



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

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## MILLER PARK ZOO, MILLER PARK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY SET TO INCREASE ADMISSIONS, PROGRAMS, AND MEMBERSHIP FEES

BLOOMINGTON – Miller Park Zoo, along with the Miller Park Zoological Society, announced today that they will be increasing the price of admissions, programs, and memberships beginning January 1, 2024.

"Miller Park Zoo strives to remain accessible to the entire community. Associated cost increases over the past several years have made it necessary to adjust fees at the Zoo" said Jay Pratte, Director of Miller Park Zoo, adding, "It has been almost a decade since the last increase in 2015 when we raised admissions by one dollar. This necessary adjustment still maintains the Zoo as one of the most affordable family recreation options in the region."

In the spirit of its vision as a destination for all, Miller Park Zoo announced that it has joined *Museums for All*, a signature access program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), administered by the Association of Children's Museums (ACM), to encourage people of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum-going habits. The program supports those receiving food assistance (SNAP) benefits, who may visit Miller Park Zoo for a nominal fee of \$3.00 per person (up to four people) with the presentation of a SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card. Similar free and reduced admission opportunities are available to eligible members of the public at more than 850 museums across the country. Museums for All is part of the Miller Park Zoo's broad commitment to seek, include, and welcome all audiences. The zoo will continue its "Free Fridays in February" program, where Zoo admission is waived for all guests on Fridays during the month of February.

"This has been an amazing year of growth for the Zoo. We are excited for the community to venture out and see the new South American Habitat, including the new animals that call the Zoo home" said Pratte, adding, "2024 will build off that growth with the plan to restore the beloved carousel, while adding additional events and educational programs for youth and families alike."

Updated Zoo admission prices as of January 1, 2024: Age 0-2: No Charge, Age 3-12: \$7.00, Age 13-59: \$9.00, Age 60+: \$7.00 (including military and college students with ID, Museums for All: \$3.00 (per person within a family group of up to four, with presentation of SNAP card) Group Rate (10 or more guests): \$6.50. Miller Park Zoological Society updated yearly membership rates: Individual: \$45.00, Family & Grand Parent: \$80.00, and Joint: \$70.00.