# El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens

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Cary Westin

March 11, 2024

Dear Friend,

The City of El Paso is excited to announce we are converting the management and oversight of the existing zoo membership program to the Zoo staff. The membership program was previously managed by the El Paso Zoological Society, a private nonprofit corporation.

**Your existing membership is of utmost importance to us, and we want to assure you that it will be seamlessly honored and will continue without any interruption.**

The El Paso Zoological Society has been our valued partner for many years, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Society to re-imagine a strong and beneficial relationship moving forward.

The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens **remain devoted to our mission to celebrate the value of animals and natural resources** and create opportunities for people to rediscover their connection to nature.

In the coming weeks, we are excited to unveil our **enhanced membership benefits** package, designed to provide you with even **greater value and exclusive access** to your beloved Zoo.

You will receive exciting Zoo News, member information, member-only events, member discounts, and a host of other new benefits that will enhance your membership even further.

We sincerely hope you've had the opportunity to **explore the new Penguin Oasis** and meet our **ten new aquatic residents** who originate from four different zoos. Each of the Magellanic Penguins has a unique and charming personality, and some of them have very peculiar names such as Sir Admiral Fancy Pants, also known as The Admiral or AFP. While several of the penguins have some silly names their arrival is part of an **important national conservation effort** overseen by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. We are extremely honored to be able to participate in the conservation efforts of this near threatened species.

We would also like to introduce you to **Taj, our magnificent 8-year-old, 5-thousand-pound Greater One Horned Asian Rhino**. Taj is not only a handsome addition but will soon be part of an active breeding program at the Zoo. Later this year, we look forward to welcoming two female companions for Taj, contributing to the **global effort to increase the population** of Greater One Horn Rhinos.

Exciting developments are also underway within the Zoo, including the renovation of the Galapagos tortoise night holding area, the **groundbreaking for the new Komodo Dragon Exhibit**, and the completion of flooring work in the Nocturnal exhibit and Atrium.

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Additionally, we have planned improvements such as repaving paths, enhancing railings throughout the Zoo, and various smaller projects to include introducing **new animals to enhance your overall Zoo experience**.

We express our **heartfelt gratitude for your continued membership** and support of the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at montisanoj@elpasotexas.gov or call 915.212.2800.

Sincerely,

Joe Montisano

Director, El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens