

Mission Statement

The Indianapolis Zoo will empower people and communities, both locally and globally, to advance animal conservation.

indianapoliszoo.com

Indianapolis Zoo

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NEWS RELEASE

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“Butterflies presented by Citizens Energy Group” Opens at Indianapolis Zoo

New this year—Scheduled Butterfly Releases



INDIANAPOLIS – Fluttering, colorful and much-anticipated—the very popular “Butterflies presented by Citizens Energy Group” returns to the Indianapolis Zoo’s White River Gardens Hilbert Conservatory for a 12th season beginning March 20, and continuing through September 7. Thousands of free-flying exotic and native butterflies, combined with the gentle sounds of flowing water and soothing music, create a calming ambiance inside the Hilbert Conservatory. It’s a unique experience in beauty and relaxation, right in the heart of Indianapolis.

New This Year: Visitors will still get to see the thousands of amazing butterflies, and this year, they can participate in a scavenger hunt! Also, guests can enjoy the new layout, with the emerging chamber in the center of the Conservatory allowing everyone to watch the release of the butterflies. Butterfly releases will take place each day (as nature allows), with the various times posted at the exhibit.

There are around 15,000 different species of butterflies found throughout the world, and during “Butterflies” at the Indianapolis Zoo, visitors can encounter as many as 300 of them from Florida, Costa Rica, Africa and Asia. Visitors will be able to discover a wide variety of incredible species such as the Glasswing and Atlas Moth and uncover the truth about these remarkable insects, as well as how to attract butterflies to their own yards.

“Butterflies presented by Citizens Energy Group” is free for Indianapolis Zoo members and included with regular Zoo admission of \$14.50 for adults and \$9.50 for Seniors 62+ and Youth 2-12. Youths one and under are free, and parking is \$6.00. The Indianapolis Zoo is open 9am to 4pm Monday-Thursday and 9am to 5pm Friday-Sunday from March 19 to May 27. From Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day, May 28 to September 6, Zoo hours are 9am to 5pm Monday through Thursday, and 9am to 7pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.

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Butterflies Opens

More About Butterflies at the Indianapolis Zoo’s White River Gardens

Approximately 1,500 to 2,000 butterflies will be in free flight at any given time. Some featured “regulars” of the butterfly exhibit include the common Julia, the Blue Morpho, the Giant Owl, Postman, Admiral, Zebra Longwing and Giant Swallowtail.

White River Gardens exhibits butterflies under a rigorous permit from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout the show, thousands of butterflies complete their adult life cycles inside Hilbert Conservatory, which range from one week up to three weeks depending on the species. They are tended to daily by keepers and volunteers who provide them with everything they need—with one important exception. Among all the beautiful plants there are no “host” plants to stimulate laying eggs or support larval feeding, as mandated by USDA permit. Only the adult butterflies and their chrysalises are on display.

New shipments of chrysalises arrive every week so the visitor experience of these beautiful creatures is always changing. The keepers take special care that none of the permitted exotic species escapes from the Conservatory, eliminating the potential of non-native butterflies threatening the well-being of native Indiana species.

The Conservatory shows are supported through an endowment funded by the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, Inc.

*For images or more information, the media may contact:
Maura Giles, Public Relations Specialist, at (317) 630-3265.
**Do not use this phone number for the general public to call for further information.
The public should call (317) 630-2001 for more information on Zoo events.***

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About the Indianapolis Zoo

Located in White River State Park downtown, the Indianapolis Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the American Association of Museums as a zoo, aquarium and botanical garden. The Indianapolis Zoo will empower people and communities, both locally and globally, to advance animal conservation. Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things.