

PRESS RELEASE

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Celebrate Earth Day with Woodland Park Zoo ***Pay tribute to 50 years of Earth Day with nature-friendly activities***

SEATTLE—Join Woodland Park Zoo in marking the 50th anniversary of Earth Day with activities at home that celebrate the beauty and magic of planet Earth.

In honor of the milestone anniversary, the zoo asked the community to add their name to a special pledge to stand with the zoo and ensure a healthy planet for people, wildlife and wild places. Together, with more than 500 names collected from the community, the zoo is committed and united in this cause to the zoo's [Earth Day pledge](#), on Earth Day and every day.



Tonight, April 22 at 6:30, join the Woodland Park Zoo Earth Day Virtual Town Hall presented by Amazon to connect with zoo staff who are continuing to care for the zoo's animals every day during this unprecedented time. Hear from zoo President and CEO Alejandro Grajal, followed by a panel discussion featuring zoo staff. To join the virtual event, go to: <https://www.zoo.org/townhall>. Thanks to #SeattleLives presented by PNTA and CANVAS Event Space for their support of this event.

While Earth Day can't be celebrated in person this year, the zoo would like to offer activities to do from home that will help protect the planet and create connections with the wild creatures that share the planet.

Several ways to be earth-friendly

- **Have you started spring cleaning yet?** Used handheld electronics and parts, such as cell phones, tablets or charging cords, can save wild gorillas through ECO-CELL. Woodland Park Zoo partners with ECO-CELL to refurbish, reuse and recycle electronics. This reduces demand for the mineral coltan, which is mined where lowland gorillas live and is causing rapid environmental decay. Every charging cord and cell phone the zoo gives to ECO-CELL gets the zoo a "finder's fee" that the zoo donates to its wild gorilla conservation partners. You can clear out your electronics drawer, hold items in a box until you are able to safely drop them off at the zoo later this summer AND save gorillas in the wild. Learn more at <https://www.zoo.org/ecocell>
- **Spending a lot of time in your garden lately?** Install a rain garden to reduce pollution and flooding, and protect your home AND wildlife! A rain garden allows water to soak in rapidly, limiting the amount of storm water (which gets contaminated when it washes oil, antifreeze, and other pollutants after hitting the street) that reaches streams and waterways. For more information, check out <https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/environment-and-conservation/projects/green-stormwater-infrastructure/rainwise>
- **Add native, drought-tolerant plants that attract pollinators** to your garden beds or flower pots. Bees, hummingbirds, butterflies and other pollinators will thank you!
- **Challenge yourself to go green** and join a community working toward a healthy and sustainable environment by committing to your [Next 5 Sustainable Actions](#).
- **Try some new plant-based recipes.** Non-perishable foods, such as canned or dry beans and rice, are easy to prepare and nutritious. Plant-based diets benefit the environment and overall health. And be sure to use and label food storage containers to reduce food waste.

Everyone at Woodland Park Zoo wishes you a safe, happy and healthy Earth Day! The zoo can't wait to share its love of nature and all its animal residents with you soon.

Please visit www.zoo.org/relief to help support the animals at Woodland Park Zoo. While the zoo is temporarily closed to the public, the exceptional animal care and veterinary teams, and other staff continue to work to provide dedicated care to more than 900 animals.

As a non-profit organization, the zoo is relying on the community now more than ever to help these wonderful animals continue to thrive. Contributions, both big and small, will help creatures of all sizes.

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