



TORONTO ZOO: FACTS & FIGURES

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Opening Date: August 15, 1974

Original Cost: \$22 million to build + \$6 million for the animals and plants

Staff:

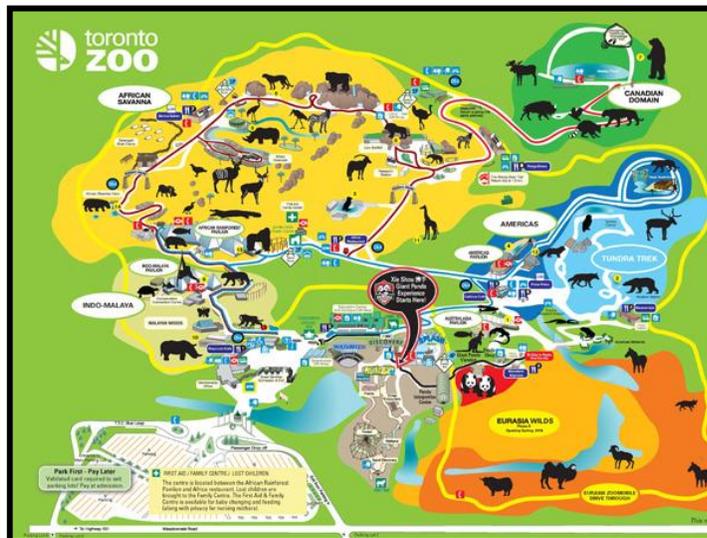
273 permanent full-time employees, over 330 part-time or seasonal employees, and a team of 516 Year-Round, Panda Ambassador, Summer Information, and Student Ambassador Volunteers

Attendance:

Approximately 1.3 million visitors per year

Area and Layout:

287 hectares (710 acres) in the Rouge River watershed; The Zoo is divided into seven zoogeographic regions: Africa (Rainforest and Savanna), Americas, Australasia, Canadian Domain, Eurasia Wilds, Indo-Malaya, and Tundra Trek.



Facilities:

The Zoo has four main pavilions (African Rainforest, Americas, Australasia, and Indo-Malaya) and several other indoor exhibits, plus greenhouses and administration and service buildings behind-the-scenes. Food services include two restaurants and four snack bars (open seasonally). There are also over 10 km (6 miles) of walking trails and a Zoomobile runs seasonally.



Animals:

Collection: ~5,816 animals, not including invertebrates, representing 495 different species

Largest: 'Samson', our male river hippopotamus weighs 4,500 lbs (2.25 tonnes) and stands 1.5 m (5 ft) high, and is 4 m long (13 ft)

Smallest: a worker Leaf-cutter ant is about 7.5 mm long

Most Adopted: Polar bear, giraffe, and penguin

Feeding the Animals:

Nutritionists oversee the preparation of between 1 to 1.5 tonnes of food per day at a cost of approximately \$900,000.00 per year.

Animal Health:

Three full-time veterinarians, two vet interns and three technicians perform approximately 675 immobilizations, 100 surgeries and examine about 2,250 specimens each year.

THE ZOO'S HISTORY

From 1887 until 1973, Riverdale Zoo was the main zoo in Toronto, situated on a five hectare (12 acre) site overlooking the Don Valley. Riverdale was a traditional 19th century zoo where animals were kept in cages with bars. In 1966, the Metropolitan Toronto Zoological Society was formed with the objective of developing a new zoo for Toronto. Architect Raymond Moriyama completed a site selection study in 1967. From a study of three sites, the Glen Rouge area of Scarborough was selected. Owned at the time by the Metropolitan Toronto & Region Conservation Authority, the site consists of 125 hectares (310 acres) of tableland and 162 hectares (400 acres) of forest in the Rouge River Valley.

The task of creating a world-class zoo brought into play the talents of many people. Johnson, Sustronk, Weinstein and Associates, landscape architects, planners and engineers, were instrumental in developing the land-use concept. The design team was subsequently expanded to include a joint venture with architects, R.J. Thom, Clifford & Lawrie, and Crang & Boake.

OPENING THE NEW ZOO

The Master Plan for the Zoo was approved by Metropolitan Council in 1969 and allocated \$22 million. A further \$6 million was raised by local school children and other groups for the purchase of animals and plants, in addition to the animals transferring from the Riverdale Zoo. Construction began in the fall of 1970 and the Toronto Zoo, then known as the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo, officially opened to the public on August 15, 1974. With the opening of the Zoo, the wild animals were all moved from Riverdale, and the site now houses a pioneer farm.



ZOOGEOGRAPHIC LAYOUT

Animals and plants at the Toronto Zoo have been grouped according to where they are naturally found. The study of animal distribution is called zoogeography and the Zoo is divided into six zoogeographic regions. These regions represent the broad ecological divisions of the earth's animal populations. Geographic regions can be distinguished because animals tend to disperse over the surface of the earth, but come up against natural barriers, such as rivers, oceans, mountain ranges, deserts or areas of extreme rainfall which stop them in their wanderings.

One of the aims of the Toronto Zoo is to show not just the animals, but the animals in their native environments. Public walkways are at varying levels, allowing the visitor to see the animals from many different viewpoints. The organic form of the pavilions creates an exterior profile which flows naturally into the surrounding landscape. Other structures, such as restaurants and service buildings have all been designed in a similar manner. Some 430,000 m³ (562,000 yds³) of earth were shifted to create the new environment. Over 1,000 tonnes (1,100 tons) of rocks were trucked to the site from all over Ontario. A geologist searched for rock formations that would not only fit into the exhibit designs but would be appropriate to the animals' natural surroundings.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ZOO?

The Toronto Zoo is owned by the City of Toronto, and operated on behalf of the Municipality by a Board of Management. The Board consists of four members of the Zoological Society of Toronto and five members appointed by Toronto City Council.