



# PRESS RELEASE



OFFICE OF MAYOR DUANE PARRY  
City of Michigan City



The Washington Park Zoo will reopen to the public on JUNE 15, 2020 and we couldn't be more excited about it. We've missed you, the animals missed you and we know you've missed them!

In conjunction with state and local officials, the Washington Park Zoo will enter Phase I of our reopening plan. This process follows the advice and recommendations of health officials, numerous zoo facilities, and small businesses within the community. The Zoo will remain on Spring Hours (10 am-4 pm with gates closing at 3 pm).

**June 15th – Open to the general public, but daily attendance will be capped at 50% capacity.**

In order to ensure the safety of staff and guests – here are some of the modifications we've made in compliance with health recommendations.

- We prefer the use of credit cards, not cash.
- We will be restricting the number of guests entering the Zoo each day to ensure proper distancing.
- All Zoo visits will be required to have a timed ticket entry to help limit the number of people in the zoo. Guests will have to reserve timed entry for each member of their party for a designated time slot through our office. We request that all reservations be called into the Zoo office at 219-873-1510 before the day of your visit to avoid lines and ensure that we have availability. When purchasing a reservation slot, you can choose a 30-minute time slot to enter the zoo and can only enter during that 30-minute window.

Reservations also apply to Zoo members. Your membership card, Photo ID, and your timed ticket reservation will be checked on entry. Membership purchases and renewals must be made by online or mailed in since we cannot issue them at the window in order to avoid lines forming.

- **Early or late arrivals CAN NOT be accommodated.**
- **There will also be no re-entry into the zoo, so please be sure that you have everything with you before entering the Zoo.**
- **You can choose tickets good for admission during half-hour blocks between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and each timed ticket will be limited to 2-hours inside the zoo so we can accommodate as many guests as possible while limiting capacity. Please proceed to the exit once your 2-hour window is up. Zoo hours will remain at 10 am until 4 pm daily.**
- **Face coverings will be strongly recommended for everybody visiting the Zoo and guests must bring their own face masks.**
- **For those who choose to eat at the zoo, walk-up service will be available at the concession stands.**
- **The water fountains, wheelchair rentals, stroller rentals, the Safari Train, Observation Tower, Otter tunnel, and the Castle exhibits will remain closed, due to the CDC, state, and city social distance policy. This is temporary and we expect these attractions to open at a later date.**
- **The zoo gift shop has moved out of the zoo. The new location is located across Lake Shore Drive in the Oasis Splash Park (which is closed for the 2020 season). The new location has a walk-up service window.**
- **Visitors also will be encouraged to observe social distancing.**
- **No family groups larger than 10 will be permitted and the zoo is not booking field trip reservations until after stage 5 of the Governor's reopening plan.**
- **The Red Barn will be open with hand sanitizing stations available, but please watch your children and their distance to other visitors.**

**We are committed to keeping you, our staff, and our animals safe during this challenging time. The zoo's opening status is dependent on guidelines by the State of Indiana and our local government. If the guidelines change, the zoo's schedule will also change.**

**We appreciate your continued support and patience as we work together to navigate the upcoming season.**

