



A NEW, Green Way into the Cincinnati Zoo

*Opening May 16, the Historic Vine Street Village
will Make Getting into the Zoo Easier Than Ever!*

CINCINNATI – For the first time in decades, visitors to the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden will enter the Zoo through the historical 1875 entrance on Vine Street. During the late 1970’s, the entry was moved to the northern edge of the Zoo to accommodate vehicular traffic and has remained there ever since. In an effort to consolidate parking and re-establish Vine Street as the Zoo’s “front door”, the entry will return to its original location on Saturday, May 16! The *Historic Vine Street Village*, a \$19.6 million, three-year project, will be situated between the Elephant Reserve (which was renovated as part of Phase 1 of the project and completed in July 2008) and the Reptile House, two of the most historic structures on the grounds. Inspired by the Zoo’s original architect, James McLaughlin, *Historic Vine Street Village* structures will be a fun and modern interpretation of a neo-Victorian style, designed by Cornette-Violetta Architects and built by HGC Construction.

“Our goal is to inspire our visitors with wildlife every day of the year,” said Thane Maynard, Executive Director of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. “The opening of this entrance puts the focus on the entire Zoo experience by introducing families to more animals, more interactive opportunities and more fun than ever before. As the cornerstone of the new entrance, the Elephant Reserve offers an incredible start to every Zoo visit with 25 tons of pachyderms.”

The *Historic Vine Street Village* will be a comfortable, friendly, and exciting place where visitors can relax, shop, eat and enjoy their Zoo visit. In addition, this will be the new location for ticketing, guest relations, memberships and retail shops (which will open in November 2009). The opening of the Village brings with it a new green initiative for the entire park. The Zoo plans to become a national model for sustainable design and renewable energy. The Zoo’s aim is to protect wildlife while also encouraging visitors to Go Green in their own homes.

The *Historic Vine Street Village* has many exciting features including more parking, a pedestrian bridge, self-ticketing kiosks, new green restrooms, and a Natural Selections Café. An “express entrance” grants members and visitors who purchased tickets online immediate entry, without having to wait in line. *Historic Vine Street Village* also helps to re-establish the “Route 1” METRO line, allowing visitors to save the environment by using the bus when traveling to the Zoo. This new METRO line will be near the corner of Shields and Vine Streets and will complement the design of the Zoo’s new entry Vine Street Village. Special parking will also be reserved for those who travel together in a car pool or who use alternative transportation (i.e. bikes). The Zoo’s parking facilities will also be shared with other local institutions to reduce the amount of hard surfaces for parking within the city.

Convenient parking leads Zoo visitors safely over Vine Street by sky-bridge into a blooming entrance. The new buildings in the Vine Street Village will help to make the Cincinnati Zoo the second LEED Platinum certified Zoo in the country. The LEED Green Building Rating System emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. Some of the highlights include:

The buildings in the Historic Vine Street Village will be 60% more energy-efficient than standard buildings thanks to:

- 10 kW of solar panels that reduce the demand for coal-fired power by 15%
- Geothermal heat pumps that meet all of the heating and cooling demands
- Spray foam insulation that reduces heating and cooling demands
- A solar water heating system that reduces coal-fired power to supply the restrooms
- Renewable energy credits that make the Membership and Ticketing building a Net-Zero carbon usage facility

The Historic Vine Street Village will manage rainwater to eliminate runoff through the use of:

- Over 30,000 square feet of pervious pavers and an extra thick layer of porous gravel underneath that stores hundreds of thousands of gallons of rain water
- A rainwater harvesting tank that collects water from the roofs
- The existing elephant moat as an overflow mechanism to handle excess rainwater

Reduce, reuse and recycle are important connects of the Historic Vine Street Village design as:

- 30% of the building materials were recycled
- Over 60% of the building materials were purchased locally, reducing the fuel costs of shipping
- More than 80% of the wood used is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as sustainably harvested
- About 80% of construction waste was sent to recycling centers for reuse

- Waterless urinals and highly water-efficient toilets and faucets use 50% less water than standard facilities
- Captured rainwater is used to irrigate landscape

In addition to other green building efforts, the Zoo is finding other ways to reinforce their environmental initiative. Prominently marked recycling cans will be placed around the park to highlight the importance of recycling and only green cleaning products will be used by the housekeeping staff. Plants on the property will also be chosen according to how well they thrive in this area. In turn, this will reduce the risk of introducing a species that may cause harm to other plants or animals.

Ever since the early efforts of Adolf Strauch and Albert Erkenbrecher there has been an underlying theme of the Cincinnati Zoo as a botanical garden throughout its long history. To continue in these efforts the *Historic Vine Street Village* landscape was designed with two underlying themes in mind; the Zoo as an experimental garden and the Zoo as a park-like setting. These two themes were predominant when the Zoo first opened and they continue to be the foundation for the Zoo's horticulture staff today. New varieties of plants will be introduced to this region for the very first time as part of this experimental garden and the emphasis on color and shade will truly make the new entrance a place where people can enjoy this relaxing park-like setting.

Historic Vine Street Village was made possible through a combination of generous private and public funding. Public funding included gifts from the Federal Transit Authority and the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission. Private funding included a variety of individuals, corporations and foundations, including the Macy's Fund, The Greater Cincinnati Foundation and Duke Energy.

The Zoo's strong commitment to a global conservation effort starts at their front door! Learn more about how you can "Go Green" and more by visiting the *Historic Vine Street Village* at the Cincinnati Zoo. Experience the wonders of the Zoo's new energy efficient technology, while also enjoying the animals and sights that we all know and love. For more information on this project, visit www.cincinnati-zoo.org.

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The world famous Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden was rated the #1 attraction locally and one of the top zoos in the nation by Zagat Survey. It was recognized by Parents Magazine as #7 on the "Top 10 Best Zoos for Kids." It has also been recognized by Child Magazine as one of "The 10 Best Zoos for Kids." Over one million people visit the Zoo's award-winning exhibits, and more than 500 animal and 3000 plant species annually. The Zoo is an accredited member of the American Zoo & Aquarium Association (AZA) and the American Public Gardens Association (APGA), is internationally known for its success in the protection and propagation of endangered animals and plants, and engages in research and conservation projects worldwide.