



News

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Jackson Zoo Breaks Ground on Asian Tiger Exhibit

Thursday, June 18, 2009 Zoo staff, state legislators, zoo board members and other guests broke ground on a new Asian Tiger Exhibit. The exhibit will eventually house the three Sumatran tigers that arrived at the Jackson Zoo in December 2008.

The new exhibit will feature 9,000 square feet of outside exhibit area that will include trees, a waterfall and pool with 17-foot-tall containment fencing. There will also be a 1,800 square foot holding facility. The exhibit will provide more than ten times more space than the existing tiger exhibit and will have the capacity to hold up to five tigers.

The exhibit is being funded by the state of Mississippi and will cost \$1,127,000 and should be open in March of 2010.

“We are so excited to finally get started on this new exhibit,” said Zoo Director Beth Poff. “This is a major step in our overall Asian area expansion and renovation. Our three tigers, Emerson, Taymor and Kipling, will certainly enjoy their new home much better.”

The new tiger exhibit was designed by Maggie Bjorgum of Belinda Stewart Architects, P.A. and the contractor is Coleman Hammons Construction.



Photo (Left to Right): Animal Curator Willie Bennett, Exhibit Designer Maggie Bjorgum, Senator Hillman Frazier, Contractor Joe Hammons (in the red shirt), Zoo Board President Davis Frye, Chris Hoffman Landscape Architect, Zoo Board Member Laurie McRee, Zoo Executive Director Beth Poff, Zoo Board Member Wanda Quon and Zoo Friends Chairman Sean B. Perkins.

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The Jackson Zoo is also raising funds through an Asian Donor Tile program to make improvements to other Asian exhibits, including the gibbon exhibit, Amur leopard exhibit and a new fishing cat exhibit. For more information on how to buy a donor tile in your family or company's name, visit www.jacksonzoo.org.

Join the Jackson Zoo as it celebrates 90 years (1919-2009) of Education, Recreation, Conservation and Community! Visit www.jacksonzoo.org to check out exciting special events planned, animal updates, one-of-a-kind education programs, membership and adoption packages, and so much more.

The Jackson Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The AZA is America's leading accrediting organization that sets rigorous, professional standards for zoos and aquariums. The AZA is building North America's largest wildlife conservation movement by engaging and inspiring the 143 million annual visitors to its member institutions and their communities to care about and take action to help protect wildlife.

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