Making Sustainable Choices with Audubon

Spring has sprung in New Orleans; here are some ways we can protect nature and wildlife together.

Enjoy environmentally friendly picnics in Audubon Park by using reusable water bottles and storage containers when possible and opting for recyclable materials like aluminum and glass. Although glass cannot be recycled curbside in Orleans or Jefferson Parish, there are multiple glass drop-off locations in the New Orleans area.

Drop off unwanted cell phones and tablets at the front gates of Audubon Zoo and Audubon Aquarium of the Americas during public hours. This will reduce demand for coltan, a mineral found in batteries of electronics, leading to less destruction of gorilla habitats in central Africa caused by coltan mining.

Try biking, walking, or taking public transportation next time you visit your parks and animals!

(Continued on page 2)
Happy Mother’s Day!
Special thanks to Touro Infirmary for helping highlight some of Audubon Zoo’s most beloved moms like Kali the African lion and Menari the endangered Sumatran orangutan.

Sustainable Choices (Continued)

Make small changes at home, like using LED light bulbs instead of halogens, reducing and reusing rather than buying new items, and composting. You can drop off your frozen compostable food waste with Compost NOW in Audubon Park at the Clubhouse every Monday from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

You can even transform your yard into a wildlife habitat! Cut your grass higher to make it more pollinator-friendly, consider leaving your windows dirty for longer to reduce the risk of bird strikes, and construct a bee condo, birdbath, or a bat house.

These are just a few ways that we can all make a difference. It’s amazing to see what we can accomplish when we work together. Thank you for doing a world of good!

Mark your calendar for Friday, May 20 when you can learn more about endangered species and sustainable choices during Party for the Planet presented by Entergy: Endangered Species Day at Audubon Zoo.
Dear Audubon Family,

As Chairs of the 44th Hancock Whitney Zoo-To-Do and 39th Zoo-To-Do for Kids presented by Children’s Hospital New Orleans, thank you for partying for the pollinators this spring. Your tickets supported conservation efforts for pollinators—the group of insects, mammals, and birds on which the future of life on Earth depends.

We are proud to chair the Zoo-To-Do events, which have helped transform Audubon Zoo into a leading zoological park since the 1970s. Thank you to the sponsors, patrons, committee members, and countless volunteers who have made these events impactful!

With gratitude,

P.S. Thank you to everyone who works hard each year to make sure the Zoo-To-Do events are im-peek-able!

Holt Kolb
Hancock Whitney
Zoo-To-Do Chair 2022

Carol Starr
Zoo-To-Do for Kids presented by Children’s Hospital New Orleans Chair 2022
Renovated Indoor Aviary, Opening Soon

In Audubon Zoo’s renovated indoor aviary, you will learn about the importance of birds and biodiversity in our global ecosystem and the plight of endangered birds in the wild. Visiting will have a direct positive impact on conservation efforts, and you will be able to interact with more than 50 bird and two dozen plant species. We can’t wait to share this tropical jungle with you!

Reina Found a Home in New Orleans Thanks to You

Your generosity makes participating in conservation efforts beyond our facilities possible!

Last fall, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rescued Reina from wildlife trafficking. This rescue is an incredible example of how your generosity saves species. Thanks to your support, Reina will join Valerio in teaching guests how they can protect jaguars in Central and South America.

As an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) animal, jaguars became part of a collaborative framework that protects threatened animals, builds on established species recovery plans, and involves an expanded audience to save species.

Reina’s Jaguar Jungle home was funded by the Zemurray Foundation, which has generously supported Audubon Nature Institute and wildlife conservation for decades. Doris Zemurray Stone, a renowned archaeologist and ethnographer specializing in Mesoamerica, provided invaluable guidance on this exhibit’s historical and cultural accuracy when it was built.

Visit Reina and Valerio to learn about the dangers jaguars face in the wild, like poaching, deforestation, and food source loss. These threats make participation in life-saving conservation programs like AZA SAFE essential. With your help, we hope to see jaguars’ declining populations rebound.

“We are thrilled that Reina has a home at Audubon Zoo,” said Grace Martins, Jaguar Jungle animal care team member. “Reina is full of energy and loves to interact with everything! Some of her favorite enrichment items include anything she can tear up, like boxes and bags.”

Thank you to all supporters, including the Zemurray Foundation, for making participation in conservation programs like AZA SAFE possible!