



David M. Jones, DVM
Zoo Director

EXHIBITS AT THE NORTH CAROLINA ZOO

North Carolina boasts one of the world's largest and most beautiful zoos. The almost 1,500-acre park includes a 300-acre recreation of Africa's wilderness and a 200-acre representation of North America's landscape. Renowned as the first American zoo conceived and built around the natural habitat philosophy, the spacious park allows animals to wander through large indoor and outdoor habitats that simulate their wild environments.

AFRICA HABITATS

The Forest Glade Habitat surrounds our family of three lowland gorillas, an endangered species. The thick vegetation in this half-acre outdoor exhibit resembles the dense clearings where these animals gather to forage for food.

The Watani Grasslands Reserve is the result of an \$8.5 million expansion and renovation of the zoo's elephant and rhinoceros exhibits and holding facilities. The zoo's former 3.5-acre Southern white rhino habitat was combined with the 3.5-acre elephant exhibit to create a new 7-acre home for elephants. The zoo's rhino collection has been expanded from three to seven animals that now share the former 37-acre African Plains exhibit with eight species of antelope and two species of large birds. In addition to their expanded exhibit space, the elephants have been provided with a new \$2.5 million holding barn as the number of elephants in the herd has grown from three to seven. New and improved overlooks, educational graphics and other amenities for visitors have also been added.

The Forest Edge brings together wildlife from equatorial East Africa. Giraffes, zebras and ostriches meander through 3.5 acres of open woodland, foraging in mixed groups that are almost identical to those that form on Kenya's savannas. The Forest Edge also features the new "Acacia Station," a tree-level deck where visitors can offer food to the giraffes.

The Red River Hog Habitat is a 3,200-square-foot outdoor exhibit that's home to several of these red-coated hogs found in central and western sub-Saharan Africa, especially in the rainforest near rivers and swamps. Red river hogs are known for their beautiful decoration and unusual ears-- leaf-shaped with long black and white tassels. They are exhibited in only 12 other U.S. zoos.





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The Lion Habitat is home to an adult pair of these magnificent cats. Sheltered beneath towering mounds of artificial rock, our lions rule over a sea of grass with the same majesty that gives their wild brothers dominion over Africa's open grasslands.

The BB&T Kitera Forest Chimpanzee Reserve is a spectacular half-acre habitat resembling the forests where troops of chimpanzees forage for fruits and termites. The exhibit provides climbing trees and other activities for the chimps and overlooks that give visitors up-close views of the chimps along with educational displays. Our group totals 13 individuals, including adult males, females and juveniles. They represent the largest chimpanzee troop to be found at any U.S. zoo.

The Patas Monkey Habitat is an island exhibit that abounds with the lively antics of these African monkeys. As if in Africa, our dominant male watches over his harem as they scamper over rocks and forage for food in the exhibit.

The R. J. Reynolds Forest Aviary has always been among the zoo's most popular exhibits. Within its walls, more than 3,000 tropical plants and 35 species of exotic birds recreate the wonders of a tropical forest. The aviary was selected among the 10 best natural habitat exhibits in American zoos by the national newspaper USA Today. A major new attraction added to the aviary's lobby in 2007 is a poison dart frog exhibit featuring four species of these highly endangered amphibians from Central and South America.

The African Pavilion is a 24-year-old facility that has been slated for replacement. A new exhibit complex focusing on Africa's aquatic ecosystems is being planned. Meanwhile, the Pavilion's indoor animal collections have been phased out and replaced with a tropical plant walk. A ¾-acre outdoor habitat for Hamadryas baboons connected to the Pavilion has been retained with new holding facilities for the baboons to be added to the nearby Forest Glade gorilla holding complex.

NORTH AMERICA HABITATS

The Sonora Desert was the first habitat to open in the zoo's 200-acre, \$32-million North American exhibit region. This \$4.1-million, 14,000-square-foot, indoor recreation of the desert Southwest includes tarantulas, gila monsters, roadrunners, ocelots and a host of other desert creatures. The nocturnal desert exhibits feature vampire bats, cacomistles and other animals that are active only during the desert night.





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The RJR/Nabisco Rocky Coast is a recreation of an Arctic world, providing both above- and below-water viewing at the polar bears and sea lions pools. The exhibits are complete with jagged rocks, waterfalls, and streams, all part of the complex filtration process which pumps 1,600 gallons of water per minute. The double laminated glass in the polar bear exhibit brings visitors face-to-face with these immense creatures swimming in a 12-foot-deep pool. The Seal/Sea Lion pool is also surrounded by underground observation windows. Alaskan Seabirds are also part of the Rocky Coast complex. These birds arrived at the park after zoo staff members traveled off the coast of Alaska to collect the three species, including thick-billed murres, parakeet auklets and horned puffins. Inside the exhibit, which is located between the Polar Bear and Seal/Sea Lion habitat, zoo visitors find a 28-foot-high rock cliff constructed to enable the birds to climb atop the rocks and leap into an icy 45,000-gallon pool. Rounding out the Rocky Coast collection are arctic foxes and a bald eagle.

The Cypress Swamp Habitat is a tangle of bald cypress trees, holly berries and rhododendron. The meandering boardwalks carry visitors by ducks nesting as they would in the wild, an artificial-rock alligator pond and an octagon-windowed kiosk with glass aquariums and terrariums with turtles and snakes. Our carnivorous plant garden, with insect-eating pitcher plants and Venus fly traps, is nestled along the trail. Cougars roam an enclosure equipped with large rocks and fallen trees over natural streams while alligators sun on their own heated rocks.

The Streamside is the most North Carolina-oriented of the zoo's exhibits. This \$1.75-million complex includes two buildings and adjacent outdoor exhibits that cover approximately 17,000 square feet and include aquariums containing more than 27,000 gallons of water. In addition to a diverse collection of plant life, animals in the Streamside habitats include playful river otters, stealthy bobcats, a barred owl and a wide variety of snakes, frogs, turtles, salamanders and fish. Other features include a mountain bog habitat and exhibits of Piedmont and Coastal Plain endangered plants.

The Prairie is home to elk and American bison. Here, 11 acres of true prairie grass simulate a Western grassland. Visitors are able to stop and view the animals from three overlooks as sidewalks open up from shaded trails leading along the perimeter. Zoo visitors can also see the animals from elevated viewing stands that offer a vista across the hilly terrain.

The Black Bear habitat houses four bears, including two that were rescued by wildlife agencies from roadside zoos. The exhibit is complete with high cliffs, a pool for wading and a stream lined with natural trees. The black bear is the only bear species native to North Carolina.





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The Grizzly Bears reside in an exhibit where a hidden moat creates the illusion that these bears can wander into the thick forest behind the exhibit. The two male grizzly bears came to the zoo from Montana where they were labeled nuisance bears by the Grizzly Bear Recovery Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They would have been destroyed if an appropriate home had not been found.

The Red Wolves are the most endangered canid species in North America and an extraordinary member of the zoo's animal collection. In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, the zoo has created an off-exhibit breeding facility that is part of a breeding program to reintroduce red wolves into the wild. Because of the red wolf's nature, they have little or no contact with animal keepers to ensure they remain wild and fearful of humans for reintroduction purposes.

The “kidZone” opened in spring 2007 and offers a very special place where kids can immerse themselves in a variety of experiences with and within the natural world. The “kidZone” includes activity areas for hands-on exploration and a maze that will entertain children and adults alike. Activities such as digging, investigating animal signs and building will be encouraged. Other activities will introduce kids to live animal friends.

SERVICES

- Free tram rides to both entrances and the central Junction Plaza
- Stroller and wheelchair rental
- Large picnic areas
- Restaurants for sandwiches and snacks
- Three State gift shops and two Zoological Society gift shops
- “Smart Carts” staffed by educators on pathways from April through October to teach visitors about zoo animals and plants
- Educational programs for the public and lesson plans and zoo information packages for teachers and school groups
- Special events at various times throughout year, including live entertainment
- Restrooms and telephones throughout the zoo

The zoo is an agency of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Dee A. Freeman, Secretary; Beverly E. Perdue, Governor.

