

Woodland Park Zoo to add new Wi-Fi on grounds ***Grant from Cisco will help create great 21st century guest experiences***



SEATTLE – Woodland Park Zoo is excited to announce the installation of a public Wi-Fi network that will be free for guests. The fast, reliable Wi-Fi will allow guests to share photos of their favorite ambassador animals, immediately download the natural history of species and habitats while face to face with iconic animals, and easily navigate their way through zoo grounds using Woodland Park Zoo's app.

Thanks to a donation from Cisco Systems, Inc., a worldwide leader in IT, the zoo will build a state-of-the-art Wi-Fi system that—when fully deployed by the end of 2016—will cover the zoo's high traffic areas and popular exhibit areas, providing guests with modern experiences and capabilities for 21st century learning and easy, dependable access to amenities such as the zoo app and social media sites.

The generous support from Cisco was received with the help of Gary Kunis, former Cisco vice president and chief science officer.

"Woodland Park Zoo will be installing the most robust, functional and high performance Wi-Fi networking environment at a public institution within the Seattle area," Kunis said.

"It has long been our goal to install a public Wi-Fi network at the zoo, but the project costs have, to this point, been a major roadblock," said Alejandro Grajal, PhD, president and CEO at Woodland Park Zoo. "We are incredibly grateful to Cisco for its generous contribution that helps us build a better zoo experience and new pathways to more accessible science education opportunities for our visitors."

The new Wi-Fi network will allow for development of high quality, interactive educational and cultural experiences utilizing new media and other 21st century tools for the benefit of zoo visitors. These types of experiences were previously impossible at the zoo without the network infrastructure.

"It's great that we are now able to provide our guests with the quality product they expect when they visit their favorite public places," said Bill Brown, director of information systems at Woodland Park Zoo. "Currently, there aren't many AZA (Association of Zoos & Aquariums) accredited zoos offering public Wi-Fi. Thanks to Cisco, Woodland Park Zoo can continue to lead the industry

in innovative visitor experiences by being one of the first zoos to have Wi-Fi at this scale.”

The Wi-Fi network will be installed in three phases. The first phase was completed at the end of June; it added Wi-Fi to the zoo’s West Entrance and North Meadow. The second and third phases will add Wi-Fi to high traffic areas including the Rain Forest Food Pavilion, Zoomazium, South Entrance, popular exhibits and staff areas. The Wi-Fi installation was originally slated to be a multi-year project; with the grant from Cisco, it is expected to be complete by December 2016.

Kunis was instrumental in receipt of the grant by introducing the proposal to John Chambers, Cisco’s Chairman of the Board and former CEO.

“I approached John knowing he has a passion for supporting activities designed to enhance the delivery of educational services, improve the functionality of educational tools and improve educational outcomes. With his nod, Cisco was on board to help the zoo design and deploy the best Wi-Fi network at any zoo in the U.S.,” Kunis said.

Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, award-winning Woodland Park Zoo is famed for pioneering naturalistic exhibits and setting international standards for zoos in animal care, conservation and education programs. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats through more than 40 field projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. By inspiring people to care and act, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet’s future ecological health and sustainability. For more information, visit www.zoo.org.

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