



We'd like to hear from you
your feedback is important!
www.blankparkzoo.com/survey



IOWA'S WILDEST ADVENTURE

Blank Park Zoo Foundation

7401 SW 9th Street | Des Moines, IA 50315

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DES MOINES, IA
PERMIT NO. 5754

Events

Family Friday Night

This summer, you and your family can spend Friday evenings exploring the Zool. Every Friday, June through August, we will extend our hours until 8 p.m. with various activities beginning at 5 p.m. Enjoy family-friendly music, craft activities, keeper chats, and of course, all the animals of the Blank Park Zoo!



Zoo Brew

Spend your summer evenings with music, food, drinks and Blank Park Zoo animals at Zoo Brew. This summer, join us every Wednesday in June & July at 5:30 p.m. for Zoo Brew. Remember, you must be 21+ to attend Zoo Brew.

For more information on these and other events, check out www.blankparkzoo.com today!

Zoo Tracks

Wild and Winged

"When you have seen one ant, one bird, one tree, you have not seen them all." -E.O. Wilson



Birds...whether small or large, colored yellow or red, found on the ground, in the water or among the trees, the Blank Park Zoo has them. The 2010 summer season brings with it a multitude of opportunities to see, learn, experience, and even feed Blank Park Zoo's birds!

Enter the Zoo's new aviary and meet over 250 parakeets in our new **Parakeet Feeding Experience**. They will flock to your hand and eat a special meal right from a stick. This experience is available at many of the most popular zoos across the United States and will be opening at Blank Park Zoo Memorial Day weekend. A special thanks to Midwest Landscaping for helping make our new exhibit possible.

How about an encore! **The Birdman** wowed thousands last summer with his feathered friends so we invited him back! This year watch as he educates and entertains with awesome birds of Australia. Shows start July 3rd and run through August 15th.

continued on page two

inside

Bring a Friend Coupon
Coins for Conservation
Supporter Snapshot

Blank Park Zoo Gives Back
What can you do for the Zoo?
New to the Zoo



Wild and Winged

continued from page one

Did you know that an **Ostrich** does not like to stick its head into a pile of sand to hide? The ostrich is a large, flightless bird native to Africa. It is distinctive in its appearance, with a long neck and legs and the ability to run up to 45 mph, the top land speed of any bird. The ostrich is the largest species of and lays the largest egg of any living bird. Living in groups as large as 50, this 'Big Bird' and eight of its closest friends have stopped by Blank Park Zoo for the summer.

'How many species of birds exist?' is a question that bird keepers are asked frequently. The answer is, "there are an estimated 10,000 bird species – so many variations that one exact number does not exist". Chad Comer, a Blank Park Zoo Animal Curator, is fascinated by birds. He explains that having "worked with so many species from around the world has given [him] a greater understanding of the complex and unique dynamic each bird brings to every situation." We invite you to join the Zoo this summer to meet a few of our newest bird species and discover the fascination for yourself!

Coins for Conservation

Coins for Conservation is an exciting initiative that will greatly enhance our wildlife conservation work. By collecting coins, we'll provide funding for new and existing wildlife conservation projects on a local, national and international basis. This program provides an opportunity to engage our staff and our community while also significantly expanding our contribution to wildlife conservation in our region and around the globe. One quarter for every purchased admission and one dollar for every membership will be designated by the guest to support one of three following conservation initiatives:

- 1 Greater Prairie Chicken Project**
Helping to restore and sustain Iowa's population of native chickens.
- 2 Georgia Sea Turtle Center**
Helping with sea turtle rehabilitation, research and education.
- 3 Giraffe Conservation Foundation**
Helping to promote and support giraffe conservation initiatives.

To learn more about these initiatives visit:

www.giraffeconservation.org

www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org

www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/diversity/pchicken.html





Supporter Snapshot

Something For Everyone

Blank Park Zoo has become increasingly popular every year because of its fabulous contributors. The Zoo's members, donors, volunteers and visitors are the lifeblood of this organization. None of the important work Blank Park Zoo does would happen without their support. The perfect example of the love, dedication and excitement our contributors provide to the Zoo is Pam Levine – winner of Blank Park Zoo's 2009 "Good Egg" outstanding volunteer award. For over 15 years Pam has given time and love to the Zoo and its many creatures.

Blank Park Zoo Gives Back

While the mission of the Zoo is to inspire people to care for and protect the natural world, the Zoo is also committed to enhancing the lives of all Iowan's whenever possible. Through an expanded partnership with Blank Children's Hospital, the Zoo has been brought into the rooms of hospital patients via "Zoo Cam". With a flip of the remote, young patients are able to watch the Zoo's troop of Japanese Macaques climb, swing and dance around their Zoo exhibit. Blank Park Zoo hopes to help pass the time with a smile and further connect these children to the natural world.



Why do you love the Zoo?

I am an avid animal lover and as a little girl wanted to be a veterinarian. Instead, in 1993 I started volunteering my time at Blank Park Zoo. I have had animals all my life and this is such a wonderful place for a person like me to spend my time.

What do you want to see in the future?

I have many hopes for the future of the Zoo, but a few come to mind first. I would love to see a gorilla, I would like to see the Zoo's name become more well known locally and throughout the country, and I would like to see all our guests learn more about the many different animals found at Blank Park Zoo.

What is your favorite thing at the Zoo?

I love the giraffe because they are so awesome! They are beautiful creatures that are easy to work with. I just love them!

Why is the Zoo important to the Community?

It is important for people in Des Moines to learn about different species. I think everyone should come out to see the animals. Anyone who loves animals would just love coming here. I think it is a great place for anyone to come visit.

Why are you a volunteer?

I am a volunteer because I love animals. Volunteering at the Zoo gets me closer to them. The simple joy of being around animals is very important to me.





Daily Summer Schedule

- 10:15 a.m. – Penguin Feeding
- 11:00 a.m. – Bird Show (Saturday and Sunday only) or Animal Rescue League*
- 11:30 a.m. – Sea Lion Demonstration
- 12:00 p.m. – Lion Demonstration
- 12:00 p.m. – Feed a Giraffe
- 1:00 p.m. – Bird Show or Animal Rescue League*
- 2:00 p.m. – Feed a Giraffe
- 2:30 p.m. – Serval Training Demonstration
- 3:00 p.m. – Penguin Feeding
- 3:00 p.m. – Bird Show*
- 3:30 p.m. – Sea Lion Demonstration
- 3:30 p.m. – Feed a Giraffe

* Bird Show is Saturday, July 3 – Sunday, August 15
 Animal Rescue League Demonstrations are June 5, 12, 26 and Sept. 4, 18

Other Activities:

Parakeet Feeding, Camel Rides, Face Painting, Train Rides and Ostrich Feeding.



Contact:
 Social Sales Manager
sales@blankparkzoo.org | 515.974.2504

QUESTION?

Do you know all the benefits of being a Zoo member?

- **Free daytime admission to Blank Park Zoo.**
- **10% discount in the Wildthings gift shop, at the Safari Grill, and on Zoo facility rentals.**
- **Subscription to Zoo Tracks - the Zoo's newsletter.**
- **Previews of special events and new exhibits.**
- **Discounted admission for special events and education classes.**
- **Free or reduced rate admission to over 160 zoos and aquariums across the country.**

Planning your summer vacation?

Remember Blank Park Zoo members receive free or discounted admission at many nearby Zoos.

**check out blankparkzoo.com for more information.*

Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago
 Minnesota Zoo
 Kansas City Zoo
 St. Louis Zoo
 Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha

Niabi Zoo, Quad Cities
 Indianapolis Zoo
 Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita
 Binder Park Zoo, Michigan
 And many more!

What can you do for the Zoo?

The Blank Park Zoo is operated by the Blank Park Zoo Foundation, a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization. Each year thousands of generous supporters give of their time, talent and treasure to ensure we share knowledge, conserve nature, create adventure and serve our community, inspiring all generations to learn about, care for and protect the living world.

We invite you to join these thousands of supporters. You can make a difference!

Make a contribution to send underserved and at-risk kids to the Zoo through our partner program, *Zoo Kids, Inc.*



Volunteer.

Invite Blank Park Zoo to your company for a Lunch and Learn.

Tell a neighbor or co-worker about Zoo memberships.

Leave a lasting gift to the Zoo in your estate plans.

Bring a friend to one of Blank Park Zoo's nine Zoo Brews.

Thank You!

With deep appreciation, the Blank Park Zoo Foundation would like to acknowledge our top corporate sponsors.





New To The Zoo



Educational Animals -
Porcupine & Bearded Dragon
Zoo Keeper – Jessica Leckrone
Kids Kingdom Rooster
100% recycled tables and benches

QUESTION?

Who Am I?

- » I am 18 inches tall and weigh about 8 pounds.
- » I have tightly packed feathers that keep water from my body and keep me warm.
- » While I am a flightless bird, I do “fly” in the water using similar wing motions as flying birds.
- » I am native to South America breeding on the rocky beaches of Argentina, Chile and the Falkland Islands.
- » My counterparts in the wild feed on cuttlefish, sardines, squid, krill, and other crustaceans. At the Zoo I eat fish; capelin and herring.
- » My species is classified as “threatened”, primarily due to vulnerability to oil spills and decline in fish populations.

