

# AGENDA

## Potter Park Zoo Advisory Board

1301 S. Pennsylvania Avenue ~ Lansing, MI 48912  
Telephone: 517.342.2776; Fax: 517.316.3894

The Board information packet is available on-line by going to [www.potterparkzoo.org](http://www.potterparkzoo.org), selecting "About," clicking on "Zoo Advisory Board" and clicking "June 10, 2026"

### POTTER PARK ZOO ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, June 10, 2026  
6:00 PM

#### Call to Order

Approval of the April 08, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Limited Public Comment – *Limited to 3 minutes with no discussion*

Late Items/Deletions/Consent Items

#### Action Items

- a. Museums for All – Resolution
- b. Zoological Society Agreement Extension – Resolution
- c. Agreement with Hedrick Associates – Resolution
- d. Purchase Order LaFontaine Ford - Resolution

#### Director's Report

- a. Zoo Finance Report – Cynthia Wagner
- b. Admission and Parking Reports - Cynthia Wagner
- c. Director's Report – Cynthia Wagner

#### 2. New Business

- a. 2027 Budget Presentation
- b. Millage Renewal

#### 3. Old Business

- a. Feline Primate Design Project Update – Cynthia Wagner
- b. Stormwater Infrastructure Project – Cynthia Wagner
- c. Fundraising Update – Amy Morris-Hall

#### 4. Board Comments

#### 5. Limited Public Comment - *Limited to 3 minutes with no discussion*

#### 6. Upcoming Meeting

- a. Zoo Advisory Board Meeting July 08, 2026 at 6:00 PM

#### 7. Adjournment

Official minutes are stored and available for inspection at the address noted at the top of this agenda. Potter Park Zoo will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting for the visually impaired, for individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon five (5) working days' notice to the Zoo. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Zoo by writing to: Zoo Director, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, MI 48912, or by calling 517.342.2776.

**MINUTES – INGHAM COUNTY  
POTTER PARK ZOO ADVISORY BOARD**

**1301 S. Pennsylvania Avenue,  
Lansing, MI,  
April 8, 2026**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Cahill, Chair Cheryl Bergman, Mary Leys, Dr. Richard Snider, Samantha Harkins, Emily Linden, and Dr. Jack Kottwitz

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cynthia Wagner, Zoo Director, Amy L. Morris-Hall, Zoological Society Executive Director

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Tennis, Vice Chair Kyle Binkley, Kasey Kent, Caitlin O’Rourke and Julie Pingston,

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m.

**MINUTES:** Quorum not present

**LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**LATE ITEMS/DELETIONS/CONSENT ITEMS**

None

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Emergency Purchase and Budget Transfer – Resolution**

Director Wagner explained a piece of equipment had to be replaced via an emergency purchase request and a budget transfer is needed from fund balance to replace the funds used for a CIP item in the zoo budget. Quorum was not present for vote, board was supportive of the requested budget transfer.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Director Wagner reported that overall the YTD financials were good. Earned revenue is up from 2025 and wages are in line with 2025. Controllable expenditures were up significantly, however this was due to the payment to the Society for education conservation stations per the contract as well as the bot attack that caused excessive credit card fees not being reimbursed yet. In addition, there were several smaller expenses such as the purchase of several used golf carts and exhibit renovations in the reptile building. Director Wagner stated there were not any significant budget concerns at this time.

**ADMISSION & PARKING REPORT**

Director Wagner reported that admissions were down slightly for March compared to 2025, but still up for the year.

She shared that the weather was not great in March, but the last sunny Monday in March helped boost attendance.  
6:08pm – Emily Linden arrived, quorum present.

**MINUTES:** The approval of the minutes as written from March 11, 2026 was moved by Samantha Harkins and supported by Emily Linden **Yes-7; No-0; MOTION CARRIED**

### **Emergency Purchase and Budget Transfer – Resolution**

Approval of the Resolution for a budget transfer was moved by Emily Linden and supported by Samantha Harkins.  
**Yes-7; No-0; MOTION CARRIED**

### **ZOO DIRECTOR REPORT**

Major Elements Reported by Director Wagner:

- The zoo was closed for several days due to flooding under Big Penny combined with flooding in the construction zone and then flooding in the parking lot. The emergency egress was utilized for several hours Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> until flooding receded under Big Penny. Zoo staff took hourly pictures of the flooded areas to document areas of flooding when Red Cedar water levels are between 7-8 feet.
- The chocolates that were shared at the last zoo board meeting sold out after the social media post and a second batch was ordered.
- The zoo is partnering with Toledo Zoo and their Wild Toledo program to hold a native plant sale. Toledo Zoo developed the website and will grow and deliver the plants. Plants are pre-ordered and picked up Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Eagle Landing Pavilion.
- There are three upcoming events for the ERESA high school class that board members are invited to participate in.
- Night at the Living museum is Friday evening. It is a free public event in partnership with the MSU Science Festival.
- The trumpeter hornbills are showing true breeding behaviors for the first time including the female being closed into the nest box with mud and the male attending to her.
- Wild Wanderers has started again. It has been a slow start with the weather, but we expect it to pick up soon.
- The zoo is partnering with several organizations again this summer to provide student work experiences.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **New Events Presentation – Jenna Worthington and Adrian Ramirez**

Jenna Worthington shared the two new public events that will be held this summer including Zoo's Clues and Crafting for Conservation. The Zoo's Clues events will be escape room themed with 14 clue stations that require a puzzle of some kind to be solved. After a puzzle is solved the guest will receive a clue and after all clues are collected they can decipher the answer. There will be two cash bars available as it is a 21 and over event.

The Crafting for Conservation event will be held during zoo hours and be a family event that supports local artists

using different mediums. Discussion ensued regarding the two new events.

### **Zoo In Your Neighborhood Survey Results**

Director Wagner shared the survey results gathered by Mariah Martinez. The survey does not represent all Zoo In Your Neighborhood participants as it is only those that opted to take the survey. There is also a list of all participating community organizations that have passes available for check out.

### **Amphitheater Renovation**

Director Wagner stated they would be moving forward with renovating the amphitheater and renaming it the Nature Nook. Amy Morris-Hall reported they had received several grants and a donation for support of the changes. Home Depot will also be providing volunteers to help install sunshades and paint. The plan is to have the space ready for guests in mid-June.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Feline Primate Design Project Update**

Director Wagner stated the Construction Manager contract is fully executed and the pre-construction meeting with purchasing as well as the kickoff design meeting will be held Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Stormwater Infrastructure Project Update**

Director Wagner reported there are no significant updates at this time. The work plan and NEPA review are still in process.

#### **Fundraising Update**

Amy Morris-Hall reported they are moving forward with meetings about funding opportunities for the Feline and Primate Building. They received two grants for the amphitheater renovation as well as a private donation. Merritt continues to work to increase current donor levels and establish relationships with donors who have lapsed in giving.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Commissioner Cahill stated there would be several Arbor Day events including the one at the zoo Friday, April 24 and one at Patengill School. She stated the City Forestry Department would be donating a dawn redwood to plant in the park for Arbor Day.

Chair Bergman asked where to find information about the Guardian sponsorship circle. Amy Morris-Hall shared where the information can be found on the website.

### **LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



<b>Department:</b> Potter Park Zoo	<b>Prepared By:</b> Cynthia Wagner
<b>Meeting Date(s):</b> July 20 & July 22, 2026	
<b>For Committees:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Law & Courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services <input type="checkbox"/> County Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance	
<b>Subject:</b> Approval for Potter Park Zoo to Become a Museums for All Participating Organization	

**Requested Action:**

Approval of Potter Park Zoo becoming a Museums for All participating organization.

**Request Summary:**

The Museums for All national initiative encourages all Americans to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum habits. Through Museums for All, visitors presenting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards receive reduced admission to more than 1,600 participating museums of all kinds. Participating museums can be found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since the launch of the initiative in 2015, Museums for All has served more than 15 million visitors nationwide. Museums for All is the only nationally coordinated financial accessibility program in the museum field, providing an easy-to-implement structure and the ability for participating museums to customize their implementation.

Potter Park Zoo is requesting to become a participating Museums for All organization with a reduced admission rate of \$5.00 for up to four household members per SNAP or EBP card during all normal hours of operation.

**Strategic Plan Alignment:**

Becoming a Museums for All participating organization supports the Ingham County Strategic Plan goal of connecting individuals and our community with the natural works through exhibits, educational programming and staff interactions by delivering affordable, unforgettable and inspiring guest experiences.

**Purchasing Requirement**

Confirm compliance with the County Purchasing Policy for all contracts, including required quotes or bids:

- Yes (Attach the memorandum of performance for any bids obtained, if applicable, to this memo)
- No (Provide explanation)
- N/A

**Health in All Policies (HiAP):**

All resolutions must be reviewed for potential impacts on health equity, social determinants of health, and cross-sector outcomes.

**Mandate Status:**

- Mandated     Non-Mandated

**Cost/Funding Recommendation:**

Total Request/Contract Amount:

- Included in Current Fiscal Budget     Budget Transfer Required     Has No Financial Impact

**Administration Recommendation:**

- Recommended     Not Recommended     Alternative: \_\_\_\_\_

**Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ June 10, 2026 \_\_\_\_\_

**Controller's Office:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## What Is Museums for All?

Museums for All is an access initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that aims to ensure that every family and child has access to a high quality museum experience. Participating museums offer deeply discounted admission to any individual or group of four individuals participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by presenting an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. The initiative is currently administered by the Association of Children's Museums (ACM).

## How Did Museums for All Start?

The initiative was launched in 2014 as a strategic partnership between IMLS and ACM, in service to both organizations' strategic goal of providing greater access to museums for all children and families. The initiative was also informed by several research studies from the museum field showing that early access to the informal learning opportunities offered by museums and other cultural organizations leads to positive impact in children's development and academic performance.



Orlando Science Center

## How Is Museums for All Unique?

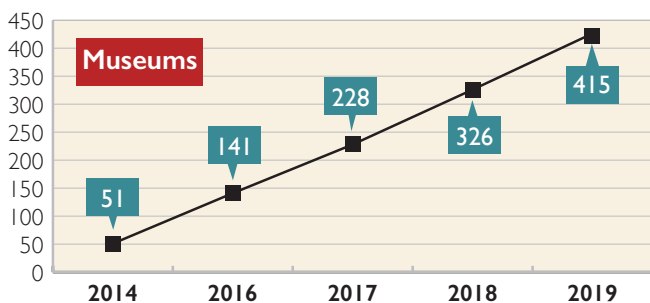
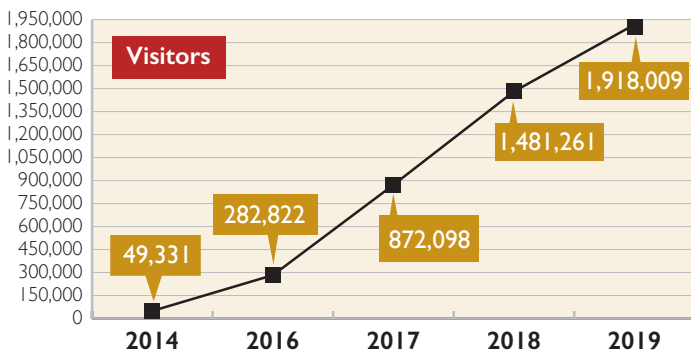
Many museums and other cultural access initiatives offer free admission on specific days or months during the year. Museums for All museums offer this discounted rate at any time, every day the museum is open to the public.

## Impact and Outreach

Since its launch in 2014, 415 museums in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have joined the initiative, reporting more than 1.9 million visits by individuals meeting the entrance requirements of the program. These numbers reflect the value that participating museums place on access and inclusion, as well as the value that the general public—regardless of current socioeconomic status—places on museum visitation. In many “hub” cities, several museums have come together to become part of this initiative. The charts to the left illustrate the progression of reported visitation and museum participation.

## Join Museums for All

To join Museums for All, or for any questions, please visit [www.Museums4All.org](http://www.Museums4All.org) or email [Info@Museums4All.org](mailto:Info@Museums4All.org).



Data current as of June 30, 2019.

“We got involved with Museums for All because everyone should have access to museums and [so] that everyone who wants to pay their way can. It is important on both counts as the visitor gives and receives as well as the museum giving and receiving.”

– Maryhill Museum of Art, Goldenhill, WA

## Why Do Museums Participate?



## Impact of the Initiative

In 2018, a third-party evaluation was conducted to assess the impact of Museums for All on participating museums. Topline findings include:

- Participating museums report little to no negative financial or visitation impact, and **more than 25 percent** report increases in attendance, development revenue, and program/membership subscription.
- **20 percent** of respondents reported unexpected positive benefits, including:
  - Improvement in public perception of the museum regarding accessibility and inclusivity
  - Opportunities for forging connections with community partners
  - Shifts in internal staff dialogues on inclusive and accessible practices
- **20 percent** of respondents reported significant shifts in visitor demographics and relationships as a result of participation in Museums for All.

The full evaluation report is available at [www.imls.gov/publications/museums-all-evaluation](http://www.imls.gov/publications/museums-all-evaluation)

## An Initiative for the Entire Field

Participating museums represent all sectors of the museum field, as illustrated below. Ongoing goals include ensuring Museums for All participation in every state and increasing representation across disciplines in the museum sector.



**147**

Children's



**97**

History



**66**

Art



**38**

Science



**16**

Natural History



**14**

Botanical Gardens



**7**

Zoos



**4**

Aquariums



**1**

Planetarium



**9**

Specialized



**16**

General



Alden B. Dow Museum of Science & Art

“I have seen many families enter our museum with a sense of hesitation, assuming they won't be able to stay for a visit, unaware that we are a Museums for All institution. As soon as I let them know, I see a sense of relief and a smile.”

– Southern California Children's Museum, Pasadena, CA

Introduced by the Human Services and Finance Committees of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE POTTER PARK ZOO TO PARTICIPATE IN MUSEUMS FOR ALL**

WHEREAS, the Museums for All national initiative encourages all Americans to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum habits; and

WHEREAS, through Museums for All, visitors presenting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards receive reduced admission to more than 1,600 participating museums of all kinds; and

WHEREAS, becoming a Museums for All participating organization provides an easy-to-implement structure to ensure the zoo is accessible to a broader community; and

WHEREAS, Potter Park Zoo is requesting to become a participating Museums for All organization with a reduced admission rate of \$5.00 for up to four household members per SNAP or EBT card with valid identification during all normal hours of operation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes Potter Park Zoo to become a Museums for All participating organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioner authorizes Potter Park Zoo to have a reduced admission rate of \$5.00 for up to four household members per SNAP or EBT card with valid identification during all normal hours of operation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Chairperson is authorized to sign any necessary documents consistent with this resolution after approval as to form by the County Attorney.

**Potter Park Zoo Advisory Board  
Meeting of June 10, 2026**

Motion to support a Resolution authorizing Potter Park Zoo to become a Museums for All participant.

MOVED BY

SUPPORTED BY

To recommend forwarding the attached resolution to the Board of Commissioners which was supported by the Potter Park Zoo Advisory Board with the passage of this motion.



<b>Department:</b> Potter Park Zoo	<b>Prepared By:</b> Cynthia Wagner
<b>Meeting Date(s):</b> June 15 & June 17 2026	
<b>For Committees:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Law & Courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services <input type="checkbox"/> County Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance	
<b>Subject:</b> Potter Park Zoological Society Agreement Extension	

**Requested Action:**

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved entering into an agreement with the Potter Park Zoological Society for education, volunteer, fundraising, marketing, and communications services, Resolution #21-139. The zoo is requesting to extend the agreement for a period of five years.

**Request Summary:**

The Potter Park Zoological Society, a 501(c)(3) organization including staff and volunteers, has raised the quality and success of public relations, marketing and educational programs, all while fostering team partnership with, and providing additional assistance to Ingham County to achieve a Zoo experience that meets the goals of both parties. The current agreement is meeting all needs of Potter Park Zoo and the Zoo and Zoological Society wish to extend the agreement for a period of five years.

**Strategic Plan Alignment:**

This resolution supports connecting individuals and our community with the natural world through exhibits, educational programming and staff interactions by delivering affordable, unforgettable and inspiring guest experiences, as well as increasing, strengthening, supporting and coordinating community partnerships, relationships, and collaborative efforts.

**Purchasing Requirement**

Confirm compliance with the County Purchasing Policy for all contracts, including required quotes or bids:

- Yes (Attach the memorandum of performance for any bids obtained, if applicable, to this memo)
- No (Provide explanation)
- N/A

**Health in All Policies (HiAP):**

All resolutions must be reviewed for potential impacts on health equity, social determinants of health, and cross-sector outcomes.

**Mandate Status:**

- Mandated     Non-Mandated

**Cost/Funding Recommendation:**

Total Request/Contract Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Included in Current Fiscal Budget     Budget Transfer Required     Has No Financial Impact

**Administration Recommendation:**

- Recommended     Not Recommended     Alternative: \_\_\_\_\_

**Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ June 10, 2026 \_\_\_\_\_

**Controller's Office:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by the Human Services and Finance Committees of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH THE POTTER PARK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR SERVICES AT THE POTTER PARK ZOO**

WHEREAS, the electorate of Ingham County approved the millage to fund the operation and improvement of Potter Park and the Potter Park Zoo; and

WHEREAS, the Potter Park Zoological Society, a 501(c)(3) organization including staff and volunteers, has raised the quality and success of public relations, marketing and educational programs, all while fostering team partnership with, and providing additional assistance to Ingham County to achieve a Zoo experience that meets the goals of both parties; and

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorized entering into a contract with the Potter Park Zoological Society through Resolution #21-319; and

WHEREAS, the Potter Park Zoological Society and Ingham County wish to extend the contract for five years; and

WHEREAS, the Potter Park Zoological Society is able to provide services at the Zoo to maintain, education programs, volunteer activities, special events, communications, public relations, press releases, and increase fundraising.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes a five year contract extension with the Potter Park Zoological Society for services at the Potter Park Zoo, under mutually agreeable terms and conditions to both parties, effective upon execution of the contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Attorney to prepare the necessary documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Chairperson is authorized to sign any necessary documents consistent with this resolution after approval as to form by the County Attorney.

**Potter Park Zoo Advisory Board  
Meeting of June 10, 2026**

Motion to support a Resolution authorizing an agreement extension with the Zoological Society for a period of five years.

MOVED BY

SUPPORTED BY

To recommend forwarding the attached resolution to the Board of Commissioners which was supported by the Potter Park Zoo Advisory Board with the passage of this motion.



<b>Department:</b> Potter Park Zoo	<b>Prepared By:</b> Brian Fisher
<b>Meeting Date(s):</b> June 15 & June 17, 2026	
<b>For Committees:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Law & Courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services <input type="checkbox"/> County Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance	
<b>Subject:</b> Approval to Enter into an Agreement with Hedrick Associates to Replace Discovery Center Boiler	

**Requested Action:**

Approval to enter into an agreement with Hedrick Associates for the purchase and installation of a new boiler for the Potter Park Zoo Discovery Center.

**Request Summary:**

This boiler is the only source for heating the Discovery Center and is need of significant repairs. Nearing the end of its useful life expectancy, the zoo is requesting to replace it with a unit that is of greater efficiency.

**Strategic Plan Alignment:**

The purchase of this equipment supports the Ingham County Strategic Plan goal of ensuring that buildings are well-maintained and provide safe access for everyone.

**Purchasing Requirement**

Confirm compliance with the County Purchasing Policy for all contracts, including required quotes or bids:

- Yes (Attach the memorandum of performance for any bids obtained, if applicable, to this memo)
- No (Provide explanation)
- N/A

This purchase will utilize Mideal Contract #171-180000001133, which does not require three bids per Ingham County Purchasing Policy.

**Health in All Policies (HiAP):**

All resolutions must be reviewed for potential impacts on health equity, social determinants of health, and cross-sector outcomes.

**Mandate Status:**

- Mandated     Non-Mandated

**Cost/Funding Recommendation:**

Total Request/Contract Amount: \$74,430.00 = \$66,760 (contract amount) + \$6,670 (contingency) + \$1,000 (prevailing wage monitoring)

- Included in Current Fiscal Budget     Budget Transfer Required     Has No Financial Impact

**Administration Recommendation:**

- Recommended     Not Recommended     Alternative: \_\_\_\_\_

**Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ June 10, 2026 \_\_\_\_\_

**Controller's Office:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by the Human Services and Finance Committees of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT WITH HEDRICK ASSOCIATES**

WHEREAS, the Potter Park Zoo Discovery Center boiler is in need of significant repairs and is nearing the end of its useful life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, Potter Park Zoo recommends replacement of the boiler; and

WHEREAS, Hedrick Associates is an approved vendor under the Mideal cooperative contract #171-180000001133 and has provided quote #53354 in the amount of \$66,760 for the purchase and installation of this product; and

WHEREAS, Potter Park Zoo requests to enter into an agreement with Hedrick Associates in the amount of \$66,760; and

WHEREAS, Potter Park Zoo requests a contingency of \$6,670 (10%) for any undiscovered conditions; and

WHEREAS, Potter Park Zoo requests an additional \$1,000 for monitoring compliance with the Ingham County prevailing wage policy; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are available in the Zoo Fund Balance to cover the full amount of \$74,430.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes entering into an agreement with Hedrick Associates for the purchase and installation of a new boiler in an amount not to exceed \$66,760.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes a contingency not to exceed \$6,670 (10%) to cover any work items, as mutually agreed upon in writing and executed in the form of a change order as per Ingham County Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes \$1,000 to cover monitoring compliance with the Ingham County prevailing wage policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Controller/Administrator is authorized to transfer \$74,430 from the zoo fund balance to line item #25869200-818000-318000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Chairperson is authorized to sign any necessary documents consistent with this resolution after approval as to form by the County Attorney.

**Potter Park Zoo Advisory Board  
Meeting of June 10, 2026**

Motion to support a Resolution authorizing an agreement with Hedrick Associates for the replacement of the Discovery Center boiler.

MOVED BY

SUPPORTED BY

To recommend forwarding the attached resolution to the Board of Commissioners which was supported by the Potter Park Zoo Advisory Board with the passage of this motion.



<b>Department:</b> Potter Park Zoo	<b>Prepared By:</b> Cynthia Wagner
<b>Meeting Date(s):</b> July 20 & July 22, 2026	
<b>For Committees:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Law & Courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services <input type="checkbox"/> County Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance	
<b>Subject:</b> Purchase Order to LaFontaine Ford for Purchase of 2026 Ford Dump Truck F-550	

**Requested Action:**

Authorization of a purchase order to LaFontaine Ford Grand Blanc for the purchase of a 2026 Ford dump truck F-550 with dump bed and plow in the amount of \$87,024.80.

**Request Summary:**

Potter Park Zoo is in need of a new dump truck to continue maintenance of 102 acres of Zoo and park land. A dump truck in the amount of \$93,000 was approved in the Zoo 2025 CIP budget. Potter Park Zoo seeks to purchase a 2026 Ford truck F-550 with dump bed and plow at a cost of \$87,024.80 from LaFontaine Ford Grand Blanc using MiDeal pricing.

**Strategic Plan Alignment:**

This piece of utility equipment is necessary to maintain the Zoo and park grounds which allows the Zoo to provide educational and recreational opportunities for the community.

**Purchasing Requirement**

Confirm compliance with the County Purchasing Policy for all contracts, including required quotes or bids:

- Yes (Attach the memorandum of performance for any bids obtained, if applicable, to this memo)
- No (Provide explanation)
- N/A

**Health in All Policies (HiAP):**

All resolutions must be reviewed for potential impacts on health equity, social determinants of health, and cross-sector outcomes.

**Mandate Status:**

- Mandated     Non-Mandated

**Cost/Funding Recommendation:**

Total Request/Contract Amount: \$87,024.80

- Included in Current Fiscal Budget     Budget Transfer Required     Has No Financial Impact

**Administration Recommendation:**

- Recommended     Not Recommended     Alternative: \_\_\_\_\_

**Governing/Advisory Board Approval Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Controller's Office:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by the Human Services and Finance Committees of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE POTTER PARK ZOO TO PURCHASE A FORD DUMP TRUCK**

WHEREAS, Potter Park Zoo is in need of a dump truck to maintain Zoo and park grounds; and

WHEREAS, Potter Park Zoo seeks to purchase a 2026 Ford truck F-550 with dump bed and plow at a cost of \$87,024.80 from LaFontaine Ford Grand Blanc using MiDeal pricing; and

WHEREAS, a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) in the amount of \$93,000 was approved for the purchase of utility equipment in the 2025 Zoo budget; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are available in Zoo line item #25869900 978010 2502Z to cover the full cost of \$87,024.80 for the purchase of a 2026 Ford dump truck F-550, dump bed and plow.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes a purchase order to LaFontaine Ford Grand Blanc for the purchase of a Ford truck F-550 and associated implements in an amount not to exceed \$87,024.80.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Chairperson is authorized to sign any necessary documents consistent with this resolution after approval as to form by the County Attorney.



# LAFONTAINE

## FORD GRAND BLANC

2229 W HILL RD, FLINT, MI 48507

BUYER	CO-BUYER	Deal #:	33181
INGHAM COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION		<b>Deal Type:</b>	Retail
	MI	<b>Deal Date:</b>	05/06/2026
<b>Work #:</b>		<b>Print Time:</b>	09:18am
<b>Email:</b> kmartin@lafontaine.com		<b>Salesperson:</b>	CHRISTOPHER A BADOUR

VEHICLE				
<b>New</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stock #:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>VIN:</b>	<b>Mileage:</b>
<b>Used</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	26ZC0044	2026 FORD TRUCK S-DTY F-550	1FDF5HN9TDA05907	
<b>Demo</b> <input type="checkbox"/>				

TRADE	

AFTERMARKETS			
DUMP BODY	\$ 15,192.80	<b>Sale Price:</b>	\$ 63,167.00
WESTERN 8'6" MVP PLUS PLOW	\$ 9,370.00	Total Financed Aftermarkets:	\$ 24,562.80
		Total Trade Allowance:	\$ 0.00
		<b>Trade Difference:</b>	<b>\$ 87,729.80</b>
		Documentation Fee	\$ 280.00
		State & Local Taxes:	\$ 0.00
		Total License and Fees:	\$ 15.00
		<b>Total Cash Price:</b>	<b>\$ 88,024.80</b>
		Total Trade Payoff:	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Aftermarkets:</b>	<b>\$ 24,562.80</b>	<b>Delivered Price:</b>	<b>\$ 88,024.80</b>
		Cash Down Payment + Deposit:	\$ 0.00
		Total Rebates:	\$ 1,000.00
		<b>Sub Total:</b>	<b>\$ 87,024.80</b>
		Service Agreement:	\$ 0.00
		Maintenance Agreement:	\$ 0.00
		GAP Insurance:	\$ 0.00
		Credit Life, Accident & Health:	\$ 0.00
		Other:	\$ 0.00
		<b>Amount Financed:</b>	<b>\$ 87,024.80</b>
Rate:			
Amount Financed:	\$ 87,024.80		

Legal Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is an estimate only and will vary based on your personal credit score and available financing options. The estimate contained herein is calculated using LaFontaine's customer average APR and nothing in this document is legally binding on either party.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
GUEST

X \_\_\_\_\_  
LAFONTAINE

**Potter Park Zoo Advisory Board  
Meeting of June 10, 2026**

Motion to support a Resolution authorizing the purchase of a Ford Dump Truck.

MOVED BY

SUPPORTED BY

To recommend forwarding the attached resolution to the Board of Commissioners which was supported by the Potter Park Zoo Advisory Board with the passage of this motion.

**POTTER PARK ZOO**  
**YEAR TO DATE BUDGET/ACTUAL REPORT**  
**FOR 1 MONTH ENDING MAY 31, 2026**

	MAY 2026 YTD				MAY 2025 YTD	% DIFF LAST
	2026 BUDGET	ACTUAL - PRELIMINARY	BUDGET REMAINING	% OF BUDGET		
<b>REVENUES</b>						
PROPERTY TAX	\$ 4,954,707	\$ 4,998,494	\$ (43,787)	100.88%	\$ 4,732,056	5.63%
UNALLOCATED PORTION OF TAXES (8 MONTHS)	\$ -	\$ (2,915,788)	\$ -	0.00%	\$ (2,760,366)	5.63%
ADMISSIONS	\$ 785,000	\$ 283,515	\$ 501,485	36.12%	\$ 288,814	-1.83%
CONCESSIONS, GIFT SHOP, VENDING	\$ 851,000	\$ 275,015	\$ 575,985	32.32%	\$ 309,425	-11.12%
PARKING FEES	\$ 180,000	\$ 79,107	\$ 100,893	43.95%	\$ 61,239	29.18%
INTERACTIVE SITES	\$ 95,000	\$ -	\$ 95,000	0.00%	\$ 12,856	-100.00%
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 50,000	\$ 33,546	\$ 16,454	67.09%	\$ 36,026	-6.88%
OTHER REVENUES	\$ (276,750)	\$ 114,635	\$ (391,385)	-41.42%	\$ 119,241	-3.86%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 6,638,957</b>	<b>\$ 2,868,525</b>	<b>\$ 854,644</b>	<b>43.21%</b>	<b>\$ 2,799,291</b>	<b>2.47%</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
<b>PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>						
Salaries & Wages - Full Time	\$ 2,192,423	\$ 798,262	\$ 1,394,161	36.41%	\$ 735,743	8.50%
Salaries & Wages - Seasonal	\$ 825,284	\$ 308,183	\$ 517,101	37.34%	\$ 304,897	1.08%
Benefits	\$ 1,197,705	\$ 463,695	\$ 734,010	38.72%	\$ 438,102	5.84%
<b>Total Personnel Services</b>	<b>\$ 4,215,412</b>	<b>\$ 1,570,140</b>	<b>\$ 2,645,272</b>	<b>37.25%</b>	<b>\$ 1,478,742</b>	<b>6.18%</b>
<b>CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURES</b>						
Supplies	\$ 520,049	\$ 156,700	\$ 363,349	30.13%	\$ 240,160	-34.75%
Animal Care	\$ 322,000	\$ 118,199	\$ 203,801	36.71%	\$ 89,150	32.58%
Purchased Services	\$ 725,951	\$ 325,147	\$ 400,804	44.79%	\$ 251,268	29.40%
Utilities - Telephone	\$ 23,125	\$ 9,544	\$ 13,581	41.27%	\$ 7,915	20.58%
Rentals & Leases	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,830	\$ 2,170	63.83%	\$ 5,350	-28.41%
Other Expenses	\$ 146,400	\$ 71,780	\$ 74,620	49.03%	\$ 65,381	9.79%
<b>Total Controllable Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 1,743,525</b>	<b>\$ 685,200</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,325</b>	<b>39.30%</b>	<b>\$ 659,223</b>	<b>3.94%</b>
<b>NON-CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURES</b>						
Utilities	\$ 250,000	\$ 132,130	\$ 117,870	52.85%	\$ 96,473	36.96%
Insurance	\$ 90,000	\$ 56,954	\$ 33,046	63.28%	\$ 56,509	0.79%
IT Support Expense	\$ 237,345	\$ 104,293	\$ 133,052	43.94%	\$ 95,774	8.89%
Other Expenses	\$ 586	\$ 293	\$ 293	50.02%	\$ 293	0.00%
<b>Total Non-Controllable Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 577,931</b>	<b>\$ 293,670</b>	<b>\$ 284,261</b>	<b>50.81%</b>	<b>\$ 249,049</b>	<b>17.92%</b>
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>						
Capital Improvements	\$ -	\$ 55,093	\$ (55,093)	#DIV/0!	\$ -	#DIV/0!
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 6,536,868</b>	<b>\$ 2,604,103</b>	<b>\$ 3,932,765</b>	<b>39.84%</b>	<b>\$ 2,387,013</b>	<b>9.09%</b>
<b>TOTAL CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 102,089</b>	<b>\$ 264,421</b>			<b>\$ 412,277</b>	
<b>FUND BALANCE AS OF 01/01/26 (preliminary)</b>						
NON-SPENDABLE		\$ 197,758				
UNRESTRICTED		\$ 892,513				
		<u>\$ 1,090,271</u>				
<b>FUND BALANCE AS OF 05/31/2026</b>		\$ 1,354,692				
<b>FUND BALANCE AS OF 05/31/2026</b>						
UNSPENDABLE		\$ 197,758				
UNRESTRICTED		\$ 1,156,934				
		<u>\$ 1,354,692</u>				

NOTE: The Fund balance beginning balance is based on figures posted in the 2024 Ingham County Audit.

**POTTER PARK ZOO  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS OF MAY 31, 2026**

**ASSETS**

CASH	\$ 3,461,589
DEPOSITORY CASH	254,221
IMPREST CASH	8,000
TAXES REC - CURRENT LEVY	276,194
IFT TAX RECEIVABLE	-
TAXES REC - DELINQUENT	46,241
ESTIMATED UNCOLLECTIBLE DELINQUENT TAXES	(20,805)
ACCOUNTS REC-OTHER	-
PROPERTY TAX RECEIVABLE	-
INTEREST RECEIVABLE	4,313
DUE FROM STATE	-
DUE FROM OTHER FUNDS	-
INVENTORY	197,758
INVESTMENT YIELD ADJUSTMENT	(4,185)
PREPAID EXPENSES	-

**TOTAL ASSETS**

<u>\$ 4,223,325</u>
---------------------

**LIABILITIES**

VOUCHERS PAYABLE	24,830
DUE TO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY	74,126
TAX LEVY LIABILITY	29,600
SALES TAX PAYABLE	38,606
REFUND NOW	-
REFUND APPLY	-
ACCRUED PAYROLL	-
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	-
DEFERRED REVENUE - DELINQUENT TAXES	25,437
DEFERRED REVENUE - PROPERTY TAXES	-
DEF REVENUE -POTTER PARK	17,778

**TOTAL LIABILITIES**

<u>210,377</u>
----------------

**FUND BALANCE**

UNSPENDABLE	197,758
UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	3,850,645
	<u>4,048,403</u>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

<u>\$ 4,258,780</u>
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**POTTER PARK ZOO  
MONTHLY ATTENDANCE REPORT  
FOR MONTH AND YTD APRIL 30, 2026**

ADMISSION TYPE	2024	2025	2026 Gate	2026 Online	2026 Total	BETTER (WORSE) THAN PY	2024 COUNT	2025 COUNT	2026 COUNT	BETTER (WORSE) THAN PY
<b>GENERAL</b>										
CHILD RESIDENT	999	829	519	0	519	(310)	1,929	1,500	1,316	(184)
CHILD NON-RESIDENT	1,016	1,047	770	0	770	(277)	2,386	2,015	1,851	(164)
CHILDREN - UNDER 3	953	1,131	423	0	423	(708)	1,902	1,812	1,383	(429)
ADULT RESIDENT	3,234	2,743	2,092	0	2,092	(651)	6,215	5,047	4,601	(446)
ADULT NON-RESIDENT	2,377	2,371	2,384	0	2,384	13	5,775	4,787	5,083	296
SENIOR/MILITARY RESIDENT	297	291	177	0	177	(114)	420	341	279	(62)
SENIOR/MILITARY NON-RESIDENT	306	318	201	0	201	(117)	457	352	276	(76)
GROUPS	939	1,854	1,831	0	1,831	(23)	1,158	2,015	2,206	191
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>10,121</b>	<b>10,584</b>	<b>8,397</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,397</b>	<b>(2,187)</b>	<b>20,242</b>	<b>17,869</b>	<b>16,995</b>	<b>(874)</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIPS/PROGRAMS</b>										
PPZ MEMBERS/RECIPROCAL	2,837	3,108	1,826	0	1,826	(1,282)	6,539	6,078	4,796	(1,282)
SOCIETY PROGRAMMING/EVENTS	2,392	2,313	1,758	0	1,758	555	3,461	3,575	2,644	(931)
MONDAY PROGRAM	802	660	339	0	339	(321)	1,705	965	1,338	373
ZIYN	548	509	408	0	408	(101)	1,153	962	1,118	156
OTHER (non-paying)	501	2,565	145	0	145	(2,420)	996	2,588	255	(2,333)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>7,080</b>	<b>9,155</b>	<b>4,476</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,476</b>	<b>(4,679)</b>	<b>13,854</b>	<b>14,168</b>	<b>10,151</b>	<b>(4,017)</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>17,201</b>	<b>19,739</b>	<b>12,873</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,873</b>	<b>(6,866)</b>	<b>34,096</b>	<b>32,037</b>	<b>27,146</b>	<b>(4,891)</b>
Wild Wanderers	0	313	137		0	(176)	0	313	137	(176)

ADMISSION TYPE	DESCRIPTION
CHILDREN RESIDENT	Children, Ingham County ages 3-16 (\$5 April - October, \$3 November-March)
CHILDREN NON-RESIDENT	Children, Out of Ingham County ages 3-16 (\$5 April - October, \$3 November-March)
CHILDREN - UNDER 3	All Children, any county under age 3 (Free)
ADULT RESIDENT	Adult of Ingham County ( \$7 April 1 - Oct. 31, \$4 November-March)
ADULT NON-RESIDENT	Adult Out of Ingham County ( \$13 April 1 - Oct. 31, \$4 November-March)
SENIOR/MILITARY RESIDENT	Seniors/Military of Ingham County ( \$5 April 1 - Oct. 31, \$4 November-March)
SENIOR/MILITARY NON-RESIDENT	Seniors/Military of Ingham County ( \$11 April 1 - Oct. 31, \$4 November-March)
PPZ MEMBERS	Visitors holding membership at PPZ - one time payment
SPECIAL EVENTS - PPZ	Admission included in event fee
SPECIAL EVENTS - COUNTY	Admission included in event fee
RECIPROCAL ZOO MEMBERS	Reciprocal Zoo memberships (Discount varies)
RECIPROCAL ZOO MEMBERS (100%)	Reciprocal Zoo Members (Free admission)
GROUPS	20 or more guests paying together (\$1 off per person)
MONDAY PROGRAM	Ingham County and City of Lansing Residents free 9-12 PM on non-holiday Mondays
OTHER (non-paying)	Any coupon related attendee



**POTTER PARK ZOO  
MONTHLY PARKING REPORT  
FOR MONTH AND YTD ENDING APRIL 30, 2026**

ADMISSION TYPE								
	2024	2025	2026	BETTER (WORSE) THAN PY	2024	2025	2026	BETTER (WORSE) THAN PY
ANNUAL RESIDENT PASS	104	82	72	(10)	104	82	72	(10)
ANNUAL NON-RESIDENT PASS	20	9	12	3	20	9	12	3
PPZ MEMBER DELUXE/PREMIUM	452	477	270	(207)	452	477	270	(207)
DAILY RESIDENT PARKING	2,356	1,968	1,518	(450)	2,356	1,968	1,518	(450)
DAILY NON-RESIDENT PARKING	2,035	1,679	1,163	(516)	2,035	1,679	1,163	(516)
EVENTS	133	217	83	(134)	133	217	83	(134)
ANNUAL PASS RESIDENT ENTRY	1	201	72	(129)	1	201	72	(129)
ANNUAL PASS NON-RESIDENT ENTRY	0	15	12	(3)	0	15	12	(3)
WAIVED ANNUAL PASS	21	21	8	(13)	21	21	8	(13)
OTHER (non-paying)	22	2	382	380	22	2	382	380
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,129</b>	<b>4,671</b>	<b>3,592</b>	<b>(1,079)</b>	<b>5,129</b>	<b>4,671</b>	<b>3,592</b>	<b>(1,079)</b>

ADMISSION TYPE	
ANNUAL RESIDENT PASS	
ANNUAL NON-RESIDENT PASS	
RESIDENT DAILY PASS	
NON-RESIDENT DAILY PASS	

**POTTER PARK ZOO  
MONTHLY PARKING REPORT  
FOR MONTH AND YTD ENDING MAY 31, 2026**

ADMISSION TYPE								
	2024	2025	2026	BETTER (WORSE) THAN PY	2024	2025	2026	BETTER (WORSE) THAN PY
ANNUAL RESIDENT PASS	80	58	70	12	184	140	142	2
ANNUAL NON-RESIDENT PASS	12	9	11	2	32	18	23	5
PPZ MEMBER DELUXE/PREMIUM	569	592	582	(10)	1,021	1,069	852	(217)
DAILY RESIDENT PARKING	4,197	3,476	3,449	(27)	6,553	5,444	4,967	(477)
DAILY NON-RESIDENT PARKING	6,267	5,776	4,832	(944)	8,302	7,455	5,995	(1,460)
EVENTS	23	238	0	(238)	156	455	83	(372)
ANNUAL PASS RESIDENT ENTRY	381	252	321	69	382	453	393	(60)
ANNUAL PASS NON-RESIDENT ENTRY	23	19	23	4	24	34	35	1
WAIVED ANNUAL PASS	7	14	11	(3)	28	35	19	(16)
OTHER (non-paying)	216	85	173	88	238	87	555	468
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,799</b>	<b>10,519</b>	<b>9,472</b>	<b>(1,047)</b>	<b>16,920</b>	<b>15,190</b>	<b>13,064</b>	<b>(2,126)</b>

ADMISSION TYPE	
ANNUAL RESIDENT PASS	
ANNUAL NON-RESIDENT PASS	
RESIDENT DAILY PASS	
NON-RESIDENT DAILY PASS	



## Director's Report June 10, 2026

### Staff



Zookeepers Delanie and Paige participated in the 17th annual Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake survey through the Eastern Massasauga SAFE Program alongside researchers and conservation partners.

Eastern Massasaugas are Michigan's only venomous snake and play an important role in healthy ecosystems throughout the Great Lakes region.

This year's survey documented 76 Eastern Massasauga rattlesnakes which was the fourth-highest total recorded in the survey's history!

Potter Park Zoo hosted the Michigan Maintenance Workshop in May. The event brought together maintenance and facilities professionals from across the state, including teams from the John Ball Zoo, for a great opportunity to learn, collaborate, and share ideas.

A delicious and nutritious trail mix bar was offered to staff in May for Mental Health Awareness month. It was a big hit across the zoo and greatly appreciated by the team.

### Public Safety

Our Public Safety team applied mosquito dunks and will continue treatments twice a month throughout the summer to help keep biting pests under control.

A venomous bite drill was conducted on May 17<sup>th</sup> and involved a "Timber rattlesnake".

Building inspections were completed in April.

A meeting was held with a representative from LPD to discuss several of the zoo's safety protocols including Bomb Threat, Act of Violence and Escaped Animal. "Go Bags" are being made up in case of emergencies requiring LPD response. The bags will contain a keycard, map of the zoo and a emergency contact phone list.

## Guest Services

The RecTrac system was upgraded in May. Online ticketing is back up and running on our website. Credit card processing was also transitioned to a new processing company.



A new outdoor gift shop cart near the Welcome Center was launched this season!

The cart gives guests another convenient place to shop during busy times while also featuring a few exclusive items only available at the cart. It's also a great way to introduce guests to the AniMall experience as soon as they arrive and help drive additional sales throughout the day.



The Michigan Education Trust Big Chair returned to the zoo for the season! This fan-favorite photo opportunity can once again be found near the

Eurasian eagle owl habitat.

We are happy to announce that the StoryWalk out in the park has been repaired, updated and a new story is available for families to read as they walk the trail.



## Conservation Engagement

Arbor Day (9 classes/296 participants) and Earth Day (511 participants) events were a success! Activities were fun,



educational, and truly impactful for our guests. These engaging events reach far beyond the zoo helping shape how people think about our planet, conservation, and their role in protecting it.



The salmon release was also a huge success, with over 400 students participating and more than 1,000 salmon released into the Red Cedar River. This program continues to be a great way to educate and inspire our community while making a real impact in our local environment.

## WILD School Wraps Up a Year of Impactful Learning and Discovery – 2025/2026

- 937 Students
- 42 classes
- 9 school districts (Diocese of Lansing, East Lansing, Eaton Rapids, Lansing, Holt, Mason, Fowler, St. Johns, Waverly)
- 3 counties (Eaton, Ingham, Clinton)
- 21 \$600 grant recipients

Grant recipients report number of parents and community members 445 students, 190 parents, 26 community members, and 26 additional school staff

One of the most rewarding parts of the year is hearing how these experiences continue to impact students long after they leave the zoo. A first-year WILD School teacher shared these reflections:

*“I noticed a meaningful growth in students’ sense of responsibility and awareness regarding conservation and the role of zoos. Early in the week, students primarily viewed the zoo as a place of entertainment. By the end, many had a more informed perspective, recognizing that zoos play an important role in protecting endangered species, supporting conservation efforts, and educating the public.”*

And this powerful reflection:

*“WILD School was a powerful experience that fostered curiosity, deepened understanding, and encouraged personal and social growth. The combination of hands-on learning, real-world observation, and meaningful discussion created lasting impressions that will likely stay with students well beyond the week.”*

These reflections are a wonderful reminder that what we do together makes a difference far beyond a single visit.

We teamed up with the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium and Wild Toledo to bring native plants straight to gardens to support pollinators, strengthen local ecosystems, and help wildlife thrive right here in Michigan. 🐝



The last day for the Eaton RESA 2026/2026 school year was June 3. Both classes for the 2026/2027 school year are full with a waitlist. The 2025/2026 class completed the following certifications:

<b>Certificate</b>	<b># of Students Who Completed</b>
Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Certification	25
Pet Emergency Education Pet First Aid/CPR Certification	25
Project WILD Educator Certificate	18
San Diego Wildlife Alliance Academy: Fundamentals of Animal Care Professional Certificate	16



There were over 1,000 attendees for this year's free Night at the Living Museum event.

The Zoo Teens' first day was June 1. They will be assisting with the Contact Yard, Zookmabi Summer Camp, engaging with guests at Conservation Stations, helping with events, and learning from the zookeepers.

There are 86 registered Zoo Teens this season!

Our family evening event is back! The first Twilight Adventures will be Friday, June 5 from 6 - 9 p.m. Guests will have the opportunity to explore the zoo after hours with a scavenger hunt, learn from Conservation Stations, play games in the campground, and make S'mores at the firepit.



Join us at the zoo for a special story time with author Carter Hamric! Enjoy an interactive singalong as Carter plays guitar and leads guests in singing the song from his book, *Big Ole' Day at the Zoo*. A fun and musical experience for young readers and families!

Author Carter will be at the Zoo before and after the singalong with books and merchandise to purchase.

June 13, 2026  
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
\*Included with admission

## Events



After months of planning and collaboration the very first Zoo Clues event was launched at Potter Park Zoo!

With great weather and an awesome crowd, we welcomed just under 250 guests for an evening filled with puzzles, adventure, and fun throughout the zoo. It was wonderful seeing guests embrace the experience, solve clues, and enjoy a brand-new type of after-hours event at the zoo. We're excited to build on this momentum as we look ahead to next month's Zoo Clues event!

## Volunteer Program

The Glassen Scholars spent a meaningful day at the zoo, beginning with a behind-the-scenes tour before heading out to the pollinator garden for two hours of hands-on service. The group helped prepare the space for its June re-planting while learning about the important role pollinator gardens play in supporting wildlife and improving stormwater drainage..



We welcomed multiple volunteer groups in April and May to help prepare the zoo for the summer season. In May, we had 66 volunteers donate 1,013 hours of their time to helping



forward our mission through Conservation Education Stations, Zoo Tours, community outreaches, gardening and events. Our Conservation Education Activities engaged with 10,549 guests as well in May.

Home Depot completed a 4 hour work day on June 4<sup>th</sup> to help spruce up the old amphitheater area that is now the Nature Nook. They also donated supplies including sunshades and sealer for fences.

## Memberships

During the month of May we were an average 6,822 members strong, representing 3,614 households.

## Animal Care



Mini donkeys Manny and Sid have officially completed quarantine and can now be seen in the farmyard across from the contact yard! Be sure to stop by and say hello during your next visit to the zoo.

Manny the mini donkey underwent a desmotomy last week in the Animal Health Facility, a procedure that involves cutting a ligament to relieve tension and improve mobility. He is recovering well, and guests were able to watch the procedure live, offering a unique look at veterinary care at the zoo.



A new Cape porcupine has arrived and is in quarantine. His name is Bomani and he will be introduced to the female once out of quarantine.

We are receiving two young goats on June 5.



Meatloaf, our broad-winged hawk, was moved to a new enclosure last week located near the Dexter cattle. He's settling in well and will be enjoying this space throughout the summer.

Last week, work was completed on a new emerald tree boa habitat in the Feline & Primate Building, located in the former northern tree shrew space.



Our cattle have officially settled into their new home in the former camel ride area! With camel rides not operating this year, the space has been transformed into



a fresh new habitat and Fresca and Fontina love it! They've been enjoying the extra room to roam and, of course, munching on plenty of fresh grass. Thank you to the maintenance team for their work on this!

We notched our Blanding's turtle hatchlings recently, giving each one a unique identification. Notching is a process where small marks are made along the edge of the shell to create a unique numeric code for each turtle. It's safe, does not harm the turtle, and provides a way to identify individuals over time, even after release.



## Communications

- All three billboards are up for the summer.
- Many signs have been replaced throughout the zoo including the entry plaza signs and A frame signage.
- The annual report is complete, printed and on the website.
- We welcomed our new design intern last week. Maria, a graphic design major transferring to MSU, will be joining us for the summer.
- We are planning to announce the annual photo contest in June. The goal is to wrap up submissions in time to have the 2027 calendars printed and ready for sale during Boo at the Zoo.
- National Zookeeper Week is coming up in July and we will be creating content to highlight the role of zookeepers.



## **WILD School teacher reflections from the January 2026 – April 2026**

*"I noticed a meaningful growth in students' sense of responsibility and awareness regarding conservation and the role of zoos. Early in the week, students primarily viewed the zoo as a place of entertainment. By the end, many had a more informed perspective, recognizing that zoos play an important role in protecting endangered species, supporting conservation efforts, and educating the public." Mallory Timm, Greyhound Intermediate, Eaton Rapids*

*"WILD School was a powerful experience that fostered curiosity, deepened understanding, and encouraged personal and social growth. The combination of hands-on learning, real-world observation, and meaningful discussion created lasting impressions that will likely stay with students well beyond the week." Mallory Timm, Greyhound Intermediate, Eaton Rapids*

*"I feel that using Wild School as a culminating educational experience to our district adopted curriculum module, directly affected student engagement and supported overall learning outcomes in a positive way. We also added the "Design your Own Zoo" as our post zoo project. This linked 3rd grade math standards to our already amazing literacy focused Wild School experience. It also extended the lessons about habitat design from our Wild School experience." Amber Halstead, Greyhound Intermediate, Eaton Rapids*

*Wild School was an amazing experience for our 3rd grade students, as well as our teaching team. We were able to stretch and expand our district curriculum and blend standards cross curricularly. As an educator, I am so proud of work that our students put in to this unit and feel so grateful to be a part of such a unique learning opportunity. Thank you Potter Park Zoo Wild School team!"*

*"A highlight for me was the Vet Med Lesson. I loved the use of scientific terminology. I loved that the kids were reading for information and trying to learn the mystery illness of their animals. I appreciated the planning and preparation that took place in order for a lesson like that to happen. I loved that students had tools to try, models to use, and the use of movement throughout the lesson. After completing the lesson, I was inspired to brainstorm ways to create a similar lesson. I have used centers and stations in my classroom before. This was different, though. Each station provided work needed for an end product instead of practicing a skill, like traditional stations or centers. I'm excited to plan for a lesson like this not only in Science, but something in another content area." Sandy Raymer, Attwood New Tech, Lansing*

*"I've noticed a meaningful shift in myself this week. I feel more confident, more connected to others, and more aware of my own strengths. Some highlights were the supportive community, the space to reflect,*

*and the chance to stretch myself in new ways. It all left me feeling encouraged and more grounded moving forward.” Jordan Lewis, Elmwood El, Waverly*

*“A change that I noticed was the increase in connections made in content to the Big Zoo Lesson. In our science unit, we pretend to be conservation biologists and look for ways to help the Tokay gecko. The scenario the students’ study is how the gecko is struggling to survive with the increase in highway lights. Students learn about vision and how amounts of light affect the ability to see. I loved returning to class and having the students discuss animals at the zoo that needed less light (like the bat) and how the habitat was designed to support the bats’ survival.” Sandy Raymer, Atwood New Tech School, Lansing*

*“This is my fifth time at the zoo: First through Big Zoo Lesson and now WILD school. I learn something new every time. I appreciate the time that is given to the lessons, variety of materials, and preparation for students by the staff. I have students from the past who still hold their time at the zoo as one of the most meaningful things that they did in elementary school. I greatly appreciate this opportunity to come back again.” Sandy Raymer, Atwood New Tech, Lansing*

*“The parent chaperones were amazed at some of the student responses. The energy during lesson activities was high for both students and parents. The parents had fun working with students and I loved having the parents there for support! The parents worked well with the students and vice versa. Finally, I enjoyed this experience so much, that I hope to be able to be a part of facilitating something like this in the future. Thank you for allowing us to participate in this Lesson, it was a valuable experience for myself, the students, and the parents. I am hoping to provide this experience to future students in the 4th grade. I heard so many kids say that they were going to come back the next day or in the summer to visit the animals again! I am certain they will have valuable information to share with whomever is with them. What a great response to an enjoyable week!!!” Julie Johnson, Elmwood El, Waverly*

*“I know that my students had so much fun because they keep asking me about our next field trip! I think the WILD School is important on its own, but it is also important because this kind of sustained learning outside of the traditional school environment is crucial to the students development. School can feel on a loop, or stagnant, and the WILD School full five day week shakes that routine right up and out. I think that the behavior of my students was much better during the WILD School week than it would have been if we had not gone to the Zoo during that particular week and stayed at school instead. Participating in the WILD School allowed my students (and myself) to “change the weather”. Sarah Al-Kabour, Elmwood El, Waverly*

# Potter Park Zoo

Your Zoo. Their Future. Our community.

## MILLAGE RENEWAL

Potter Park Zoo has been a place of wonder, learning, and connection for over 100 years. The upcoming millage renewal plays a critical role in keeping the zoo open, accessible, and thriving for generations to come.

**68%**

Of the zoo's operating budget is funded through this millage.

This funding is critical to our ability to stay open and serve our community.

## THE MILLAGE RENEWAL

- ✔ Maintains daily operations, animal care, and community programs.
- ✔ Helps ensure the zoo remains accessible and affordable.
- ✔ The cost for a home with a fair market value of \$200,000 would be \$50 per year.



## WHY THIS MILLAGE IS NECESSARY

- 1 Potter Park Zoo relies on this funding for the majority of its operations.
- 2 We welcome 190,000 + visitors each year, providing unique access to wildlife, education, and conservation.
- 3 Education programs, animal care, and community access depend on stable, local funding.

## GOALS OF THE MILLAGE

### EDUCATE

- Inspire conservation with Wild School, Zookambi, Zoo Teens programming, Zoo Crew and more!

### CONNECT

- Through free programs like Wild Wanderers Club, FALCONERS, and Zoo in Your Neighborhood.

### SUSTAIN

- Achieve our goals of excellent animal welfare, impactful conservation, financial sustainability, and valuing diversity.



# A LASTING IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY

From conservation to education and family fun, Potter Park Zoo is a vital part of our region's quality of life and economy.



## BY THE NUMBERS: A POWERFUL LOCAL IMPACT



**\$23.1  
MILLION**

in annual economic  
impact



**177  
JOBS**

supported and  
sustained



**190,000+  
VISITORS**

each year



**120,000 +  
LOCAL  
VISITORS**

from our region



**33,900 +  
EVENT  
ATTENDEES**

each year

Without the millage, the zoo will face serious challenges, affecting animals, visitors, and our entire community.

## MORE THAN A ZOO. A COMMUNITY TREASURE.

Potter Park Zoo is where memories are made, curiosity is piqued, and a love for nature takes root.



For  
our  
Animals



For  
our  
Community



For  
our  
Future



**Vote  
August 4, 2026**

Learn more about  
Potter Park Zoo  
and our impact on  
the community.

