

# Departmental Presentations

Little Rock Zoo

March 18, 2015



# Little Rock Zoo Updates



March 18, 2015

- **AR Heritage Farm Project: \$756,000**
  - This new exhibit will help promote visitor awareness of the importance of preserving heritage breeds and farm culture for the enrichment of future generations. This exhibit will answer such questions as “What is a farm?” and “How does the economics of Arkansas rely on farming?”
- **UPDATE:**
  - Contracts signed, construction has begun, estimated completion in July 2015.

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- **AR Heritage Farm Graphics Project: \$100,000**
  - Interactive educational graphics will serve to orient the visitors to the farm experience; previewing the idea of the importance of preserving heritage breeds and farm culture in general. The graphics will identify the various breeds and offer educational information to the guests e.g. “Where does your food come from?” “How can I grow my own food?” “How farms effect our economic situation?”
- **UPDATE:**
  - Currently in the planning stages to prepare the bid package.

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- **Reticulated Python Exhibit \$25,000:**

- This renovation is required to meet *AZA* accreditation requirements. The new habitat will provide the appropriate environment for our large 20 ft. reptile and allow visitors an up close and personal view of the longest snake currently recorded in an *AZA* facility. Also, a great new exhibit for our annual Boo at Zoo event.

- **UPDATE:**

- This exhibit is currently in the bidding stages and estimated to be completed sometime in June.

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- **Train Service Pit: \$25,000**
  - The train service pit is required to meet AR OSHA requirements for personnel to perform routine maintenance for the upkeep of the Zoo's new AR Diamond train that was purchased in July 2014.
- **UPDATE:**
  - This project is currently in the bid stage and once a contract is awarded construction will take approximately 30 days.

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- **Bush Dog/Otter Exhibit Renovation: \$550,000**
  - The current exhibit is approximately 50 years old and requires updates to meet AZA accreditation and OSHA requirements. The renovation will provide secondary containment areas, remove dangerous moats and provide a more suitable environment for the animals.
- **UPDATE:**
  - The design phase is complete and bidding will occur once tax revenue funds are secured.

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- **Gray Water Treatment Plant: \$50,000**
  - The Zoo has partnered together with the CLR Parks Department to reclaim water from the War Memorial Splash Pad and Zoo run-off. This will reduce water consumption and expenses to the Zoo. The treatment plant will allow the Zoo to use the reclaimed water for tasks such as irrigation and animal exhibit water features. This plant will also serve as an educational tool to promote water conservation to our guests.
- **UPDATE:**
  - Construction in progress and scheduled to complete in July.

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- **Recap of Completed Projects:**

- Critical Staffing Positions Filled (2012-2015)
- Constructed New Walk-in Fish Freezer (2012)
- New Greenhouse (2014)
- New Great Ape Exhibit Shade Structures (2013-2014)
- New Information Station in the Grand Plaza (2014)
- New Ringtail Exhibit (2014)
- New Roof on the Tropical Birdhouse Building (2014)
- New Train Tracks for the AR Diamond Express Train (2014)
- Renovations to Camel Exhibit (2013-2015)
- Renovations to Chimp Exhibit (2014)
- Renovations to Upgrade the Amphitheater Animal Holding (2014)
- Tiger Exhibit Renovations (2013)
- Visitor Experience Upgrades: Landscaping, Electronic Menus and Info Signs (2013-2014)

