



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jay Pratte,
Miller Park Zoo Director, (309) 434-2250
jpratte@cityblm.org

July 24, 2024

MILLER PARK ZOO SET TO OPEN KATTHOEFER ANIMAL BUILDING

BLOOMINGTON – Miller Park Zoo is excited to welcome visitors back into the historic Katthoefer Animal Building! Originally built and opened in February of 1914, the KAB became closed to visitors in March of 2020 due to animal health concerns. Big cats, primates, and members of the weasel family (like otters) proved incredibly susceptible to COVID-19; consequently, under advisement from our veterinary team, Zoo and City leadership chose to limit human access to the indoor viewing area.

“Over the past few months, through the support of the City, the Miller Park Zoological Society (MPZS), and the efforts of Zoo staff, we have made several changes in the KAB in order to open the interior viewing space once again.” said Jay Pratte, Director of Miller Park Zoo.

These include:

- Addition of industrial fans to facilitate air movement inside of the building, including electrical infrastructure assessments and upgrades.
- Full clean and repair after the emergency event last fall.
- Animals vaccinated against COVID-19 through a program offered by Zoetis, administered over several weeks through the combined efforts of our animal care and veterinary teams.

The KAB indoor viewing area will re-open to the community during MPZS Member’s Night, Wednesday July 31, 2024. Exclusive initial access will be for MPZS members, with daily access for all visitors starting August 1st. If you are not already an MPZS Member, we encourage you to join here: <https://mpzs.org/membership>

Come visit Rojo, Sage, the gibbons, langurs, bats, and some new friends as well. We look forward to seeing you!

###