



Contact: Sondra Katzen
708.688.8351
sondra.katzen@czs.org

Brookfield Zoo Fact Sheet

Opening

June 30, 1934, after seven years of construction.

Location

Brookfield Zoo sits on 216 acres located in Brookfield, Illinois, just 14 miles west of downtown Chicago. The address is 8400 31st St., Brookfield, IL 60513. Open every day of the year, the zoo is located off First Avenue between the Stevenson (I-55) and Eisenhower (I-290) expressways and is also accessible via the Tri-State Tollway (I-294), Metra commuter line, CTA, and PACE bus service.

Exhibits

Major animal exhibits include Australia House, Big Cats, Clouded Leopard Rain Forest, Desert's Edge, Great Bear Wilderness, Hamill Family Play Zoo, Hamill Family Wild Encounters, Habitat Africa! The Forest, Habitat Africa! The Savannah, The Living Coast, Salt Creek Wilderness, The Swamp, Seven Seas, Tropic World, Reptiles and Birds, Pachyderm House, Feathers and Scales, Big Cats, and Butterflies! (seasonal).

Animal Collection

Individuals: more than 3,000

Facilities

Guest service facilities include restaurants, concession stands, gift shops, and souvenir stands. In addition, the zoo has picnic areas, several water features, two playgrounds, and a handcarved wooden carousel that can accommodate up to 5,000 guests a day. Additionally, there are outdoor Pavilions and other banquet facilities that may be rented out for private functions such as picnics, company outings, family reunions, and weddings.

Strollers, wheelchairs, and electronic convenience vehicles are able for rental at each entrance. The zoo has 14 ADA accessible restroom locations with diaper-changing facilities, adult diaper changing facilities, family restrooms, and baby-nursing areas. Additionally, the zoo has its own police force.

Hours

Brookfield Zoo is open daily 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with summer hours (Memorial Day to Labor Day) of 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Indoor animal exhibits close one half hour before the zoo closes (Tropic World closes 45 minutes before the zoo closes). The zoo has extended hours during its Summer Nights and Holiday Magic special events.

Brookfield, Illinois 60513-0719 708.688.8400 www.CZS.org

The Chicago Zoological Society is a private nonprofit organization that operates Brookfield Zoo on land owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer M/F/D/V

Admission and Parking

General

Adults.....	\$21.95
Seniors (65 and over).....	\$15.95
Children (3 to 11).....	\$15.95
Children 2 and under.....	Free

Zoo admission is free on:

- Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from January through February.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays from October through December. Free admission is good only during regular zoo hours. Zoo admission fees apply to Holiday Magic.

Attraction Packages

From early spring through late fall, Brookfield Zoo offers ticket packages that include general zoo admission plus in-park attractions at discounted rates.

Group rates also are available to groups of 20 or more. For information on group rates, call (708) 688-8431.

Parking

Cars.....	\$14
Buses	\$20

(A Cook County parking tax is included.)

In-Park Paid Attractions

- Dolphins in Action—\$5 adults, \$3 children 3-11 and seniors 65+
- Hamill Family Play Zoo—\$3 for everyone
- Hamill Family Wild Encounters—\$5 adults, \$3 children 3-11 and seniors 65+
- The Carousel—\$3 per rider (all seated riders require a ticket)*
- Butterflies! (open May 26-September 3, weather permitting)—\$3 for everyone
- Amazing Arachnids (open May 26-September 3)—\$5 adults, \$3 children and seniors 65+
- Motor Safari (available early spring through late fall)—\$5 adults, \$3 children and seniors 65+

2018 Seasonal Events

Amazing Arachnids (May 26 to September 3)

Discover the marvels of eight-legged critters at Brookfield Zoo's new temporary exhibit—Amazing Arachnid, which features two components. The first is *Art and Science of Arachnids* where guests can discover the cultural connections of eight-legged creatures that have weaved their way into a variety of genres, including music, art, folklore, medicine, conservation, film, and literature. In addition to engaging hands-on interactives, the exhibit features 100 live arachnids found around the world, making it the largest public collection of arachnids in North America. The second part of the exhibit is *Mission Safari Maze*, a maze experience that blends education along with physical activity making it a unique learning adventure for guests of all ages. The interactive attraction connects guests to the stories and strengths of 16 species, which can all be seen at Brookfield Zoo. As they go through the 3,500-square-foot maze on one of the 48 missions, guests encounter a variety of play-and-learn activities, including a climb-on spider web, jungle vines, and monorail zip slide.

Zoo Brew (June 23 and 24)

Zoo Brew is a unique 21-and-over beer-tasting event featuring more than 60 beers. Guests can enjoy live music and bid on silent auction items, including branded beer tenders, specialty brews, and more.

Summer Nights (Friday and Saturdays, July 6 - August 18)

Enjoy Brookfield Zoo on summer evenings. From 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, relax on the zoo's East Mall with enhanced dining, beer and wine gardens, roaming performers, kids' entertainment, live music, and a spectacular laser light show, all surrounded by wildlife and nature.

Boo! at the Zoo (October 13-14, 20-21, and 27-28)

Brookfield Zoo's annual Halloween celebration provides a haunting good time for the entire family. The not-so-scary event features a 7,000-square-foot corn maze, a hay ride, a costume parade, and Halloween-themed crafts and activities. In addition, there will be special animal Zoo Chats about some of the zoo's creatures.

Holiday Magic (December 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, and 26-31)

This festival event features more than one million twinkling lights, animated light displays, and a laser light show. Many of the zoo's exhibits will be open so zoogoers can visit their favorite animals. In addition, there will be a full schedule of nightly music and entertainment, professional ice-carving demonstrations, Zoo Chats, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus (through December 23) and costumed characters, and much more. A special Zoo Year's Eve to ring in the New Year takes place on December 31 with an early family-friendly countdown at 8:00 p.m.

Website

www.CZS.org

Contact Information

- General Brookfield Zoo information: (708) 688-8000
- Chicago Zoological Society: (708) 688-8400
- TTY (for hearing impaired): (708) 688-8981

General Information

- More than two million guests visit Brookfield Zoo annually, including nearly 210,000 school group participants.
- The Chicago Zoological Society, which manages Brookfield Zoo, employs 417 full-time and nine permanent part-time employees and approximately 900 seasonal employees.
- More than 900 volunteers and docents, including adult and youth volunteers, engage guests about the animals and the zoo's conservation efforts.
- Brookfield Zoo has 115,000 membership households.
- More than 4,500 individuals participate in Brookfield Zoo's Share the Care program, which helps provide for the care of the animals at the zoo.
- The Chicago Zoological Society has an operating budget of \$65.4 million.
- The Chicago Zoological Society is a private nonprofit organization that operates Brookfield Zoo on land owned by the Forest Preserves of Cook County.
- The Forest Preserves of Cook County contributes approximately 22.6 percent of the gross operating budget. The Chicago Zoological Society obtains the remaining from admission and parking charges, in-park sales, membership fees, grants, and donations.

Press Contact

For all media inquiries and requests, contact Sondra Katzen at (708) 688-8351 or sondra.katzen@czs.org.

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