

Woodland Park Zoo's Molbak's Butterfly Garden returns along with new Microsoft Pollinator Patio *Both exhibits open May 27*



WHAT: Woodland Park Zoo is excited to announce the return of its seasonal **Molbak's Butterfly Garden** along with the grand opening of the new, year-round **Microsoft Pollinator Patio**. Both exhibits will open to the public **Saturday, May 27**.

Take a walk among a variety of North American butterfly species in the zoo's immersive Molbak's Butterfly Garden. An arching tent structure encloses a landscape of approximately 3,000 square feet, and nearly 500 free-flying butterflies will represent at least 15 species native to North America. Woodland Park Zoo's seasonal Butterfly Garden emphasizes both the fragility and resilience of nature through the display of what many consider to be among the most beautiful of natural expressions: butterflies and flowers. Visitors will learn about the butterfly's life cycle while watching new butterflies emerge from their chrysalises before flying free in the garden.

Behind the Garden is the new Microsoft Pollinator Patio, where visitors can enjoy a beautiful stroll among pollinator-friendly plants while learning how to help pollinators in their own backyard. This garden is full of ideas and actions visitors can take on behalf of native pollinators such as hummingbirds, beetles, bees and flies. Before leaving, visitors can also take a sneak peek at the zoo's Silverspot Butterfly Lab, where zookeepers and teen volunteers hatch and raise endangered Oregon silverspot butterflies for release into protected wild habitat. Molbak's Butterfly Garden and Microsoft Pollinator Patio are free with zoo admission.

Visit zoo.org/butterflygarden for more information.

WHEN: **Opens: Saturday, May 27, 9:30 a.m.**

Molbak's Butterfly Garden will be open daily during zoo hours from Saturday, May 27, through Monday, September 4.

Microsoft Pollinator Patio will be open daily during zoo hours, year-round.

WHERE: Molbak's Butterfly Garden and Microsoft Pollinator Patio are located next to Zoomazium. Enter through the West Entrance at Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55th & N. 56th Sts. Park in the Penguin Lot at N. 55th St. & Phinney Ave. N. or Otter Lot off N. 59th St. & Phinney Ave. N. Or enter through the South Entrance at N. 50th St. between Phinney Ave. N. and Aurora Ave./SR 99. Park in the Hippo Lot at N. 50th St. and Fremont Ave. N. (located next to the Rose Garden).

INFO: The Butterfly Garden focuses on the life cycle and identification of North America's butterflies and on preservation and restoration of appropriate habitat for these pollinators. The exhibit will contain approximately 500 butterflies representing several species from North America.

The outdoor Pollinator Patio teaches visitors about the many species and importance of pollinators to human food sources, as well as a few easy actions people can take to provide food, water, and shelter for pollinators in their own backyards. The plants in the Pollinator Patio will provide almost year-round sources of nectar and pollen food for adult pollinators and their young. In addition, natural nesting materials and houses in the garden will provide shelter over winter for gentle native bees and other pollinators.

A capital grant from Microsoft underwrote the new Pollinator Patio. Molbak's Garden + Home generously agreed to donate the plants and landscaping supplies that will augment the butterfly habitat and visitor experience for up to 10 years. Butterfly exhibit construction was made possible thanks to generous contributions of individuals, families, foundations, and corporations throughout the Pacific Northwest, and funding from the Seattle Park District. Molbak's Butterfly Garden and Microsoft Pollinator Patio are free with zoo admission.

Zoo hours, May 1–September 30: 9:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. daily. Parking: \$6. Consider taking the bus, biking, walking or carpooling. Conserving resources is one more way of helping the animals. For bus service to the zoo, visit www.metro.kingcounty.gov. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the zoo for zoo guests, made possible through products donated by Cisco. Search for the free Woodland Park Zoo mobile app for iPhone, iPad or Android in your app store. Use it to track your location on zoo grounds with GPS, discover more about animals and daily zoo activities, and share the highlights of your visit with friends. For more information about the zoo and how to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

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 35 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.

###