of new animals. Or at least a lot of kits. There are four new meerkats in the Kids' Zone "mansion," and a baby beaver at Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater.

Come meet them all:

About those cubs: Kirana, Indah and Dari

Thousands of Zoo website and Facebook fans, patients at MultiCare Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and area elementary school children voted on names for the tiger triplets. The names are derived from Bahasa Indonesia, the language of Indonesia. Kirana (keer-rana) means beautiful sunbeam; Indah (N-dah) translates into beautiful one and Dari (dar-ee) is short for Ndari, meaning full moon.

The triplets, born Oct. 8 and growing rapidly, can be viewed daily in the Zoo's Asian Forest Sanctuary. They are a rare sight. Sumatran tigers are critically endangered. Only about 300 remain in the wild on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. There are just 78 in North American zoos and 400 in zoos worldwide.

Orphaned beaver finds a home

North American beaver Hazel, short for Hazelnut, joined the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater this winter. The little rodent is an herbivore and loves to eat fruits, vegetables and leafy greens. She weighs under 10 pounds now but could grow to somewhere between 30 and 60. Look for Hazel, usually happily munching or swimming, on most days during the 1:30 p.m. Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater Close Encounter.

More Meerkat mischief?

Whether it's mischief is open to interpretation, but most would agree these guys are great fun to watch. Four kits were born to the Amelia gang over the fall. The little meerkats, just a few months old, are small but hugely dynamic bundles of fur and energy. Check them out in Kids' Zone with a whole mob of Meerkats. These curious critters will certainly be checking you out!

Welcome to all our new arrivals!



jellies

Swimming your way this summer

They move in undulating waves. They're mesmerizing, mysterious, colorful. An all-new jellies exhibit is being installed now in the North Pacific Aquarium. Look for it to open this summer with:

- Lion's mane jellyfish
- Northeast Pacific sea nettles
- Crystal jellyfish
- Spotted lagoon jellyfish

So, plan a voyage of discovery amid oceans of amazement.

Follow our website at pdza.org and Facebook page at facebook.com/PtDefianceZoo for more information and Grand Opening date.





On conservation's front lines

Point Defiance Zoo plays a key role in species survival at home and abroad

The species survival clock is ticking. On the Clouded leopard. On the Sumatran tiger. On Asian and African elephants in jungles and savannahs, on sharks in the seas. And on hundreds of other species around the world.

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is on the front lines of conservation work at home and in remote corners of the globe. Through dedicated efforts of staff, volunteers, donors, sponsors - and you - we're making progress to push back the clock for key species and their habitats.

Last year, the Zoo reached an important milestone when the Zoo Society's Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund allocated more than \$171,000 to 35 projects around the globe, bringing the fund's grants to more than \$1 million in just a dozen years.

Since 2002, the Zoo has invested:

- \$623,159 toward saving endangered species
- \$295,404 to improving breeding success through scientific research
- \$158,170 to preserving diversity of Northwest species
- \$75,441 to combating climate change

The work is crucial, and your Zoo's contributions are large. The list of them is long, and many are detailed in a new Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Conservation Report being published this month. A downloadable copy will be posted at pdza.org/publications.

Internationally, the Zoo works to save elephant habitat and educate the public about threats to both Asian and African elephants. Conservation dollars raised locally and donated to these efforts alone total nearly \$87,000 in the last dozen years.

In addition, the Zoo is a strong supporter of the 96 Elephants Campaign and of tough laws to ban the sale and trade of ivory.

In Indonesia and Southeast Asia, grants from the Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund support habitat-preservation and anti-poaching work on behalf of Clouded leopards and Sumatran tigers. Donated conservation dollars also support the work of zoo staff members who travel to Thailand and assist with Clouded leopard breeding programs at Khao Kheow Zoo in Thailand.



In North America, the Zoo is a leader in Species Survival Plan® breeding programs for Clouded leopards and Sumatran tigers. Cubs born in Tacoma will play a key role in increasing the numbers and genetic diversity of their species in zoo-based cooperative breeding programs.

And last summer, generous donors contributed \$71,250 to Red Wolf research during the Zoo Society's annual Zoobilee fundraiser. Zoo General Curator Dr. Karen Goodrowe Beck and her team are creating a genome resource bank to acquire and preserve male Red wolf gametes that can be introduced to females through artificial insemination. With generous support from the community, the zoo that began the Red wolf recovery program in the 1970s is now using 21st century technology to aid in the species' continued survival.

Crucial conservation projects like these—and more—will continue throughout 2015 and beyond. After all, how could your Zoo do anything less?



Engaging the community in conservation

Point Defiance Zoo provides dozens of opportunities for visitors to take part in our conservation mission. Here are three:

Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives

Get close to 16 sharks of five different species - and be a conservation hero at the same time. Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives allow Zoo visitors to dive with sharks in the South Pacific Aquarium - and learn a great deal about them in the process. No diving experience is necessary. In just 16 months, some 4,000 people have completed the dives. All learned ways to help save sharks. Though they are one of the world's most efficient predators, sharks are among the most misunderstood of species. An estimated 100 million are killed each year for their fins, meat, liver, oil, and cartilage, as well as through general overfishing.

- Learn ways to help save sharks: pdza.org/savesharks
- Get the schedule and sign up for a dive: pdza.org/dive
- Make informed choices on seafood products: seafoodwatch.org

96 Elephants

The numbers are staggering - and heartbreaking. Every 15 minutes, an African elephant is slaughtered for its tusks. That's 96 elephants a day, 35,040 a year. The global 96 Elephants campaign calls attention to this grim statistic and advocates for a world-wide ban on the sale or trade of ivory. Point Defiance Zoo is dedicated to helping stop the slaughter, advocating for tougher laws and educating the public on this critical topic. At the Zoo, staff biologists, educators and volunteers talk about the plight of the earth's largest land animals. In the community, Zoo leaders promote greater awareness and support the passage of tougher anti-ivory laws in Washington state.

- Learn more about 96 Elephants: pdza.org/96elephants
- Learn more about Asian elephants, like Suki and Hanako: pdza.org/asian-elephants

Paws for the Cause

A chocolate bar might be tasty, or a specialty shampoo might smell wonderful, but unless both are made with sustainable ingredients, their purchase might contribute to deforestation. Using a grant from the Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund, Zoo staff members created the local Paws for the Cause initiative to generate community awareness about the connection between common foods and the destruction of the habitat that is home to species like the Clouded leopard, Sumatran tiger and orangutan.

- Learn more about this movement and how to make wise purchases: pdza.org/pawsforthecause

CAMP-TASTIC SUMMER OF 2015

Exclusive Zoo Member registration is now open for camp sessions that provide a lifetime of memories – and a ton of summertime fun. Get a complete list of camps, details on each, more information and registration materials at pdza.org/programs.

ALL-DAY ADVENTURES

A weeklong voyage of discovery for your child combines two camps each day for twice the learning – and twice the fun!

1st & 2nd Grade Graduates

Members \$231; Non-members \$263

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

June 22-26: Animal Planet (NEW!) & Jellies & Friends (NEW!)

July 6-10: Jungle Journey & Ocean Explorers

July 20-24: Motion Commotion & Colossal Creatures

July 27-31: Jellies & Friends (NEW!) & Jungle Journey

Aug. 10-14: Motion Commotion & Animal Planet (NEW!)

3rd & 4th Grade Graduates

Members \$231; Non-members \$263

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

June 22-26: Animal Outlaws (NEW!) & What's For Dinner

July 13-17: Animals Got Talent (NEW!) & Build Your Own Zoo

July 27-31: North Pacific Neighbors (NEW!) & Animal Outlaws (NEW!)

4th & 6th Grade Graduates

Members \$274; Non-members \$326

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Aug. 17-21: Wild Photographer & Wild Artist

5th & 6th Grade Graduates

Members \$231; Non-members \$263

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

July 13-17: If I Ran the Zoo & Zombie Rangers (NEW!)

Aug. 17-21: If I Ran the Zoo & Jr. Zookeeper

WEEK LONG, HALF DAY CAMP SESSIONS

1st & 2nd Grade Graduates

Members \$121; Non-members \$137

Animal Planet (NEW!)

June 22-26: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Aug. 10-14: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Jellies & Friends (NEW!)

June 22-26: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

July 27-31: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

3rd & 4th Grade Graduates

Members \$121; Non-members \$137

Animals Got Talent (NEW!)

July 13-17: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

North Pacific Neighbors (NEW!)

July 27-31: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Animal Outlaws (NEW!)

June 22-26: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

July 27-31: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

4th - 6th Grade Graduates

Members \$142; Non-members \$168

Wild Photographer

Aug. 3-7: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Aug. 17-21: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Wild Artist

Aug. 17-21: 1 - 4:30 p.m.

5th & 6th Grade Graduates

Members \$121; Non-members \$137

Zombie Rangers (NEW!)

July 13-17: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Jr. Zookeeper

July 27-31: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Aug. 17-21: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Teen Programs Ages 13-17

Zoo Forensic Files (NEW!)

Members \$131; Non-members \$147

Aug. 10-14: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Teen Programs continued...

Teen Wild Researcher

Members \$194; Non-members \$221

July 6-10: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Keeper for a Week

Members \$131; Non-members \$147

July 27-31: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Aug. 3-7: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Aug. 17-21: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Marine Biologist for a Week

Members \$131; Non-members \$147

July 13-17: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Aug. 10-14: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

MINI CAMPS

Preschool graduates

Members \$42; Non-members \$47

Zoo Buddies (NEW!)

June 29-30: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

July 23-24: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Aug. 20-21: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Animal Alphabet (NEW!)

July 6-7: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

July 20-21: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Aug. 6-7: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Kindergarten Graduates

Members \$58; Non-members \$63

Colors & Camouflage (NEW!)

July 6-8: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Aug. 5-7: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Rumble in the Jungle (NEW!)

June 29-July 1: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Aug. 12-14: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Radical Rays & Jiggling Jellies (NEW!)

July 22-24: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Aug. 3-5: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

1st & 2nd Grade Graduates

Members \$48; Non-members \$53

Jamming with the Jellies (NEW!)

June 29: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



FEBRUARY 14 -15 LOVE AT THE ZOO

Ah amore! Come to the Zoo and learn (G-rated of course) how the animals choose Mr. or Mrs. Right. Staff biologists will answer questions and talk about how animals choose a mate, from year to year or for life.



APRIL 11-12 EARTH DAY PARTY

Zoo animals get special treats and games to play, while you (you're their human counterpart, after all!), learn how to shrink your carbon footprint and engage in sustainable practices for a greener, healthier planet.



MARCH 30-APRIL 3 SPRING BREAK SUPERSTARS

Staying in town for Spring Break? "Staycation" at the Zoo. We'll put the spotlight on Red wolves, sharks, Polar bears, elephants and tigers, to name just a few favorites. Look for special, oh-so-fun activities each day!

FUN-FILLED SPRING COMING YOUR WAY

JOIN US AT YOUR ZOO FOR AN EVENT- PACKED FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL AND MAY

MAY 2-3 BUDGIES ARE BACK...

Colorful birds. Seed sticks. So much fun!

...AND SO IS "INDIANA BONES"

Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater's fast-paced live-animal show, "Indiana Bones and the Golden Treasure," is back for another season of adventure!



MAY 9 HALF-PRICE MOM'S DAY

Bring your whole flock to celebrate Mom on her special weekend. All moms receive half off general admission. We'll pay tribute to some special animal moms, too.

Connect with us



Keeping the Vision Alive

Become a Vision Keeper today with an annual gift of \$500 or more. This donation will help fund educational programs, new major exhibits and conservation projects that help save endangered species, such as Sumatran tigers, in the wild. Learn more about this at www.thezoosociety.org, or contact Lawrence Norvell at 253-404-3663 or email him at lnorvell@thezoosociety.org.

Your gift will keep the vision of a sustainable world alive!

RE-member yourself, family and friends



The new year is a great time to renew your Zoo membership or purchase one as a gift for family or friends. This can be a birthday gift, an anniversary gift - or better than chocolate for Valentine's Day! Memberships include unlimited Zoo visits, discounts on camps and special programs, a subscription to ZooPoints, and admission discounts to Zoolights and our sister zoo, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. Learn more about this great gift to yourself, family or friends at www.pdza.org/membership.

