Community Impact Report

Saginaw's Children's Zoo

Magical things happen in Saginaw each year on 10 acres of tree-filled park land, home to 100 animals, colorful gardens, a miniature train, and the region's only hand-carved carousel.

Despite 2020 challenges, we continued to work toward our mission, to be champions for animals and children, creating extraordinary experiences for all.

The Zoo amidst a Pandemic & Government Restrictions

The Zoo opened the 2020 season a little later than normal, in June. Extra precautions were put into place to keep our visitors safe including:

- Extra cleaning
- Required masks for employees
- Plexiglass barriers where there were guest interactions
- Extra barriers in high touch areas
- Signage placed around the Zoo reminding visitors to keep a healthy six feet apart

Unfortunately, we were unable to operate our rides throughout the season. Our Zoo store moved outside to ease customer shopping. Our gift shop also had masks available for visitors to purchase. We eliminated paper maps reducing our carbon footprint as well!) and placed more maps around the Zoo to help guide visitors. Educational amphitheater shows were a hit with extra sanitizing and social distancing. With these added safety precautions, we were comfortable opening to the public and continue to provide a safe place for those who need it most, the children in our community.

Zoo Boo Reimagined

Thousands of families visit the Zoo for Zoo Boo, a merry-not-so-scary Halloween party with a mix of activities, shows, costumes, and animal friends. In 2020 Zoo Boo was reimagined due to the pandemic, but provided an affordable family event with costumes, goodie bags, at-home activities, music, and everyone's favorite animals. This successful event brought in over 6,000 visitors giving some normalcy to our ever-changing days.

It's a Wild World

Every year the Zoo brings new animals and 2020 was no exception. Even amid the pandemic, the dedication to the health of our animals was top of mind. In January 2020, we welcomed Dr. Shannon Cerveny to the team as our veterinarian.

The Zoo soared to new heights with our new birds including a blue faced honey eater, an Inca jay, colorful sun conures, a ring-necked dove, and Timor zebra finches.

Behind-the-scenes animals are always growing, these ambassador animals can be viewed at our daily amphitheater shows and various other Zoo programs. In 2020 the Zoo welcomed, Asian giant toads, Guinea pigs, and a New Caledonian giant gecko.

Rainforest Wonderland

This space has been completely maximized for viewing several different species sharing one home. In this habitat you can find beautiful red-footed tortoises, cotton-top tamarins, Hoffman's two-toed sloth, masked bobwhites, and green jays. This vibrant exhibit has something to peak every Zoo visitor's interest.

Growing Gardens

Did you know the Zoo has almost as many gorgeous gardens as we have animals? On your trip to the Zoo you may find many different themed gardens and decorated for the holidays. We are so thankful to our community for their dedication to making the Zoo look unique and full of beauty every year.

AZA Accredidation

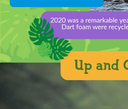
We are just one of six Zoos and Aquariums in the state to be accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA): a distinction for meeting the highest standards in animal care and wildlife conservation all while providing fun, safe, and educational family experiences.

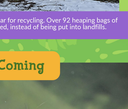
Impacting the World Around Us

Yearly the Zoo participates in conservation projects that reach far outside the community. In 2020 our conservation projects included participating in Sandhill Crane counting in our Shiawassee refuge, as well as invasive species management in the Zoo's own backyard, the Zoo Trail.

Many of our traditional conservation projects were paused due to the pandemic, and our conservation work became more focused locally.

Dart Foam





2020 was a remarkable year for recycling. Over 92 heaping bags of Dart foam were recycled, instead of being put into landfills.

Up and Coming

The Zoo has made a promise to bring new and noteworthy changes and updates every year. 2021 holds no exception. You can look forward to fun visitor focused and education centered additions that will have you coming back to the Zoo time and time again.

Your Support Makes an Impact

Covid-19 changed our year in 2020, but we are still focused on the growth of the Zoo, and providing a safe place for our children.
Whether you are a member, visitor, volunteer, conservation helper, community partner, donor, seasonal employee, or tax payer, ... we **THANK YOU** for your continued support. Together, we can accomplish great things as we continue on the journey of fulfilling our vision, to become **the best little Zoo in Michigan**!

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