



Nature Boardwalk a natural environment at Lincoln Park Zoo

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Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo opens on June 24, 2010
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Lincoln Park Zoo opened the new Nature Boardwalk on June 24, 2010, with the help of Mayor Richard M. Daley and State Representative Sara Feigenholtz (D-12). School children from Sieden Prairie Elementary School sang an original tune celebrating the pond, and a ceremonial release of fish, Nature Boardwalk is now officially opened to the public. The *Nature Boardwalk* offers a natural oasis in the city of Chicago, a place to be enjoyed by kids and adults.

“This is an environmental zoo,” said Mayor Daley to a crowd of approximately 80 people, including donors of the new habitat. “It teaches us how the environment and nature can coexist with an urban society. I look forward to taking a wonderful walk here. This will be a special place, not only for my children, who I’ve spent a lot of time here with, but also my grandchildren.”

Representative Feigenholtz called the zoo a “jewel” and “a reprieve from city living...a little oasis.”

The *Nature Boardwalk* is a 14 acre oasis offering visitors an opportunity to immerse themselves in a multi-sensory, interactive ecosystem. The landscape of this newly

naturalized oasis in the heart of the city has been completely transformed to provide a haven of native trees, plants and animals. The Nature Boardwalk offers unique opportunities for visitors to engage in and connect with the natural world like never before.

Educational programming is a key feature of the pond ecosystem experience at the *Lincoln Park Zoo*. Educators host daily tours and talks, at the Nature Boardwalk, which provide hands-on opportunities for kids to learn and interact directly with the environment. Adult and family-oriented activities offered this summer include a family overnight camping program and yoga.

The environment at the Nature Boardwalk has been completely transformed giving wildlife ecologists a haven to study the effects of the naturalization for years to come. Over time, various species such as turtles, frogs and birds will find their way to this urban haven at the Lincoln Park Zoo. Biologists will conduct wildlife surveillance studies of the wildlife and plant populations to ensure sustainability of the natural habitat.

The historic Cafe Brauer sits on the north end of the Nature Boardwalk, featuring a new contemporary eatery called the Patio with a cocktail bar, outdoor waterside seating and fresh menu items designed for sharing. The Patio is open for lunch daily, as well as dinner until dusk Mondays – Thursdays to offer Chicago professionals a unique new after work destination. Cafe Brauer is open for lunch only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The Great Hall at Café Brauer is a popular private rental space for weddings and special events, and the Patio is available for private rental on Friday and weekend evenings.

Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo has been made possible through the support and generosity of the *Chicago Park District, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Brooks McCormick, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Peoples Gas, The Regenstein Foundation, the Women's Board of Lincoln Park Zoological Society* as well as the generosity of numerous zoo friends and other private and corporate foundations.

Plunge into this fresh new natural ecosystem this summer! To learn more about Lincoln Park Zoo, please visit the [Lincoln Park Zoo website](#).