



AFRICAN ELEPHANT CROSSING

CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO

African Elephant Crossing At a Glance

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's African Elephant Crossing is a world-class habitat and conservation center for African elephants. Zoo guests will be able to see the elephants like never before as they engage in a wide range of natural behaviors.

- **Open to the public:** May 5, 2011
- **Construction time:** Two years, seven months
- **Size:** Five acres
- **Cost:** \$25 million
- **Funding source:** Cleveland Metroparks general fund and Cleveland Zoological Society capital campaign
- **Contractors:** Marous Brothers, general contractor, and clr Design, general architecture and exhibit design firm
- **Animals:** African elephants, Moshi, Martika, Jo, Shenga and Willy, African rock python, Kirk's dik-dik, meerkats, naked mole rats, green woodhoopoe, Kenya crested guineafowl, Lady Ross's turaco, black-cheeked lovebirds, superb starling, Taveta golden weaver, violet-backed starling, white-headed buffalo-weaver
- **Exhibits:** Features include Crossing Gate, Mopani Range, Savanna Range, Night Range, Sydell L. Miller Elephant Care & Visitor Center, kopje rock, African village
- **Innovations:** African Elephant Crossing is on track to be the first major outdoor animal exhibit to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. The advanced water filters will allow the new exhibit to use 72 percent less water than the previous one, despite the fact that the exhibit is now four times the size.
- **Animal care:** Visitors will be able to see the daily care the elephants receive including baths, mental and physical enrichment, foot care and exams. A working wall provides safe interaction between the elephants and their keepers.

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- **Conservation:** The Zoo and Zoo Society contribute to elephant conservation projects in Botswana, Kenya, Namibia and Tanzania. Projects include helping plan for long-term land use in areas where elephants and humans live in close proximity, and helping connect the natural wonders of Africa across political borders with the creation of “peace parks” or Transfrontier Conservation Areas.
- **Mission:** The Zoo creates compelling experiences that connect people with wildlife. By exhibiting and caring for endangered elephants, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo helps people connect emotionally to these majestic animals and inspires personal responsibility to care about their long-term survival in the wild.
- **Education:** The exhibit’s educational theme focuses on the delicate balance for survival between people, elephants and their habitat in Africa. Through inquiry-based education programs such as Connections to Africa, the exhibit seeks to ignite a passion for elephants, their environment and other African wildlife. Interpretive staff and zoo volunteers provide additional diverse education opportunities within the exhibit.