

For Immediate Release  
Sept. 25, 2008



Contact:  
Jim Bartoo: 833-1534 ext. 126  
jbartoo@nashvillezoo.org

## **Zoo Invites Community to Jungle Gym Grand Re-opening**

The grand re-opening of Nashville Zoo's Jungle Gym is Sunday, Oct. 5 from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. The entire community is invited to this celebration, featuring face painting, button making, Blue Bell ice cream samples, roving entertainment and a jungle of fun. A short ribbon-cutting ceremony will commence at 1 p.m.

The Zoo's Jungle Gym is back in the swing of things after temporarily closing for renovations. Through the generosity of Kelly and Dan Crockett, the 66,000-square-foot community treasure also received some impressive improvements.

The re-opening will highlight the Jungle Gym's new elements, including an expanded entrance featuring a dancing fountain that sprays water back and forth across the plaza to various new animal sculptures. Visitors can also be the first to blast off in the Jungle Gym's new swings or climb and slide over several new crocodile sculptures. All signage in the play area will be more visible, and a new themed booth will host an attendant, PA system and first aid station.

The Jungle Gym's existing attributes also received a facelift. All thatch roofing and hardware were replaced, including all ropes, chains and hoses. All mulch was replaced with a recycled, rubberized surface, adding color to the area as well as bounce to visitors' footsteps. Finally, the entire playground was pressure washed, sealed and touched up with paint.

The Jungle Gym opened in May 1997 as Nashville Zoo's first addition after moving to the Grassmere property. Nashville Zoo's Jungle Gym is the largest community-built playground of its kind in the world. More than 6,000 volunteers, including country superstar Tim McGraw, donated their time and resources over the course of three months to complete the original 66,000-square-foot play area.

Nashville Zoo is accredited by the prestigious Association of Zoos and Aquariums, assuring the highest standards of animal care and husbandry. The Zoo is a non-profit organization located at 3777 Nolensville Road and is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The mission of Nashville Zoo is to inspire a culture of understanding and discovery of our natural world through conservation, innovation and leadership. For more information about Nashville Zoo, call 615-833-1534 or visit [www.nashvillezoo.org](http://www.nashvillezoo.org).

##