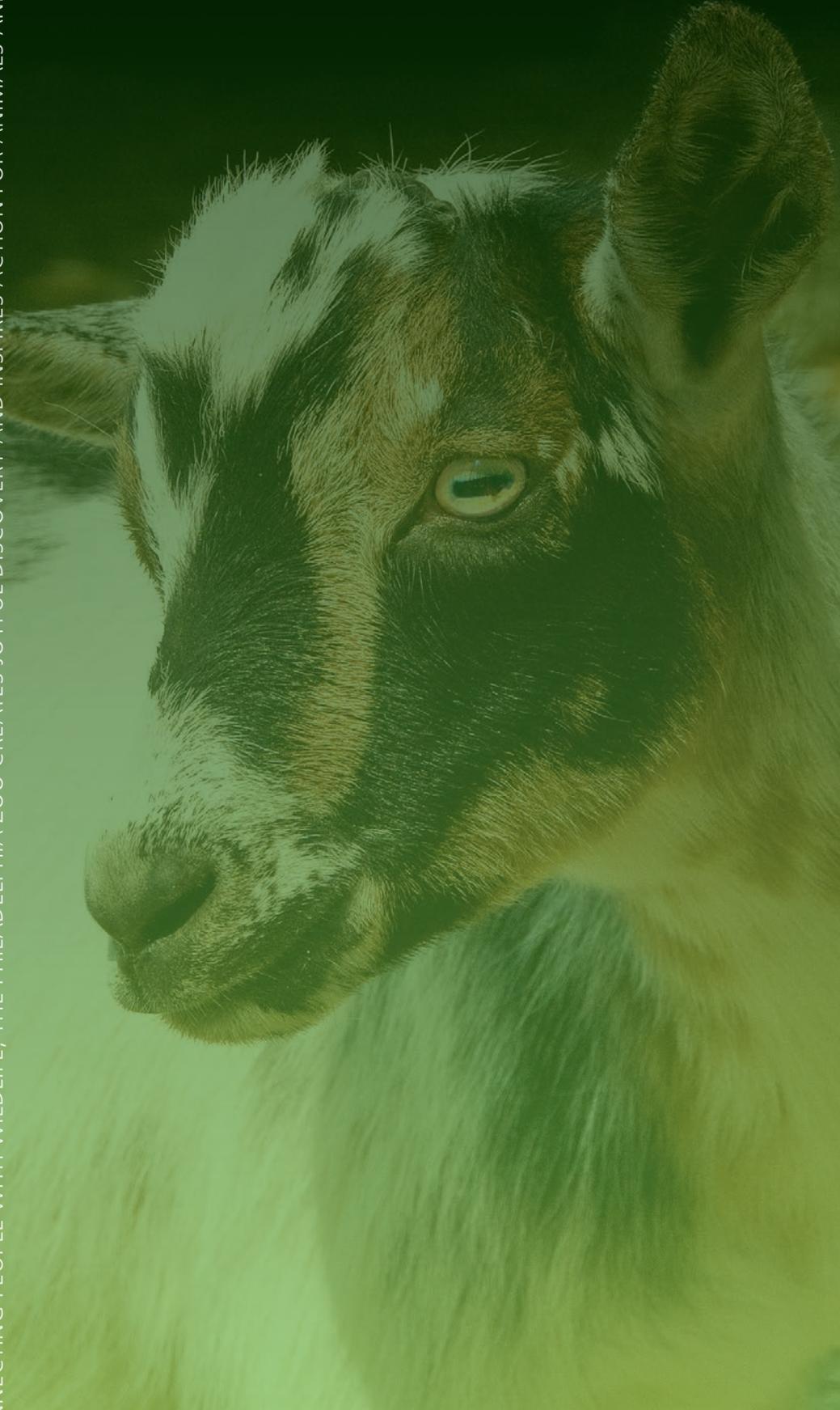




BY CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH WILDLIFE, THE PHILADELPHIA ZOO CREATES JOYFUL DISCOVERY AND INSPIRES ACTION FOR ANIMALS AND HABITATS.



**PHILADELPHIA ZOO**



## Hamilton Family Children's Zoo & Faris Family Education Center

KidZooU: Hamilton Family Children's Zoo & Faris Family Education Center is a new wildlife academy that unites a world-view education center with an up-close and personal children's zoo. KidZooU offers dynamic displays, hands-on learning and rare and unusual goats, sheep, chickens and ducks for toddlers and tweens alike. This new wildlife academy will change the Zoo experience for both animals and guests.

KidZooU is located on the site of the former Pachyderm House and is a LEED-certified building and sustainable site. It is a year-round destination with extensive indoor and outdoor activities. Universal design makes it accessible to special needs communities.

The outdoor exhibit area includes a barnyard and stables where kids can pet and brush sheep, a 400-foot trail for rare goats, and a "goat bridge" built above the KidZooU entrance. While the goats scale their own supersize tower, children can climb a parallel structure. The Zoo is also extending Treetop Trail by adding a 925-foot exploration system that winds through the trees, down the Zoo's main path, over KidZooU, connecting to PECO Primate Reserve. This will enable primates to travel this entire distance across the campus.



Indoors guests will marvel at a world teeming with coral reef fish, colorful parakeets, desert ants, and other extraordinary animals. Conservation stations and interactive exhibits show visitors how saving energy and recycling can help save wildlife. With KidZooU's location in the heart of the Zoo, it will be a favorite destination for all visitors.

# OPENS APRIL 13

  
**PHILADELPHIA ZOO**

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## Hamilton Family Children's Zoo & Faris Family Education Center

### HIGHLIGHTS

- KidZooU will provide a joyful, engaging experience for children and families while promoting a lifetime of conservation action through dynamic displays and hands-on, learning experiences.
- Rare breeds of goats, sheep, ducks and chickens, miniature horses, pigeons, tropical butterflies, Australian parakeets, colorful coral reef fish, domestic rats, and ants and other amazing insects will call KidZooU home.
- This is a year-round destination.
- The Education Center building (former Pachyderm House) is a LEED-certified building and utilizes geothermal wells for heating and cooling, daylighting, and roof rainwater collection for use as gray water to flush the public toilets. Rain gardens reduce water runoff into storm drains. Stables for domestic livestock, feature green roofs and include recovered wood.
- KidZooU is designed with special needs communities in mind, and with the input of experts from The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Center for Autism Research, the Overbrook School for the Blind and others. Exhibits feature Universal design elements, signage in Braille, sign language and a picture exchange system for children on the autism spectrum and very young children, as well as audio and tactile elements. The site is wheelchair accessible and buildings feature power doors. Amenities also include adolescent-size changing tables in family restrooms.



### OUTSIDE

#### Goat Bridge and Tower

Trails and climbing aren't just for monkeys. As part of KidZooU a new 400-foot trail will connect areas for goats and sheep to travel, including a "goat bridge" right across the KidZooU entrance. The trail also connects to a supersize tower for goats, who love to climb. Alongside, a separate climbing structure offers parallel opportunities for human "kids" to see goats up close and practice climbing and playing just like they do. The Philadelphia Zoo is the first zoo in the world to implement an animal rotation plan on a campus-wide basis. Through these trails, animals will move throughout the Zoo, creating a constantly changing experience for the animals — and guests alike.



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### Goat and Kid Tower

Kids will also watch goats haul buckets of feed up on a pulley system, and practice hauling buckets up themselves.

### Rare Breeds Porch

Many of the domestic livestock at KidZooU include rare breeds highlighting the importance of maintaining unique genetic diversity as a reservoir for future adaptability in the face of climate, disease or other environmental changes. In addition, these rare breeds provide visual interest. The Zoo is participating in breeding programs for some of the most endangered of the goats, sheep and chickens.

### Barnyard and Stable

KidZooU continues the irreplaceable tradition of direct animal interaction for visitors, featuring goats and sheep, along with mini-horses and mini-donkeys. Children will be able to brush a goat, or pet a sheep or a mini-horse.

### Duck Pond

Children can feed ducks in this popular experience retained from the original Children's Zoo. Rare breeds are featured here.

### Pigeon Loft and Squirrel Obstacle Course

In these two exhibits children will be amazed by the abilities of animals that may already be familiar to them. They can watch daily flights of homing pigeons, identify different types of fancy-breed pigeons, and observe parents caring for their young. By recruiting local wildlife, the Zoo will help guests discover the problem-solving skills of squirrels, as they navigate a sculptural obstacle course.

### Chicken Coop

Rare-breed chickens will roam here, and also participate in the Chicken Challenge agility course, a popular demonstration developed at the original Children's Zoo.

## INSIDE

Step inside and immerse yourself in a world brimming with coral reef fish, colorful parakeets of the outback and long-legged desert ants journeying through a twelve foot long habitat. Two galleries comprise the new education center, with the **North Gallery** focusing on conservation connections with exotic animals and the **South Gallery** showcasing ordinary creatures in an extraordinary way.

### North Gallery

Enter the North Gallery and explore ways in which saving energy saves wildlife. Through hands-on recycling, water reduction, and energy use activities, kids will make the connection between their everyday habits and amazing animals that live on the other side of the world. These interactive exhibits show how tropical butterflies, Australian parakeets and coral reef fish can thrive into the future if we all commit to easy changes at home, school and work.

- **Butterflies** — A lushly planted exhibit features colorful butterflies. A water action station shows guests how saving water saves energy and how saving energy saves the tropical forests these butterflies depend on. A meter gives instant feedback to children who choose water-saving actions and provide a virtual visual reward when they make butterfly-friendly choices.
- **Budgies** — An Australian outback exhibit houses a flock of budgerigars, commonly known as budgies, that fly throughout the building. A recycling action station shaped like a truck connects recycling with rain patterns in the budgie's wild habitat.
- **Marine Fish** — A living room and kitchen display encourages kids to find the electricity wasters and see how saving electricity benefits coral reefs and the beautiful fish that live there.



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### **South Gallery**

Guests can connect with everyday creatures found in your own backyard and community. Find out that rats are actually clever, clean (and ticklish!), and see baby chicks just out of the shell. Observe ants working together to forage for their food, and water-striders skimming across a pool of water...

Discover surprising creatures such as giant walking sticks, exotic flower mantids, jewel beetles, water striders and other invertebrates from all over the planet, including local species they may or may not have noticed in their own backyards and parks.

### **Hatchery**

Chicks emerging from their eggs and already-hatched fluffy chicks are highlights for young visitors. The hatchlings also represent amazing rare breeds.

### **Tiny Tot Barn**

A farm-themed area designated for children up to age three provides the Zoo's youngest visitors and their caregivers with a soft and safe area to explore.

## **EDUCATION**

KidZooU will be home base for the Philadelphia Zoo Champions for Restoring Endangered Wildlife, or Zoo CREW, a three-year program that inspires and guides teens in conservation actions that directly help endangered species.



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