

PRESS RELEASE

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Zoo seeks community's advice on its next major exhibit *Take online survey or come to an open house*

SEATTLE—Woodland Park Zoo is asking the community's advice in planning its next major exhibit—redevelopment of a 3.4-acre area of its Tropical Asia zone that formerly housed elephants, along with other animals.

"We'd like input from the community as we consider adding new animal species and dynamic experiences," said Bruce Bohmke, acting president and CEO of Woodland Park Zoo.

Bohmke said members of the community will be able to offer guidance to the zoo both through an on-line survey and in meetings both on zoo grounds and out in the community.

Redeveloping a portion of Tropical Asia is consistent with the zoo's Long-Range Physical Development Plan to renovate and update older areas of the zoo. Last year, the zoo opened Banyan Wilds, a new exhibit at the heart of the zoo spotlighting Malayan tigers and sloth bears. Banyan Wilds renovated the oldest part of the zoo.

This summer, butterflies are returning in the new Butterfly Garden and, in 2018, the zoo plans to re-open a renovated Night Exhibit—bringing back nocturnal animals such as bats, arboreal primates and other small animals.

The survey, which will take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete, is available beginning Monday, February 22 through Friday, April 8 at www.zoo.org/feedback.

The community also is invited to join the zoo in a dialogue on Tuesday, March 1, 6:30-8:00 p.m., at Woodland Park Zoo's Education Center, located at N. 50th St. & Fremont Ave. N. Parking is free.

The zoo will compile the data from the survey and comments from the various community meetings, and propose a final design for the area. Among the considerations, in addition to the input from the community, will be the availability of animals, the zoo's ability to care for them in this climate and their connection to their wild counterparts.

Any new exhibit must have a significant conservation value and help demonstrate to zoo visitors how they can help save endangered animals and fragile environments around the world, Bohmke said.

For more information, email zooinfo@zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

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