

LOVE YOUR ZOO EXPANSION EDITION



Lincoln Children's

ZOOtracks



**BIG THINGS COMING
TO LINCOLN IN 2019**



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GIRAFFES

TIGERS

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“We won’t settle, Children’s Zoo will be the nation’s finest.”

William O. Dobler
Editor of *Lincoln Star*, June 1961

Our mission at Lincoln Children’s Zoo is to enrich lives through firsthand interaction with living things. I am told on a regular basis that families love visiting our Zoo because our play and learning opportunities are so unique and plentiful. It has been the foundation of who we are for the past 52 years and will be at the forefront of our planning for the future. As we embark on the adventure of expanding our Zoo, interaction with animals and nature is embedded in every decision we make.

We are excited to announce four new areas of the Zoo that provide amazing opportunities to explore and interact with nature! In our new plaza guests are greeted by red pandas and a peaceful stream where children can create their own water adventure. A giraffe experience like no other in the country sits beyond the stream and plaza. Children and adults will get nose to nose with the world’s tallest mammals and feed them year-round in their indoor and outdoor habitat. After feeding giraffes, children will take a seat in a safari vehicle next to one of the world’s most amazing big cat — tigers! The final stop is the year-round indoor play area where adventure is around every corner and children and adults will climb a tree alongside spider monkeys in a one-of-a-kind experience found only at our Zoo! Along with these world-class additions we are also improving parking, creating a new entrance and introducing a welcome area.

In addition to great hands on learning and up close engagements, Lincoln Children’s Zoo is increasing its commitment to saving species from extinction. All of the animals to be placed in the expanded Zoo are in need of being saved from extinction — vulnerable giraffes, endangered red pandas and critically endangered Sumatran tigers and spider monkeys. Lincoln Children’s Zoo is committed to saving species as well as serving children and our community.

These four new areas will expand our footprint while staying true to what has made us such a special destination for over 52 years. Stay tuned for more exciting announcements and updates on this historic project.

To give to the Love Your Zoo campaign please give me a call at 402.475.6741 or visit LincolnZoo.org.

I’ll see you at the Zoo!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Chapo".

John Chapo | President & CEO



LOVE YOUR ZOO

EXPANDING A DREAM

When Zoo founder Arnott Folsom opened Lincoln Children's Zoo in 1965 he opened the gates to a place where the community could gather, interact with nature and create lifelong memories. Just days after the official opening, Folsom toured members of the community and media around the Zoo grounds. When asked about some of the unfinished areas, he told the group there was much more to be completed in the coming weeks and months but it wouldn't stop there. He went on to say Lincoln Children's Zoo, like nature, would grow and change but should always stay true to the vision of the community founders, which is interaction between people and animals.

Lincoln Children's Zoo is taking the first step toward the largest expansion in its history — an expansion that will stay true to Mr. Folsom's vision and dream. This expansion will create more interaction with animals and more family memories than ever before. This expansion is the result of support and love from the community and the millions of visitors who've made lifelong memories visiting the Zoo.

When the Zoo was in its early planning stages, Mr. Folsom could be seen throughout the community raising awareness and funds and seeking feedback. Newspaper and magazine articles of the time show how much the community supported the project — a theme often repeated in newspaper editorials was how much the citizens of Lincoln loved the idea of a new children's zoo.


As opening day came and went and tens of thousands of Nebraskans visited the Zoo, compliments poured in from business leaders, politicians, parents and children. In 1966, Mrs. Ray Rivett wrote an editorial in the Omaha World Herald commenting "I would like to say how lucky Nebraska is to have such a delightful zoo for children."

Over the past 52 years buildings have come and gone, animals have found new homes and paths have changed, but one thing has remained constant — the interaction between people and living things. That interaction is the foundation of Lincoln Children's Zoo and creates lifelong memories for so many people. It has kept alive

the love the community felt in 1965 when the Zoo opened. It is that connection and love that will build the future of Lincoln Children's Zoo.

The Love Your Zoo campaign begins now. It is a project rooted in the vision of the Zoo's founders — one which will stay true to why Lincoln Children's Zoo is loved by so many. The following pages contain just the beginning of what is to come. Experiences such as feeding a giraffe, climbing next to a monkey and the opportunity to visit the Zoo year-round are only a few of the ways the Love Your Zoo campaign will enrich the lives of millions of Zoo visitors.

Lincoln Children's Zoo isn't just about expanding; it's about growing the love between a community and a zoo. It's about developing a future where children will always have the opportunity to learn firsthand. It's about staying true to what made it so great for over half a century. Most of all, it's about building upon the vision and dream of Arnott Folsom and the other community leaders who understood the importance of connecting families with nature.



“ Our Zoo will have
more contact between
people and animals
than any other zoo
in the world.

— Arnott Folsom,
Zoo Founder
Lincoln Star, 1965 ”





GIRAFFE EXPERIENCE

Giraffes are coming to Lincoln!

During the expansion planning, Zoo staff traveled to other zoos to get ideas about what would be a good fit in Lincoln. While at a zoo in Colorado they noticed an experience that was perfectly in line with firsthand interactions and up-close encounters — giraffe feeding. President & CEO John Chapo immediately thought this would be a perfect addition to Lincoln Children's Zoo.

"I thought to myself, this is who we are as a zoo — it's the ultimate firsthand experience. Children and adults will get nose to nose with a giraffe, hand feed them and get a perspective of how tall and large they are." Chapo said. He added this will be a place where lifelong memories are made and where a picture is worth a thousand words.

The giraffe experience will be the center of the expanded Zoo and feature indoor and outdoor viewing and feeding areas. "We

will be the second zoo in the nation to have both an outside and inside viewing deck built specifically for year-round giraffe feeding," Chapo said. A terraced amphitheater will be located next to the habitat where families can enjoy a snack while watching the giraffes. This stage will also feature shows similar to those currently viewed at the Animal Encounter Stage with a giraffe habitat located as the backdrop.



SPIDER MO

GIRAFFES

COMING



LOVE YOUR ZOO

A cartoon monkey with dark brown fur and a light pink face is jumping joyfully. Its arms are outstretched, and its legs are in mid-air. The background consists of stylized green foliage.

MONKEYS

A large, close-up illustration of a tiger's face. The tiger has orange fur with black stripes and a white muzzle. It has a wide, happy smile and its eyes are closed in a content expression.

TIGERS

IN 2019





PLAY ON THE PLAZA

As soon as guests enter through the gates to the plaza, they will be greeted by animals and beautiful plant life. This is an area where peaceful views are combined with playful encounters. The plaza will also act as a central hub, allowing easy access to giraffes, tigers, spider monkeys and the original Zoo.

“We wanted to create an experience that felt intimate and peaceful but also had many touchpoints and interactive areas,” President & CEO John Chapo said. As soon as guests pass through the gates there will be small areas within the paths where they will find animals as well as flowers, plants and trees. The red pandas will move from their current home in the Zoo to play a more prominent interactive role on the plaza. A new 360 degree view allows the red pandas to meander from habitat to habitat right above guests walking along a path. “Red pandas are one of our guests’ favorite animals and their new home will be special as well as incredibly fun,” said Chapo.

Across from the red panda habitat will be the start of Zoo’s new stream. This water feature will create a tranquil ambiance for the plaza as well as provide a fun, interactive area for children. The shallow stream will be about an inch deep and have openings where children can play and create. “Children love interactive water areas and the stream provides a natural setting to explore and learn,” Chapo said.

At the end point of the stream will be a beautiful sandhill cranes art piece created by Lincoln’s own Cliff Hollestelle. The sculpture features the iconic sandhill cranes flying through Nebraska prairie grass and surrounded by vegetation and water. “We are very proud to have such an amazing piece of local artwork located centrally in the Zoo,” Chapo said.

The plaza includes an information area where animal show times and other happenings at the Zoo will be displayed. It also includes a map and provide a central location where guests can easily travel to any part of the Zoo.



INDOOR ADVENTURE



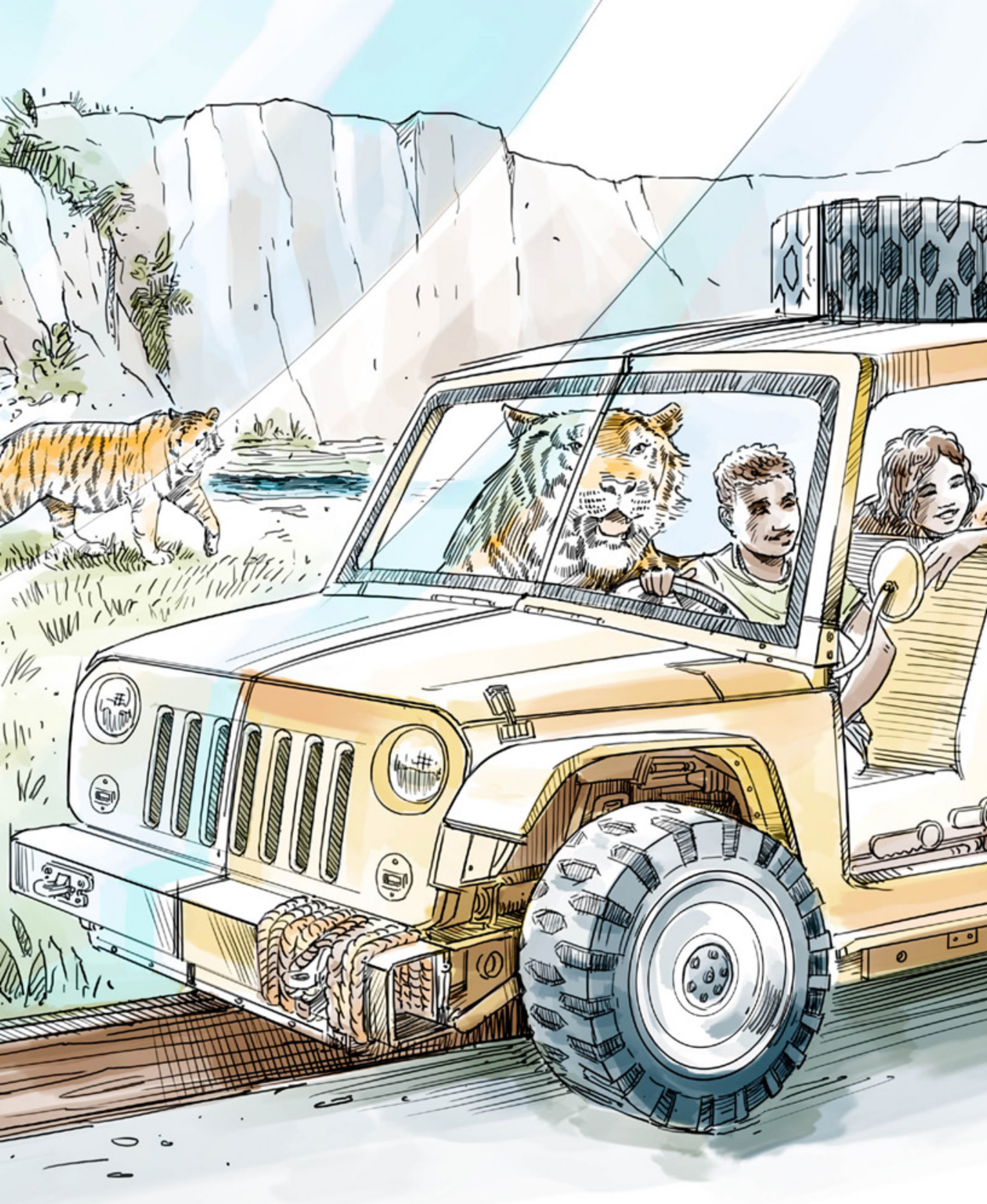
For years, Lincoln families have wished the Zoo was open on year-round. While planning the expansion, the Zoo made that wish a priority. Multiple areas will now cater to guests visiting in the winter months with the new indoor animal and play area. This area, located in the historic zoo building, is home to animal encounters and fun educational activities. The Zoo wanted to create an experience where children of all ages could explore, learn and interact with nature.

The center of the building features what may be one of the most exciting places in the Zoo — a climbing structure that will share a space with spider monkeys. The climber resembles a treehouse where children and adults can climb to different heights and look throughout the building as well as crawl through tunnels that will go inside the spider monkey habitat. “You can crawl through a tunnel and next to you or above you is an actual spider monkey,” President & CEO John Chapo said.

The tree climber is being created for children of all ages, including adults. “We want our Zoo experience to be for the entire family,” Chapo said. There will be lookout points closer to the ground for younger children and ones higher up for older children to explore. The plans also include a slide and other playful experiences.

The building is home to an animal encounter area similar to Critter Outpost and The Hive currently in the Zoo. “We get so many positive comments about those two hands on spots that we knew we needed to create another in this new indoor area,” Chapo said. The animal encounter area is also a new location for Zoo Crew, the popular youth volunteer program.

The building also houses areas for educational programs such as camps and toddler activities as well as space for birthday parties and private rentals.



TIGER ENCOUNTER

Lincoln Children's Zoo's snow leopards, Everest and Ranney, have been guest favorites since their arrival at the Zoo in 2015. The expansion creates space for another critically endangered big cat — tigers. "We want a big cat experience so amazing that people walk away with having a wow moment," President & CEO John Chapo said. That "wow" moment will come in the form of a tiger encounter and habitat area that allows guests to get a firsthand look at these amazing animals.

The tiger habitat features several viewing and encounter points, an expansive area of rockwork for the tigers to roam and a water feature where they can play. An indoor habitat that features zookeeper training space and behind-the-scenes experiences is also planned.

In one of the viewing areas, children can sit in the driver's seat of a safari vehicle next to a tiger. The vehicle, divided in half by a large piece of glass, provides space for a tiger and guest to sit side by side. "This will become one of the most photographed areas in the Zoo," Chapo said.

Also located here is a zookeeper training area. Guests can watch zookeepers work with these incredible big cats tigers during daily health checks and other training exercises to see them up-close in action. "Just feet away you will see how amazing these critically endangered animals are," Chapo said.

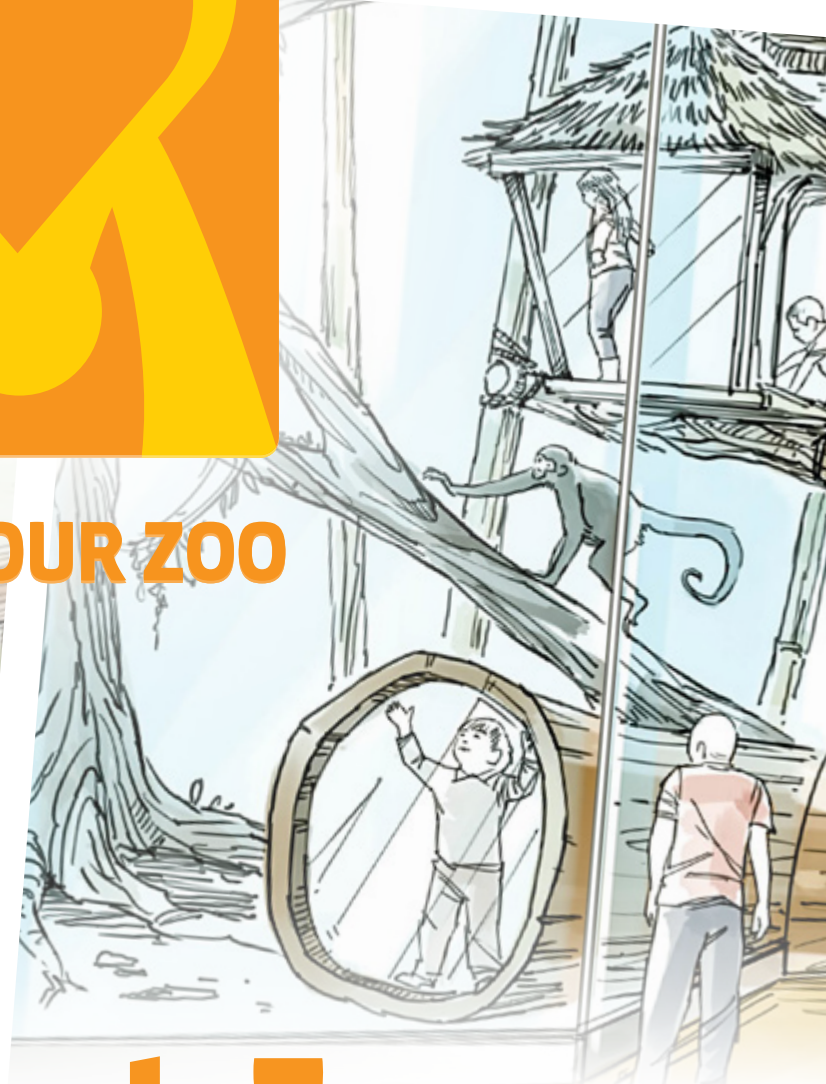




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