



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Zoo Opens Saturday; Launching Capital Campaign to Renovate the Australian Adventure

When the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo opens for the 2014 season on Saturday, new animals will share the spotlight with a new look for the 27-year-old Australian Adventure exhibit.

"We are completely reimagining the Australian Adventure," says Zoo Director Jim Anderson. "It's going to be more exciting than ever."

Australian Adventure Capital Campaign

Anderson today announced the zoo's \$7 million Australian Adventure Capital Campaign. About \$5 million has already been raised. The general public is now invited to participate in the campaign by purchasing a Recognition Tile or making a donation.

"We are grateful to the many businesses, foundations, and individuals who have contributed to the campaign so far," says Anderson. "We are now inviting our members, friends, and fans to contribute."

The zoo is a non-profit, self-supporting facility. All new construction is funded by donations.

Phase I of the Australian Adventure renovation is already underway and includes a new entry path, located next to the Train Station; a renovated Train Station; new Ice Cream Shop; outdoor guest seating; refreshed building facades; and a new restroom building.

Future phases of the new Australian Adventure call for the current Nocturnal House to be converted to a Stingray Exhibit. Crocodile Creek will be a highlight of the renovated Outback and feature a shallow stream in which children can play.

The existing 4.5-acre Australian Adventure opened in 1987 at a cost of \$2.5 million.

2014 Season Highlights

The zoo opens for the 2014 season on Saturday, April 26. In addition to Phase I improvements in the Australian Adventure, zoo guests can enjoy new babies and new animal species.

A pair of **Canadian lynx** arrived at the zoo this spring. The 11-month-old brothers, named Loki and Thor, were born on May 3, 2013 at the New York State Zoo in Thompson Park. Lynx are small wild cats native to the far northern United States and Canada. The lynx will live in the former bobcat exhibit.

A baby **colobus monkey** born at the zoo in January will make his public debut sometime this spring. Obi is just beginning to explore the world on his own. Along with one-year-old half-sibling Kaasidy, there is sure to be plenty of action this summer in the African Village. Colobus monkeys are native to the forests of eastern and central Africa.

A **crocodile skink**, hatched on February 10, will join its parents in the Indonesian Rain Forest later this season. These lizards are native to Southeast Asia.

Two new bird species will be on display in the Central Zoo. **Cabot's tragopan pheasants**, native to China, are an endangered species. **Call ducks** will be new to the Indiana Family Farm. These small ducks were bred in the Netherlands in the 1600s. Their small size, around two pounds, and loud voice made them popular as live decoy ducks.

Favorites like Jelani the giraffe, Bill the lion, and Sumatran tigers Indah and Bugara are ready to greet the first visitors of the season. As always, longtime zoo icons like the joke-telling Croaky the Frog, Little Poof, and the Lion Drinking Fountain will help families create special zoo memories.

More than 545,000 people visited the zoo in 2013, marking the zoo's second-best season ever. "There's something new at zoo every year," said Anderson. "We are ready for another fantastic season."

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About the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo: The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo is northeast Indiana's largest tourist attraction, hosting more than 500,000 guests annually. The zoo was voted Indiana's #1 "Gotta-Do Summer Attraction" and is consistently named one of the nation's **Top Ten Zoos for Kids** by national media outlets.

The zoo is a conservation leader, contributing more than \$80,000 annually to local, regional, and international efforts to protect wild animals and habitats, and participating in cooperative management programs for 15 endangered species.

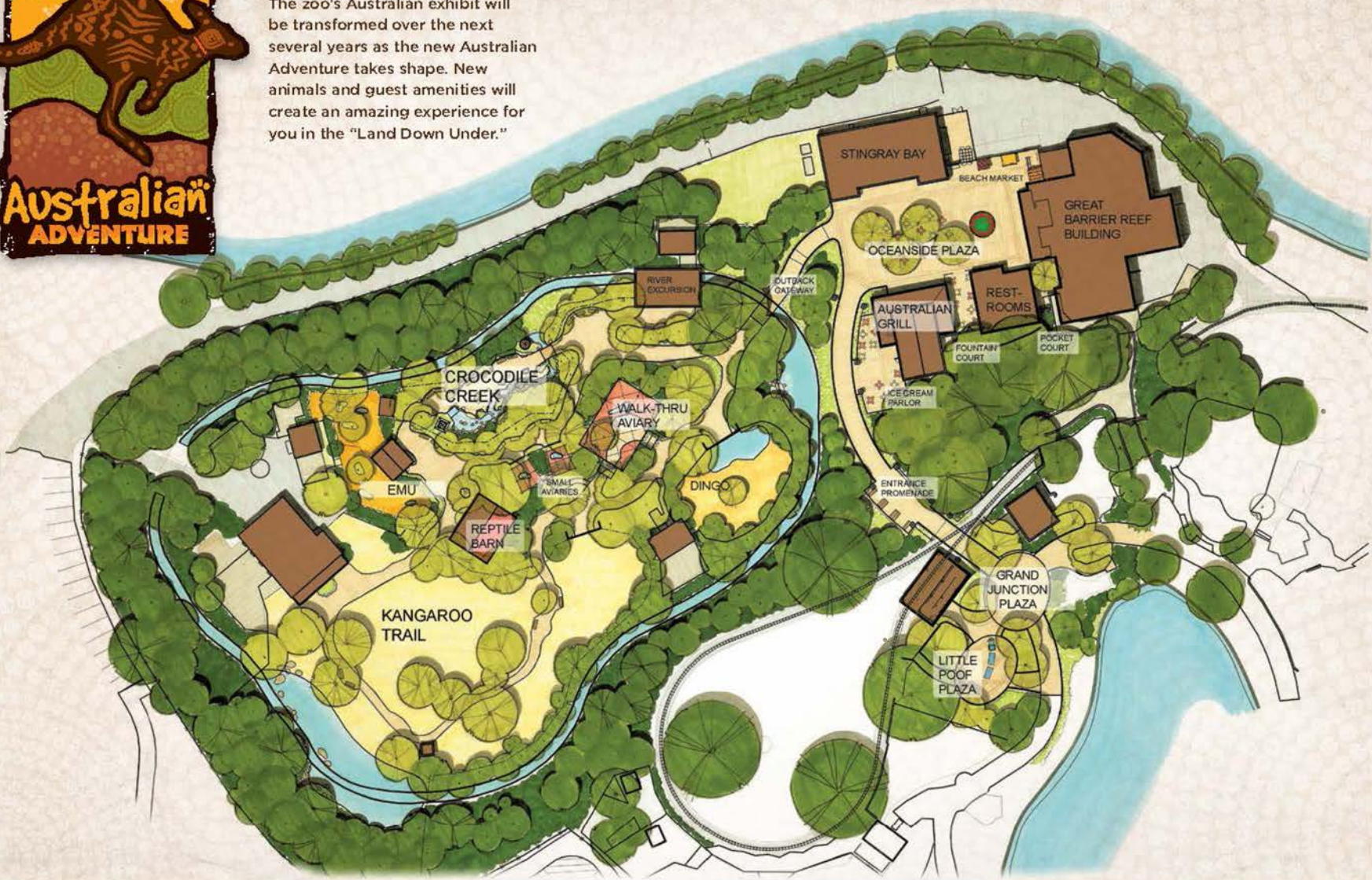
As a self-supporting facility, the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo receives no tax dollars for operations. The zoo's operations are funded entirely by earned revenue and donations.

The zoo is open 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily April 26 through October 12, 2014. Admission is \$14.00 for adults; \$10.50 for seniors age 60+; and \$9.00 for children ages 2-18. Babies age 1 and under and Zoo Society Members are admitted free.

Coming Soon



The zoo's Australian exhibit will be transformed over the next several years as the new Australian Adventure takes shape. New animals and guest amenities will create an amazing experience for you in the "Land Down Under."



Australian Adventure Site Plan

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

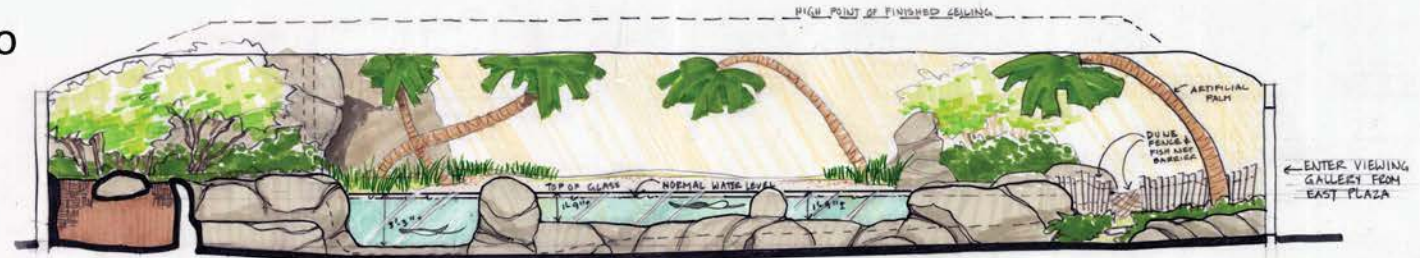
Crocodile Creek
Australian Adventure

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

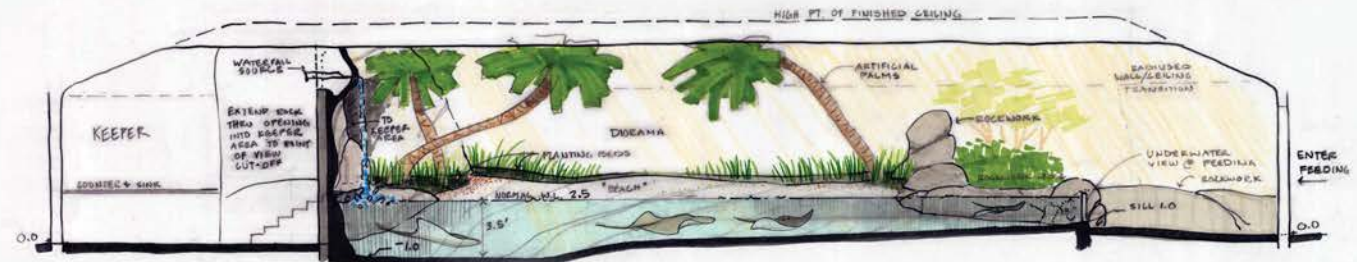


Stingray Bay
Australian Adventure

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo



Section B



Section A



Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

Australian Adventure

Tentative List of Animal Species

Reptiles & Amphibians

- Jungle Carpet Python
- Spotted Python
- Shingle-backed Skink
- Blue-tongued Skink
- Back-headed Monitor
- White's Tree Frog

Sharks & Rays

- Blacktip Shark
- Bonnethead Shark
- Zebra Shark
- Southern Stingray
- Cownosed Ray

Birds

- Emu
- Cockatiel
- Rainbow Lorikeet
- Maned Goose
- Masked Lapwing
- Kookaburra
- Australian Magpie
- Galah (Rose-breasted Cockatoo)
- Tawny Frogmouth

Mammals

- Eastern Grey Kangaroo
- Dingo

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
3411 Sherman Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46808
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Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

Major projects

The entire zoo – from the ticket booths to the tiger exhibit – was built with donations from foundations, businesses, and individuals in our community. The zoo operates with no tax funding.

| Year | Exhibit | Cost |
|------|--|---------------|
| 1965 | Zoo opens | \$550,000 |
| 1976 | Original African Veldt opens | \$300,000 |
| 1987 | Original Australian Adventure opens | \$2.5 million |
| 1994 | Indonesia Rain Forest opens | \$5.5 million |
| 1998 | Heart of the Zoo (Sea Lion Beach, Indiana Family Farm) | \$3.5 million |
| 2004 | Sharks, Rays & Jellyfish | \$1.3 million |
| 2006 | Gift Shop & Guest Amenities Renovation | \$500,000 |
| 2009 | African Journey opens | \$9.6 million |
| 2011 | Zoo Entrance Renovation | \$1.2 million |
| 2014 | Phase I of new Australian Adventure opens | \$7 million |

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Here's what people are saying about the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

"Indiana's #1 Gotta-Do Summer Attraction"

Indiana Office of Tourism Development survey, 2012

"One of the Ten Best Zoos for Kids"

Parents, 2009

African Journey listed as a "must see" new zoo exhibit

USA Today, May 22, 2009

Family Fun, May 2009

"No zoo does it better than the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo"

Jack Hanna, zoo celebrity and host of Jack Hanna's Into the Wild, 2007

"Best Australian Animal Exhibit"

Allen W. Nyhuis and Jon Wassner, America's Best Zoos, 2008

"One of the nation's ten best zoos for kids"

Child, 2004

"One of the country's best zoos for families"

Family Fun, 2000

"...the well-respected, 40-acre Fort Wayne Children's Zoo"

Business Week magazine, citing one reason that Fort Wayne is the best city for raising kids in Indiana, November 2008

"Fort Wayne's Best Children's Entertainment Venue"

Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette Readers' Picks, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

"Fort Wayne's best attribute"

Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette Reader Survey, 2005

