

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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**Media Link:** <https://zoo.resourcespace.com/?c=3744&k=6bd8eb4138>

### **MEDIA PHOTO OP: New Canada Lynx exhibit now open** ***Marks the final phase of the Living Northwest Trail transformation***



**WHAT:** Woodland Park Zoo is pleased to announce the completion of the Living Northwest Trail transformation. The new lynx exhibit, Cathy Herzig Basecamp Northwest and Nysether Family Riverhouse are now open. The reimagined Living Northwest Trail tells the story of how we can discover, recover and coexist with wildlife here in our own region.

The media is invited to photograph the completed Living Northwest Trail including the new lynx exhibit and Turtle Head Start Center in Basecamp Northwest.

**WHEN:** **Tuesday, November 22, 11:00 a.m.-noon.**

**WHERE:** The Living Northwest Trail at Woodland Park Zoo. Meet PR staff at 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.

**INFO:** The lynx exhibit features three young, male Canada lynx living in a fission-fusion dynamic, which means the individuals may move in and out of any possible social combination. Guests can expect to see a single lynx, duos and perhaps up to three lynx on any given day.

"We are so excited about this new lynx habitat," said Kevin Murphy, Senior Director of Animal Care. "Our teams have done an amazing job designing and creating it, and we know the lynx are going to thrive in their new home, creating a fun experience for both these cats and zoo guests."

The new habitat was carefully crafted by Woodland Park Zoo staff. The "cave tree" has a cavern at eye level, allowing guests to view the cats as they rest in a natural looking space. A stream and small pond create dynamic opportunities for the lynx to explore and cool off. Meanwhile, an elaborate system of pathways and branches allow the lynx to take advantage of all the space in the habitat with perching opportunities as high as nearly 20 feet off the ground.

Guests will learn about the impacts of climate change on local habitat, including the decline of dense mountain snowpack on which lynx and other animals depend.

"This exhibit is an incredible addition to the zoo and the Living Northwest Trail," said Murphy. "We hope guests check it out and learn

about the wonderful species living in our own region and the steps they can take to protect them.”

Cathy Herzig Basecamp Northwest is also now open. Inside is a basecamp for exploring conservation solutions in the Northwest, including a never-before-seen glimpse into the zoo’s flagship conservation lab, the Turtle Head Start Center, where animal keepers rear endangered western pond turtles to be released into protected wetlands each year.

The completion of the Living Northwest Trail project marks a pivotal moment in the zoo’s mission to save wildlife and inspire everyone to make conservation a priority in their lives. Along with the new additions, the Living Northwest Trail also includes the zoo’s beloved gray wolves, river otters and brown bears that live in Nysether Family Riverhouse and other native wildlife.

### **More About Lynx:**

Lynx live in high mountain habitats of northern forests across North America. Globally, this species has a low risk of extinction. However, in Washington state, lynx are endangered. These mammals rely on healthy forests and plentiful snowpack to hunt their prey. Climate change is reducing snowfall and more frequent wildfires are burning habitat in the region, making lynx and their prey much rarer. Woodland Park Zoo and partners are studying both lynx and wolverines to help recover their populations in the Cascades.

### **More About Western Pond Turtles:**

The western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*)—one of only two turtle species native to the state of Washington—once teetered on the brink of extinction. In 1990, only about 150 remained in two populations in the state. In 1991, Woodland Park Zoo and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife joined forces to recover western pond turtles by initiating a head start program. In 1993, the state listed the western pond turtle as endangered.

Woodland Park Zoo advocates for saving species and spaces around the Pacific Northwest through its [Living Northwest Program](#), including lynx, wolverines and many others. The exhibit and its companion website, [“We Are Living Northwest.”](#) provide visitors with numerous conservation actions to take to help the species that share the region’s iconic landscapes. Anyone can share how they are living Northwest using #IAmLivingNorthwest on social media—they may even be featured on the new kiosk in Living Northwest Trail!

Zoo hours through January 22, 2023: Tuesday–Sunday 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.; Mondays 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Closed Christmas day.

Accessibility: Information about accessibility and resources, one-to-one aides, sighted guides, mobility equipment rentals, and a sensory

map and tools can be found at [www.zoo.org/access](http://www.zoo.org/access). For questions or to request disability accommodations for zoo programs or events, contact [zooinfo@zoo.org](mailto:zooinfo@zoo.org).

For more information or to become a zoo member, visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) or call 206.548.2500. Follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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