Elephants: Making a Splash in 2020!

2019 has been a magnificent year for the Zoo. We’ve seen nearly 900,000 guests so far this year and we hope you visit us for all of our Santa-themed activities. There will be Santa Dives and Penguin Marches through the end of December, you can get your photo with the jolly elf December 7–8, and you’ll be able to ring in the “noon-year” on New Year’s Eve. As we celebrate the holidays, the Zoo will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day though our animal care staff will still arrive to ensure animals are well cared for.

Our Zoo is making elephant-sized improvements this fall and winter! We’re excited to bring $10 million in renovations to this important habitat for both our elephants as well as our guests. As you’ll see in this issue of Expeditions, we have completely re-imagined the guest experience at elephants by adding additional viewing opportunities and more accessible amenities.

In the meantime, this massive construction project will necessitate some changes in getting to and from Africa, and in viewing our elephant herd. When you visit the Zoo this winter and spring, you’ll be able to view our elephants from the Elephant Overlook on nice weather days. You can walk to the Overlook down Beaks N Feet Boulevard; however, the Elephant Expressway paths are closed during renovations. Our goal is to open the newly renovated exhibit in May, and we hope that you’ll be there to welcome our herd back!
Two rare residents of the Kansas City Zoo added to their family this summer. Our rhinoceros hornbill pair, Raja and Boni, became first-time parents! This is a huge accomplishment for our animal care team as they have worked for many years to pair a compatible couple and construct the appropriate nest box for them to breed in. We seem to have found the right formula as our pair successfully raised both chicks to fledging.

Rhinoceros hornbills are a colorful ornamented hollow bill top, known as a casque, used for attracting a mate and amplifying their call. This amazing adaptation is also their downfall. Wild rhinoceros hornbills are sometimes mistaken for their cousin, the helmeted hornbill, which is prized for its solid casque as a status symbol on the black market. The main threats facing all large forest hornbills is loss of habitat. They require huge, old-growth trees for their nesting cavities. These are also the trees valued by loggers.

Rhinoceros hornbills have a fascinating reproduction strategy shared among many of the cavity-nesting members of the hornbill family. Once an appropriate nest cavity is located by the pair, the female is sealed in a tree cavity for 80–90 days with the eggs, sealed inside, fed by both parents, until they are about 80 days old, when they open the entrance and later chicks. The male feeds them through a small opening in the nest. When the chicks are about 45 days old, the female leaves the nest. Both parents and chicks then reseal the nest, leaving only the small opening for food. The chicks remain safely inside the nest for about 80 days, when they open the entrance and later chicks.

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FOTZ Members, we heard you! After many years, we’ve redesigned our memberships to a 12-month schedule. All memberships purchased will now expire 12 months after purchase on the last day of the month in which they were purchased. For example, a membership purchased on December 1, 2019, will expire on December 31, 2020. We hope this will allow more families to become Zoo supporters year-round.

JOINING FOTZ IS EASY!

Sign up online at kansascityzoo.org, call 816.595.1234 or fill out the form below and return it to: Kansas City Zoo FOTZ Memberships, 6880 Zoo Drive, Kansas City, MO 64132. Memberships expire one year from the purchase date, on the last day of the month in which they were purchased.

Are you a current FOTZ member renewing your membership?
☐ Yes, ID number?
☐ No

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Gorilla Adventurer* (full list of benefits available online) $500
Elephant Conservationist* (full list of benefits available online) $1000
Penguin Patrol* (full list of benefits available online) $2500

Would you like to add an additional contribution to our conservation efforts?
☐ Yes
☐ No

Renewing a pass from 2018? Save $5! (if yes, deduct $5)

Using your KC Zoo Credit Card? Save $5! (if yes, deduct $5)

TOTAL PAYMENT $_____

Please send membership to:
[ ] Gift Recipient

FONZ Memberships Make a Great Gift!

Purchase a Premier level membership as a gift and receive a polar bear plush in a gift box! Additional plushes may be purchased for $10 each. They can also be added to a gifted Basic membership for $10 each. Orders must be placed by December 15 to guarantee Christmas delivery. Promotion ends on December 24. Standard ground shipping is available for an additional $10 fee. Visit kansascityzoo.org for details.

2020 Events Calendar

As of 11/1/19. All dates and times subject to change.

FOTZ EXCLUSIVE: April 25 Premier FOTZ Breakfast June 26 FOTZ Evening July 25 FOTZ Family Breakfast

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:
First and Third Weekends
Cheetah Enrichment
Fourth Weekends
Penguin March

April
1-3 Butterfly Bonanza
8-9 Zoo to Zoo Be Mine?
16 Teddy Bear Clinic
19-21 International Polar Bear Weekend

May
1-7 Photo Scavenger Hunt
14-15 St. Patrick’s Day at the Zoo
28-29 Royals Weekend

June
4-7 Zoo to Zoo Be Mine?
12-19 Party for the Planet
25 FOTZ Premiere Breakfast
25-26 Daniel Tiger

July
1-7 Blue Sky Weekend
11-12 Easter Egg Safari
19-20 Family FOTZ Evening
25 FOTZ Family Breakfast
21-27 Science Safari

August
1-4 Hoots & Howls
10-11 Hoots & Howls
11-12 World Elephant Weekend
19-20 Around the World
26 Zoo Run

September
3-4 Hoots & Howls
10-11 Hoots & Howls
17 Brew at The Zoo and Wine Too*
17-18 Hoots & Howls
24-25 Boo at the Zoo
31 Hoots & Howls
31 Zoo’s Year’s Eve

October
1 Great Pumpkin Smash
7 BSA Day (Scouts)
7-8 Polar Bear Weekend
14-15 Military Appreciation Weekend
21-22 Photo Scavenger Hunt
26 Thanksgiving: Zoo Closed
27-29 FOTZ Bring a Friend FREE

November
5-6 Jungle Bells/Santa Dives
12-13 Jungle Bells/Santa Dives
19-20 Jungle Bells/Santa Dives
25 Christmas Day; Zoo Closed
31 Zoo’s Year’s Eve

December
30 BSA Day (Scouts)
14-15 Military Appreciation Weekend
7-8 Polar Bear Weekend
17-18 Endangered Species Weekend
30-31 FOTZ Bring a Friend FREE

*Ticketed Event

FOTZ Members, would you like to receive your newsletter via email?
☑ Yes
☐ No

Going Green?!
Would you like to receive your newsletter via email?

Address:
City/State/Zip:
Email:
Phone:

Primary Name:
Secondary Name (Family Level and above):

Account #
Exp Date
CVC

If this membership is a gift, please list the gift recipient’s information above with your payment information, and please list your contact information below.

This is a gift from:

If you are purchasing a family membership or above, please let us know the number of dependent children or grandchildren under the age of 18.

Payment: Check (to FOTZ) Visa MC Discover AMEX

Non-Zoological District pricing (residents outside of Clay and Jackson counties)

Using your KC Zoo Credit Card? Save $5! (if yes, deduct $5)

Non-Zoological District pricing (residents outside of Clay and Jackson counties)

FOTZ Membership Changes!

Purchase a Premier level membership as a gift and receive a polar bear plush in a gift box! Additional plushes may be purchased for $10 each. They can also be added to a gifted Basic membership for $10 each. Orders must be placed by December 15 to guarantee Christmas delivery. Promotion ends on December 24. Standard ground shipping is available for an additional $10 fee. Visit kansascityzoo.org for details.

Kansas City Zoo FOTZ Memberships, 6880 Zoo Drive, Kansas City, MO 64132. Memberships expire one year from the purchase date, on the last day of the month in which they were purchased.
Red Panda Triplets: 3x the Cuteness!

Twins are typical, triplets are terrific! On July 11, red panda parents Kate and Randy were joined by three female cubs. The birth is a rare occurrence and the successful rearing of triplets even more special. It wasn’t always easy, as our animal care teams monitored the growth of the cubs daily. This was made easier by mom Kate’s easy-going demeanor toward her Zookeepers. We supplemented feedings to ensure that each cub gained weight appropriately and kept a very close eye on their development. We’re thrilled to report that they are now regularly venturing outdoors to explore their winter habitat. Our red pandas switch exhibits with our Francois’ langurs each fall and spring as the langurs prefer the warmth of the indoor exhibit in colder months. The red pandas, however, love the cold and snow as they are native to mountainous regions of China.

We were faced with a challenge in the naming department, as we’ve never had triplet red pandas born at the Zoo before. We turned to our partners in education at the Blue Springs R-4 school district. The leaders at the district devised a plan to raise money for the Zoo and in return, allow students to select names for the three little ladies. For two weeks, students at the district’s 13 elementary schools collected their pennies. Students from the top three schools then picked a name for a cub.

Randy Wisthoff, Executive Director/CEO, and Stephani Reynolds, Education Director, visited those three schools during surprise assemblies to reveal the naming rights. Cordill-Mason Elementary, which raised the most with $1,139.84, chose the name CoCo. James Lewis Elementary ($643.83) chose Louise, and Lucy Franklin Elementary ($459.35) chose Penny. Students from the district raised a total of $3,112.85, an enormously generous donation to the Zoo.

Sunlight Strolls

The early bird gets the worm in this experience! Join us before the opening of the Zoo for a special tour. Your guide will lead you on an adventure to see some of the Zoo’s early risers. We’ll stroll past some of our exhibits, talk about a keeper’s morning routine, and watch as animals are released. Register at: www.kansascityzoo.org.

7:00am–9:00am
January 5, February 2, March 1, April 5
Ages: 7+
Cost: $20 per person*
*FOTZ members receive a 10% discount

Yoga Night at the Zoo

Each month, enjoy yoga at the Zoo and a tour to discover our nocturnal collection! Hosted cooperatively by the Kansas City Zoo and the Kansas City Zoo Chapter of the American Association of Zookeepers (AAAZK), a significant portion of this event’s proceeds will go to conservation efforts. This unique opportunity includes a one-hour yoga class taught by Daisy Chavez at various locations in the Zoo. Visit our website for more details and to register.

7:00pm–9:00pm
December 11 — Penguins
January 15 — Stingrays
More dates coming soon!
Ages: 7+
Cost: $20 per person*
*FOTZ members receive a 10% discount

Elephant Donor Wall

An elephant commemorative plaque is a wonderful way to give a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one, while supporting the Kansas City Zoo. Your donation helps to keep our animals healthy and provide an excellent experience for all, plus helps us continue to be one of the area’s leading attractions. Your personalized inscription can include up to four lines of your custom message. Each line may contain 20 characters (including spaces and punctuation).

Place your order now and be on display at the Elephant Exhibit!

Name
Address
City State Zip
Email
Home Phone Cell Phone
Signature Date

I would like my plaque to read as follows:
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Lady
AGE: 51 (the second oldest African elephant in North America)
WEIGHT: 8,295 pounds
HEIGHT: 8.5 feet tall
FAVORITE ENRICHMENT ITEMS: Logs, leafy branches and occasionally tires
DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: Lady has a scar on her left back hip and a right tusk that is long and thick.
TEMPERAMENT: Lady is a very gentle elephant and works well with everyone. Lady’s laid-back temperament makes her the first choice for new Zookeepers to train. She is the best elephant for demonstrations because of her reliability of working well for all Zookeepers and doing all the learned behaviors. Lady’s gentle attitude tends to make her a Zookeeper favorite.

Megan
AGE: 41
WEIGHT: 8,225 pounds
HEIGHT: 8 feet tall
FAVORITE ENRICHMENT ITEMS: Big tires
DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: Megan has two tusks about two feet long and her right ear is shorter than her left. Megan is the only elephant that makes a strange gurgling noise at random times throughout the day.
TEMPERAMENT: Megan is a very docile elephant; she’s definitely a lover, not a fighter. Because of this, she is at the bottom of the elephant hierarchy. She also requires a lot of patience because she only has one speed and that is slow! No matter what Megan is doing, she likes to take her time doing it. However, Megan also tends to be a Zookeeper favorite.

Tattoo
AGE: 41
WEIGHT: 8,230 pounds
HEIGHT: 8 feet tall
FAVORITE ENRICHMENT ITEMS: Big tires
DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: Tattoo is the shortest elephant and has only one tusk on the left with a scar on her right shoulder.
TEMPERAMENT: Tattoo is a very high-strung elephant. She doesn’t like change. Tattoo is a very hard elephant to gain trust with and she isn’t fond of strangers. If you make Tattoo mad, she tends to hold a grudge for a long while. Tattoo can be seen most of the time flanging out with her friend Zoe.

Lea
AGE: 41
WEIGHT: 9,745 pounds
HEIGHT: 9.5 feet tall
FAVORITE ENRICHMENT ITEMS: Big logs and giant tires
DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: Lea is a very big elephant with very little tail hair and has a short left tusk.
TEMPERAMENT: Lea is a very good elephant but does have a bit of an attitude, especially when dealing with the other elephants. She is the most dominant female elephant. However, Lea is very good to Tamani and especially to her best friend Lois. Lea likes to learn new behaviors.

Lois
AGE: 41
WEIGHT: 9,140 pounds
HEIGHT: 9.5 feet tall
FAVORITE ENRICHMENT ITEMS: Plastic barrels and large tires
DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: Lois has a very thick body with a big head and large ears. She has a long and pointed left tusk and lots of red hair on top of her head making her easy to recognize.
TEMPERAMENT: Lois is a very smart elephant and typically very lazy. She is not crazy about having to exert herself any more than is absolutely necessary. If Zookeepers are not paying close enough attention, she’ll throw water onto them.

Zoe
AGE: 35
WEIGHT: 10,290 pounds
HEIGHT: The Zoo’s tallest elephant at 10 feet tall
FAVORITE ENRICHMENT ITEMS: Logs, leafy branches and mud
DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: Zoe is very hairy and her right tusk is much shorter than her left.
TEMPERAMENT: Zoe is also a very smart elephant and one of the more challenging elephants to work with because she “tests” Zookeepers. She is very athletic, a quick learner and picks up new behaviors very quickly.

Tamani
AGE: 14
WEIGHT: 7,980 pounds
HEIGHT: 9.5 feet tall
FAVORITE ENRICHMENT ITEMS: HUGE tires, plastic barrels and being around the female elephants
DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: He is taller than Lady, Megan and Tattoo.
TEMPERAMENT: Tamani is the most dominate elephant now. He has started going through small periods of musth and can be challenging to work with at times.

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Recently, Zookeepers from the elephant care team, along with other Zookeepers from the Kansas City Zoo, attended a Hose2Habitat workshop at the Blank Park Zoo (Des Moines, IA) and Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo (Omaha, NE). The two founders of Hose2Habitat, Anthony Slamin and Lisa Daly, donate their time and resources to put these free workshops together teaching Zookeepers from around the globe how to work with firehose material to create safe and durable enrichment items. What is enrichment? According to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, “Enrichment is a process of improving or enhancing Zoo animal environments and care within the context of their inhabitants, behavioral biology and natural history.”

Firehose has a limited lifespan. With frequent use along with wear and tear, they can become brittle and unsafe. Firehose is a process of improving or enhancing the environment for the animals and provides opportunities for behavior enrichment activities. Firehose can be cut into smaller pieces to make enrichment items. Firehose is a decommissioned firehose that is going to be cut up and used for enrichment.

Firehose enrichment is no small task, as it needs to withstand the strength of a 10,000-pound elephant! Our teams learned how to craft some really durable items that allow our elephants to use their natural behaviors and immense strength. The Zoo places a top priority on enrichment as it stimulates the lives of our animals. From the smallest to the largest, every animal at the Zoo has an enrichment plan. The next time you visit the Zoo, try to spot all the different ways in which Zookeepers use everyday items to enhance the animals’ day.

The KGZoo currently does not have a firehose cutter. If you would like to help us purchase one please contact our Development Department at 816.595.1234.

**Hose2Habitat Workshop**

Hose2Habitat was founded by Zookeepers and other animal caretakers around the globe how to work with firehose material to create safe and durable enrichment items. What is enrichment? According to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, “Enrichment is a process of improving or enhancing Zoo animal environments and care within the context of their inhabitants, behavioral biology and natural history.”

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**Elephant Toys**

Elephant enrichment is no small task, as it needs to withstand the strength of a 10,000-pound elephant! Our teams learned how to craft some really durable items that allow our elephants to use their natural behaviors and immense strength. The Zoo places a top priority on enrichment as it stimulates the lives of our animals. From the smallest to the largest, every animal at the Zoo has an enrichment plan. The next time you visit the Zoo, try to spot all the different ways in which Zookeepers use everyday items to enhance the animals’ day.

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Birthday Parties at the Zoo now offer even more!

Take the stress out of birthday planning and have the wildest birthday at the Kansas City Zoo. Each party offers a hassle-free experience for every host and a wild time for every guest. For an hour and a half, your Party Navi-Gator will lead the party in creating a fun craft, introduce our animal ambassadors, and help make your party one to remember. Choose from a variety of locations such as the Aquarium Room, Sunroom, or inside of Helzberg Penguin Plaza. Each birthday is designed to your liking with multiple options like cake, pizza, and Zoo admission.

Want to take your birthday party to the next level and celebrate your birthday by spending the night at the zoo? Our Birthday Bash Overnight is just for you! Contact Education at 816.595.1765 to learn more and to book your very own birthday party at the zoo.

The Kansas City Zoo and Polar Bears International: A Polar Partnership

Polar Bears International (PBI) is a non-profit organization whose sole focus is polar bears: research about polar bears and conservation focused on polar bears and their diminishing habitat. The Kansas City Zoo obtained our status as an “Arctic Ambassador Center” in 2010 when we opened Polar Bear Passage. We’ve worked closely with PBI cooperatively over the years to continue to provide a wonderful exhibit, educational content, and events to educate about polar bears and Arctic sea ice.

This October, as part of our ongoing partnership with PBI, zookeeper Georgia was selected to participate in a very unique program which brings just a few zoo staff from various institutions to the tundra to connect and share with eco-tourists during “polar bear season.”

Polar bear season is about six weeks long, during October and November. During this time, Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, is where polar bears in the Western Hudson Bay sub-population (one of nineteen polar bear sub-populations) are awaiting the return of the sea ice. For this specific population of polar bears, the sea ice melts completely during the summer months. This isolates the bears on land where they must wait, without much food, until the colder temperatures return bringing ice and a return to hunting seals.

This resident population of polar bears has made Churchill, Manitoba, the “Polar Bear Capital of the World.” This population have become the most studied polar bears on the planet due to their accessibility.

PBI sees this yearly gathering of wildlife enthusiasts as an opportunity to connect with an audience who already has desire and means to see these spectacular animals waiting on the shoreline. As a Polar Bears International Ambassador, Georgia rode on the famed Tundra Buggies alongside excited tourists to share knowledge, polar bear passion, and to inspire action. Georgia was able to share about the important role zoos and aquariums are playing in polar bear conservation.

Zoos and aquariums have been asked to test tracking equipment, obtain biological samples like blood and feces, and use training techniques to obtain vital information on the Arctic’s top predator. Georgia was able to share how our resident polar bear, Berlin, has contributed to the conservation of the wild bears visitors were seeing from the Tundra Buggy.

In addition to her time on the buggy, Georgia spent time in the brand new Polar Bears International Interpretive House. This house is set up with exhibits which teach about polar bears, their connection to the sea ice, and it’s ever-changing status on our planet. This building represents a center where anyone can come to learn about polar bears and how they, too, can make a difference for the future of the polar bear.

In the house on the buggy, Georgia reached hundreds of visitors from all over the world and was able to share her passion for polar bears and inspire actions of change for conservation. Georgia will return to Churchill next season to continue to share the newest information coming from zoological institutions with the guests of the tundra!

To find out how you can make a positive change for conservation, please visit kansascityzoo.org and polarbearsinternational.org

Thanks to Polar Bears International, Frontiers North Adventures, and the Kansas City Zoo for making this partnership a reality!
### December

**Meet Santa at the Zoo** This is your chance to tell him what's on your wish list this year! From 10:30am until 2pm, children can write letters to Santa and then meet the jolly guy in person. Be sure to bring your camera to capture those candid moments with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Friends of the Zoo (FOTZ) members will enjoy an exclusive breakfast snack and a special meet and greet with Santa on Saturday, December 7, from 8:30 to 10:30am. You can also catch Santa doing inside the cold weather penguin exhibit at 2pm. Our gentoo and king penguins will be taking a walk in the chilly outdoor air during our Penguin March at 11am.

**Cheetah Enrichment** Head to the cheetah exhibit and see our boys engage with some very special enrichment. Enrichment includes anything out of the normal routine for these cats. It will enrich their senses and stimulate their natural instincts. Our brothers, Rhaegal and Vaiseron, will receive this enrichment at 10:30am on the cheetah exhibit in Africa. Special thanks to Eyemart Express for sponsoring the Cheetah Enrichment.

**Santa Delivers** Santa will be personally delivering presents to the animals. See our animals enjoy the special gifts he brings. For the full list of deliveries, check our website. Santa will be diving with penguins at 2pm and the gentoo and king penguins will do the Penguin March at 11am.

**Penguin March** Stop by the Helzberg Penguin Plaza at 11am to see the Penguin March. Our cold weather birds will march from the back of the exhibit, outside for our guests to see and then back inside the building, weather permitting. See king and gentoo penguins up close at the Penguin March.

**Penguin Awareness Weekend** Join us for a special weekend to celebrate our amazing penguins. All penguins at the Zoo will be making a special appearance at 11am on Saturday and Sunday. During our Penguin March at 11am, a Zookeeper will also be on hand to chat with guests about the penguins and their various enrichment they receive. Special thanks to Eyemart Express for sponsoring the Penguin Enrichment.

**Zoo Year’s Eve** The countdown is on! Before the clock strikes midnight head out to the Zoo for ‘New year’s eve’ festivities. Beginning at 10am, we are getting in the New Year’s spirit by making party hats in the lobby while DJ counts us down to the new year one song at a time. Ring in the new year with us at the ZoO!

### January

**Tropical Weekend** A Tropical Paradise awaits at the Kansas City Zoo. Battle the winter blues with a tropical getaway just a few miles from home. Grab your flip flops and head out to the Kansas City Zoo for Tropical Weekend.

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**Special Announcement Packages**

**Neo! Marriage Proposal Packages** Searching for the perfect way to propose? Pop the question at the Zoo! We offer a variety of packages to make your day one to remember. Each marriage proposal also includes a painting by one of your favorite animals to help commemorate the occasion.

**Neo! Gender Reveal Packages** Are you searching for a WILD gender reveal? Let us help! We offer a variety of packages to make the reveal one to remember. Each reveal includes a painting by one of your favorite animals to help commemorate the occasion.

Select Days | Select Times
Visit our Website or call 816.595.1765 for details
*FOTZ members receive a 10% discount

### Connecting Kansas City to the World

The world is losing an estimated 96 African elephants per day in the wild. If this continues, African elephants could be extinct in the wild within the next 20 years. Some predictions have Asian elephants disappearing within three generations. The Kansas City Zoo is involved in several conservation efforts to help elephants in the wild, and is working to improve the reproductive success of animals in human care.

For many children in our area, visiting the Kansas City Zoo is the only way they will ever connect with wildlife and nature firsthand. Our zoo is likely the only place they’ll ever see an elephant, and where they will learn how important it is to take action to help species in other parts of the world.

The Kansas City Zoo has a long history of elephant care that meets the high standards set by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. But our current elephant habitat was built in 1994 and we have learned much since then about the needs of our elephants and our guests. While the elephants’ current home exceeds requirements, we want to create something even better. The Zoo’s current elephants, which include six adult females and one adolescent male, will certainly benefit from the improvements we’re making, as will future elephants who may call this habitat home. And, the Zoo welcomes about one million visitors a year, including Kansas Cityans and tourists. The changes we make to the elephant area now will help meet the needs of our guests for decades to come.

### What the New Exhibit Provides to Our Guests

The area around the elephant habitat currently provides some challenges for our guests, particularly those with disabilities. This renovation includes improvements that will provide a much better experience for all those enjoying a day at the Zoo.

- ADA-compliant walking paths along the entire elephant outdoor habitat to provide increased viewing. The paths also eliminate pedestrian traffic along the tram road, increasing safety exponentially.
- An enlarged viewing area at the elephant demonstration area with a public address system for Zookeeper chats and educational programming
- An additional tram stop, for added convenience and less waiting for those who desire it.
- Improved viewing areas, including the deck at Elephant Overlook.

### How the New Exhibit Benefits Our Elephants

This renovation will include many improvements for our elephant herd and will better meet the unique needs of these majestic animals now and in the future.

- A more elephant-friendly pool and waterfall with a gradual grade that will allow easier access for our elephants. A water filtration system will also save about 100,000 gallons of water every few days!
- Additional sand in the elephant habitat, which provides a more comfortable substrate.
- A safe perimeter for elephants of all sizes, so that even babies could explore the habitat without concern.
- Additional shade structures for all-weather comfort.
- Additional seating and shaded areas so guests can enjoy a break, plus flexible event space.
- ADA-compliant restrooms, including an adult changing table.
- A mother’s room, providing a relaxing, private space to meet the needs of new moms.
- Kids’ play and photo opportunities for our younger explorers.

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**Kansas City Zoo**

www.kansascityzoo.org

Expeditions - Winter 2019

14 | 15

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Giraffe Calf

On Tuesday, September 3, at 3:50pm, mom Lizzie gave birth to a baby giraffe. The calf weighed in at 111 pounds and already stood 5 feet, 6 inches tall. Named “Chandy” by a generous donor, she has been a welcome addition to our herd. On warm weather days, she delighted Zoo guests with her adventurous nature and the occasional case of the “zoomies”.

Watch the whole herd on our giraffe cam at youtube.com/KansasCityZoo this winter. Chandy joins youngsters Dixie, born in February 2018, and Maxwell, born in September 2018. This is the second calf for mom Lizzie, who was also born at the Kansas City Zoo in 2012.