

Z Points

ZOOLIGHTS

Nov 27–Jan 3



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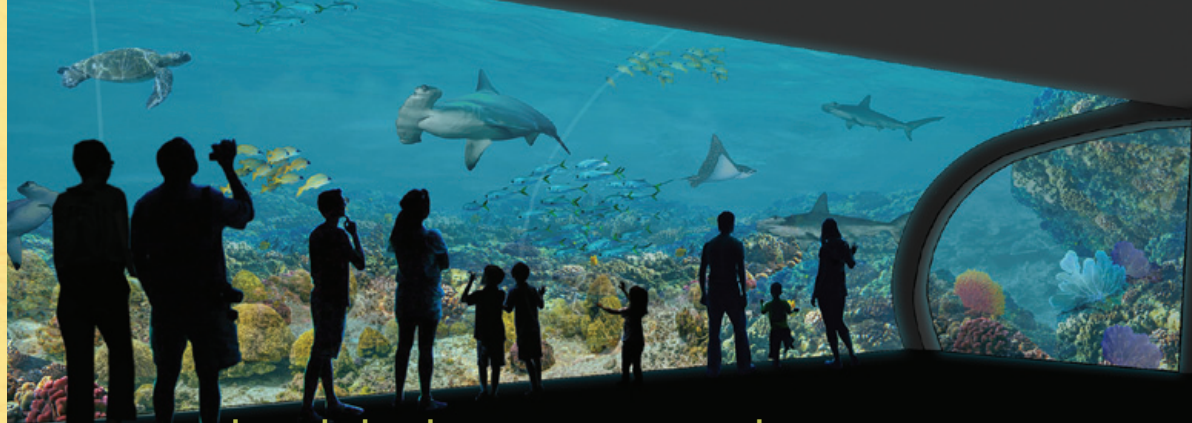
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Thank you to our Community Partner:



Hammerhead sharks, green sea turtles among new species set for new aquarium planned to open in Summer 2018

Architect's rendering shows scalloped hammerhead sharks and green sea turtles in the expansive 250,000-gallon, warm-water exhibit showcasing animals that can be found along the Gulf of California between the Baja Peninsula and the mainland of Mexico.

Imagine scalloped hammerhead sharks gliding past a 32-foot-wide window, then swimming briefly out of sight, only to reappear above visitors in a part of the 250,000-gallon tank that arches overhead.

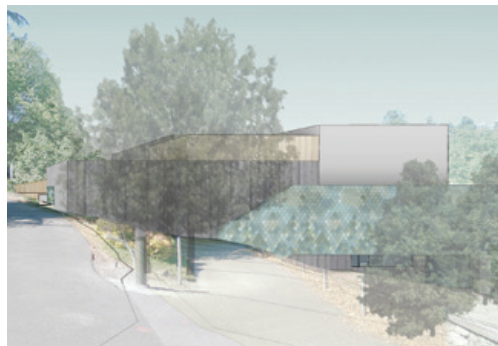
Elsewhere in the impressive exhibit, green sea turtles swim serenely amid other animals in a warm-water ecosystem displaying sea life that can be found in the great gulf waters between Baja California and mainland Mexico.

The hammerheads and sea turtles are two popular – and mesmerizing – animals to be included in the new aquarium, which is scheduled to open in the summer of 2018.

The approximately 34,000-square-foot structure will replace the deteriorating North Pacific Aquarium. Voter-approved Metro Parks Tacoma bond funds are making its construction possible.

The South Pacific Aquarium, home to 16 sharks, will remain in operation at its current location.

The new aquarium will be built between Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater and the



Architect's drawing depicts the new aquarium from a zoo pathway near the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater.

Rocky Shores exhibit. It will be about 12,000 square feet larger than the North Pacific Aquarium.

Exhibits and other spaces include:

- A 75,000-gallon Puget Sound Community tank that spotlights the marine life in our own backyard
- An expanded Marine Discovery Center
- A Marine Science Classroom
- A Social Action Gallery, with a dedicated space to connect visitors with actions they can take on behalf of the world's oceans and the animals that live in them
- Exhibits focusing on the schooling habits of fish, showcasing spider crabs, an octopus and other sea creatures
- A mesmerizing jellyfish exhibit

The dramatic centerpiece of the aquarium is the 250,000-gallon habitat for hammerheads, sea turtles and other animals. The 25-foot-deep tank will feature a 32-foot-wide viewing window, and a portion of the tank will arch over visitors' heads, leaving the impression of being surrounded by a tunnel of water.

The guiding theme will relate to our shared responsibility for the protection of the world's oceans.

"This is an exciting time for Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium," said Gary Geddes, Director of Zoological & Environmental Education. "The voters put their faith and trust in us to build our community a new aquarium that will last for generations. We are excited to be moving forward in fulfilling that commitment."

Learn more at pdza.org/newaquarium

Conservation Corner

These 'cloudie' cubs are undeniably cute, but they're also important additions to the survival of their endangered species

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium added four – count them FOUR! – cubs to the North American Clouded leopard population earlier this year with the rare birth of quadruplets.

In six months, the Clouded leopard cubs have gone from roly-poly, squirming babies to playful and active youngsters, growing into their bodies and personalities.

Two of them, Orchid and Banyan, remain at your Zoo. (Ask at the Main Gate or check our Facebook page for times to see the cubs).

The other two, males Teak and Kapok, moved to Kansas to meet their future mates at the Tanganyika Wildlife Park.

Each of these endangered cats is part of the Species Survival Plan® managed breeding program.

Clouded leopards are so elusive in the wild that their exact numbers are unknown; North American zoos are home to fewer than 100. From the first Clouded leopard cubs to arrive at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium more than 15 years ago, the Zoo has played an important role in the species' population. Thanks to The Zoo Society's Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund, the Zoo contributes to research and education efforts in the cats' native Southeast Asia.

Zoo Education Curator Karen Povey and Head Veterinarian Dr. Karen Wolf recently visited Malaysian Borneo to further the partnership with the Sabah Wildlife Department, learn more about projects to protect the species from poaching, and educate children about the importance of wildlife.



Banyan and Orchid

The visit was inspiring, said Povey, from the programs teaching schoolchildren how to respect wildlife to the field research tracking the cats' movement.

"We were able to see the work of these folks we've been supporting through the conservation fund," said Povey. "Not everybody can visit these wild habitats and amazing places, but they can have an impact on conservation, contribute to conservation efforts, and give voice to the Clouded leopards, who don't have one."

You can help Clouded leopards

Every individual can take action – even at home – to help Clouded leopards in the wild. Learn what you can do at pdza.org/pawsforthecause

Initiative 1401 aims to protect endangered species

An initiative on the Nov. 3 ballot is directed at protecting a number of endangered and threatened species by strengthening state laws on the trafficking of animal products.



Initiative 1401, known as Save Animals Facing Extinction, calls out 10 iconic species for added protection under Washington law. They

are elephants, rhinos, lions, tigers, cheetahs, leopards, pangolins, sea turtles, sharks and rays.

The Metro Parks Tacoma Board of Commissioners unanimously endorsed the initiative during a meeting in August.

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is home to a number of endangered, threatened and vulnerable species, including Asian elephants, Clouded leopards, Sumatran tigers, sharks and stingrays.

Find additional details at pdza.org/1401



ZOOLIGHTS BRIGHTENS THE NIGHT FROM NOV. 27 - JAN. 3

The Northern Lights shimmer above Kids' Zone.

A stealthy shark stalks a school of fish, which scatter across the wall of the South Pacific Aquarium.

An underwater menagerie of jellyfish, turtles, rays, and corals glows in vibrant tropical colors against the North Pacific Aquarium.

And high in the sky, spy a marine-life holiday truce: A massive octopus coexists with a friendly – or is it feisty? – crab. Just think of the arm wrestling that could go on.

WELCOME TO THE 28TH ANNUAL EDITION OF ZOOLIGHTS, WHERE MORE THAN 575,000 COLORFUL LED BULBS RE-CREATE SCENES FROM LAND AND SEA, AND OUR IMAGINATIONS.

This Northwest holiday tradition runs nightly from Nov. 27 to Jan. 3 (with a one-night closure on Dec. 24).

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium staff began designing and testing exhibits over the summer, and setting

up before Halloween, in order to have the massive display ready by Thanksgiving Weekend.

What greets visitors this year is a twinkling, watery world: Blue lights shimmer over much of the grounds, with more displays featuring marine life.

And the red rock crab just might be this season's breakout star: Atop the North Pacific Aquarium, next to the 100-foot-long, Giant Pacific octopus, the nearly 9-foot-by-22-foot crustacean opens and closes his pincers, radiant in some 4,400 lights of red, orange, white and blue.

Down below, these favorites - and many more - await:

- A brilliantly white Polar bear family looks out from a string of ice floes;
- An imposing eagle swoops to retrieve a fish;
- A 17-foot tiger casts a piercing glow;
- Traffic lights flicker across the twin decks of the Tacoma Narrows bridges;
- Mount Rainier stands majestically, glistening silver and blue.

Last year marked the Zoo's full conversion to LED lights, which not only saves energy and money, but also provides new design opportunities, said Assistant Operations Manager Scott Clarke. The continually developing technology, for example, made the aurora borealis display possible. After testing various lighting options, designers found the best way to create the magical, glowing effect of the Northern Lights: new LED floodlights, which alternate colors behind rippling translucent fabric.

Zoo staff members always look for new ways to dazzle visitors, whether your must-see display shines in a different spot year to year, or a new scene grabs your attention.

"Zoolights is just as much a tradition for us as it is the community," said Zoo Deputy Director John Houck. "We're excited to share our displays, especially our stunning red rock crab and our brilliant underwater tropical scene. Zoolights reminds us that our wildlife and our environment give us reasons to celebrate."

Date night, family night, festive night: Let Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium light it for you this season with Zoolights.



TIPS FOR YOUR “LIGHT-HEARTED” ZOOLIGHTS FUN

- 1. Skip the lines, buy tickets online.** Go to pdza.org/zoolights and buy and print your member tickets before you come. You get to avoid the ticket-window lines and dance right through the gates. Score!
- 2. The price is nice.** Remember, membership has its privileges. The \$5-per-member tickets are half the cost of regular Zoolights admission.
- 3. Beat the crowds:** Arrive right when the gates open at 5 p.m. – or come after 7:30 p.m. – to enjoy your stroll through the grounds with a bit more elbow room. Weeknights, especially in early December, are a great time to visit.
- 4. Come by the carload:** Carpooling is a great way to help out the environment.

ONLY AT ZOOLIGHTS

Oceans of outdoor fun: An all-new lighted menagerie of sea creatures and plants will dazzle you outside the North Pacific Aquarium. Can you identify them all?

Huge crab meets giant Octopus: Will they arm wrestle? An oversized crab joins forces with the Giant Pacific octopus, captivating visitors' attention aboveground.

Ride a camel at night: Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is the only Northwest zoo to offer camel rides. Visitors ages 3 and older can enjoy this unique experience during Zoolights, at a cost of \$5 for members.

See Santa dive: Taking a warm-water break from the North Pole, Santa Claus and a companion elf will swim with sharks in the South Pacific Aquarium at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23.

Go round and round: The antique carousel entertains visitors of all ages every night at Zoolights. Members ride for \$1.

Say hello to live animals: Kids' Zone will feature animals such as meerkats and a variety of reptiles and amphibians while other zoo residents are resting behind the scenes.

Head indoors: Warm up in the steamy South Pacific Aquarium and watch legions of fish and other marine animals at home in their tropical waters.

A special Thank You to our presenting sponsor

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CAMP-TASTIC

WINTER CAMPS FOR KIDS AND ADULTS

There's a lot to learn and a lot to "zoo" for all ages in this fantastic, interactive slate of Winter Camps. Find the entire list, get additional details and register online at pdza.org/programs

ALL-DAY ADVENTURES

Ages 6-8

\$47 members/\$53 non-members per session

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

Dec. 21: Creature Feature

Dec. 22: Aquarium Adventures

Dec. 23: Entertaining Enrichments

Ages 9-12

\$63 members/\$74 non-members per session

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

Dec. 21: Junior Zookeeper

Dec. 22: Junior Aquarist

Dec. 23: Junior Veterinary Technician

PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG KIDS

Critter Club (ages 3-4) and Zoo Crew (ages 5-7) are designed to introduce your child to the Zoo through hands-on activities, fun crafts, and animal surprises.

Critter Club

\$8 members/\$11 non-members per child per session

Time: 11 - 11:45 a.m.

Nov. 12 & 13: Prickly Porcupines

Jan. 14 & 15: Investigating Invertebrates

Jan. 28 & 29: Down on the Farm

Zoo Crew

\$21 members/\$26 non-members per child per session

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Jan. 16: Investigating Invertebrates

Jan. 30: Down on the Farm

CAREER DISCOVERY PROGRAMS

Kids and adults can enjoy animal close encounters, hands-on learning experiences and a behind-the-scenes look at running the Zoo.

Keeper for a Day Teen

\$84 members/\$95 non-members
Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 16

Keeper for a Day Level 2 Teen

\$110 members/\$121 non-members
Dec. 19, Jan. 30

Marine Biologist for a Day Teen

\$84 members/\$95 non-members
Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 23

Keeper for a Day Adult

\$84 members/\$95 non-members
Dec. 6

Zoo

Experiences

Last All Year!

Give the unique gift of wildlife appreciation—Zoo memberships, gift cards, Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives, and more. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium gifts turn into unforgettable memories.

Check out these ideas and more at pdza.org/gifts

Memberships

Perfect for friends and family who make frequent trips to the Zoo, memberships make outings easy and provide a few perks, too. Add even more wildlife experiences with a combination membership to Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, our sister zoo.

Zoolights tickets

Treat your loved ones to a night of festive fun with tickets to Zoolights, or add in admission to the zoo with a Combo Pass.

Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives

Give a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to swim with 16 sharks. No experience necessary for the Eye-to-Eye Cage Dive; cage-dive veterans and certified divers can try Beyond the Cage or a Scuba dive.

Adopt an Animal

Those energetic Clouded leopard cubs are only a few of the zoo residents who could benefit from your generosity. Help support animal care, programs, and conservation by "adopting" an animal. Each gift comes with a stuffed animal, adoption certificate, animal fact sheet, and photo. pdza.org/adopt-an-animal

Gift cards

Not sure what to give? Offer a choice with a gift card, applicable to admission fees, memberships, the gift shop, and other activities.



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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 Polar bears.

Learn more about this at pdza.org/vision-keeper-club

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



Connect with us



Get “face-to-fin” with 16 sharks

Beyond the Cage experience puts non-certified divers deeper into the realm of sharks

Already been eye-to-eye with a shark?
Maybe it's time for face-to-fin!

The just-launched Beyond the Cage dives are an exciting new addition to the popular Eye-to-Eye Shark Dive program launched in 2013.

For the very first time, non-scuba divers can climb out of the enclosure used in Eye-to-Eye Cage Dives and kneel on the sand of the 225,000-gallon South Pacific Aquarium, where 16 sharks can swim around them, unobstructed.

Beyond the Cage dives (Level 2) are open to visitors ages 10 and up who have completed a previous dive in the Eye-to-Eye program. The cost is \$80 for Zoo members; \$95 for non-members.

Level 1 Cage Dives are open to ages 8 and up, with no previous diving experience necessary. Scuba Dives, are for certified scuba divers ages 15 and up.

“Many cage dive participants have expressed a desire to be ‘out there’ with the sharks,” said Heidi Wilken, a Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium dive safety officer. “Beyond the Cage puts participants right in the sharks’ living

space. It's as close as you can get to them without being a certified scuba diver.”

Trained diver guides accompany participants on all Eye-to-Eye Shark excursions.

The goal of all the shark dives is education, Wilken said. Participants can take their knowledge of marine life to the next level. All divers leave with information about ways to be stronger advocates for sharks.

You can learn more about ways to protect sharks by visiting pdza.org/savesharks

Want to know more about Eye-to-Eye dives? Find out how to register, plus other facts at www.pdza.org/dive

