

PRESS RELEASE

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Media contact: Gigi Allianic, Meghan Sawyer
woodlandparkzoopr@zoo.org

Media download link for photos and B-roll (Nadiri and daughter Yola):

<https://zoo.resourcespace.com/?c=3455&k=522fe35a6a>
password: wpz

Birth watch begins for pregnant gorilla, Nadiri ***New baby is due to arrive between late January and early February***

SEATTLE—Another exciting birth is around the corner for Woodland Park Zoo's western lowland gorilla family: the birth watch is officially underway for the new baby gorilla!

The expectant mom, 24-year-old Nadiri (naw-DEER-ee), is due to give birth to her second offspring between late January and early February. The new baby will be the first between Nadiri and dad, 21-year-old Kwame (KWA-may).

The gestation period for gorillas is eight to nine months, which is similar to humans.

During the birth watch, zoo volunteers remotely monitor the expectant mom via cameras installed in Nadiri's bedroom. They will collect data and look for any telltale signs of behavioral changes that might indicate the onset of labor. While volunteers are on watch overnight, a gorilla keeper is always on call to respond just in case Nadiri goes into labor in the wee hours. This monitoring schedule will continue until the birth.

In 2015, Nadiri gave birth to her first offspring, Yola, who was sired by Vip. Because Nadiri was partially human-raised as an infant and had no experience as a mom, she didn't know what to do when she gave birth. Therefore, Yola spent the first several months of her life under round-the-clock care by gorilla keepers and veterinary staff while having daily interactions with her mom. The new mom's maternal instincts eventually kicked in and Yola was reunited with her mom and the other members of her family.

"Now that Nadiri has more than five years of maternal experience, we're confident she'll know exactly what to do this time—but we're preparing for every possible scenario, just in case," said Martin Ramirez, mammal curator at Woodland Park Zoo.

Kwame is an experienced dad too, having sired son Kitoko with 13-year-old Uzumma last March. He has proven himself to be a gentle, playful and patient father to his son. "The new infant will be a half-sibling for both little Kitoko and Yola. "We fully expect the next months and years to be filled with lots of playful and mischievous antics for both the youngsters and adults!" added Ramirez.

Nadiri and Kwame were paired under the Gorilla Species Survival Plan, which is a cooperative, conservation breeding program across zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums to help ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population of the species.

Two groups of gorillas currently live at the zoo. Group one: Kwame, Nadiri, Yola, Uzumma, Kitoko and Akenji. Group two: Vip and Jumoke.

How to Help Gorillas

Every visit to Woodland Park Zoo supports conservation of animals in the wild. Join the zoo by recycling old cell phones and other used handheld electronics through ECO-CELL to help preserve gorilla habitat. Reclaiming the minerals in electronics and diverting them from landfills help reduce demand for mining in gorilla habitat. Drop off used handheld electronics including cell phones, smartphones, iPods, iPads, tablets, adapters, chargers, MP3 players, handheld gaming systems and their accessories at drop boxes located at both zoo entrances or the gorilla overlook. Funds generated from ECO-CELL support the Mondika Gorilla Project and Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund.



Gorillas: the Largest Ape in the World

- Gorillas in the wild typically live in groups of 5 to 10, composed of a dominant silverback (adult male), several adult females, adolescents, juveniles and babies. Sometimes groups can consist of two to more than 50 family members.
- Gorillas belong to the family of great apes: gorilla, chimpanzee, bonobo and orangutan. Apes are found in Africa and Asia only.
- Gorillas are muscular and very powerful. Adult males weigh between 350 and 600 pounds. Adult females weigh between 150 and 300 pounds.
- Gorillas are primarily vegetarian. They eat leaves, other vegetation and fruits. Occasionally they'll even snack on termites and ants!
- The estimated population of western lowland gorillas in the wild is about 300,000.

Woodland Park Zoo is open—visit now! Go to <https://www.zoo.org/visit> for hours and to purchase timed-entry tickets.

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