



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Columbian Park Zoo to open for 2023 season on Saturday, April 15

LAFAYETTE, IN – April 11, 2023 - At 10:00 am this Saturday, April 15, 2023, the Columbian Park Zoo will open to the public for the 2023 season. The Zoo will operate under spring hours, opening at 10:00 am and closing at 4:30 pm daily until the peak season begins on May 27, at which point daily hours will extend to 10:00 am – 7:00 pm.

Admission fees will remain the same as last year's; those ages three years and up will be \$2.00, while those two years and younger will be free. Members will also be free.

"We are thrilled to open the gates for the 2023 season," said Neil Dale, Zoo Director. "Our staff has been working hard to prepare the grounds for the Zoo's opening day and there's a lot to be excited about."

Last week Columbian Park Zoo shared that they have welcomed seven new African penguins to their collection and plan to have all 10 penguins out on exhibit for the 2023 season. This will be the first time the birds have been out on public exhibit since what is suspected to have been avian malaria hit the colony in 2021.

"We are happy to report that all 10 African penguins are acclimating well to one another," said Assistant Zoo Director Caitlin Laffery. "We are looking forward to sharing them with the community this weekend."

Guests of Columbian Park Zoo will also enjoy a brand new, large viewing window that's been added to the New Guinea Singing Dog exhibit. "The new viewing window will enhance the visitor experience and is just one of many improvements to the zoo that the community can expect to see in the near future," said Dale. Earlier this year, CPZ announced plans to build a new primate exhibit, commissary building, and make improvements to the existing eagle and otter exhibits.

This season visitors will also enjoy the historic Columbian Park Express Train, which is now included as a benefit to the CPZ Membership Program. "New this year, Family and Grandparent Memberships will



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include four train ride tickets,” said Dale. “Individual Memberships will include two train ride tickets.” Please visit the Zoo’s website for more information on membership levels and benefits.

As far as the ever-popular pedal boats, guests can expect those to be back up and running later this spring, once temperatures are more consistent.

For more information about the Zoo, please call 765-807-1540 or visit columbianparkzoo.org. Stay up to date on Zoo happenings at www.facebook.com/cpzoo and www.twitter.com/ColumbianPrkZoo!”

About Columbian Park Zoo

Founded in 1908, Columbian Park Zoo is the second oldest zoo in Indiana. It is approximately 6 acres in size and is located in historic Columbian Park. The Zoo features several “immersion” exhibits and the animal collection consists of nearly 200 animals representing approximately 90 species.

About Lafayette Parks and Recreation

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department operates and maintains 700 acres of land within the City of Lafayette. This includes the maintenance of more than 27 miles of paved trails. The city’s trails are open to the public and can be used for a variety of activities including walking, running, biking, rollerblading, and more.

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