

PRESS RELEASE

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Zoo hires new Chief Zoological Officer *Director at North Carolina Zoo brings long career in zoo leadership*

SEATTLE—Following a nationwide search of top-notch talent, Woodland Park Zoo is pleased to welcome Roger Sweeney as its new Chief Zoological Officer. Sweeney brings vast expertise and a long career in zoo leadership. He will join the zoo directly from North Carolina Zoo, where he is the director of animal management and welfare and a member of their senior management team. His first day at Woodland Park Zoo will be May 1.



The Chief Zoological Officer is the reimagined and realigned role that was previously the Chief Operations Officer and was designed with an increased focus and call for extensive experience in animal care and project management. Sweeney will lead overall zoological operations in Animal Care, Facilities and Maintenance, Exhibits, Sustainability, and Safety and Security.

Sweeney will oversee teams leading complex projects such as the new exhibit on the site of the former Day and Night Exhibits and the Long-Range Plan on the near horizon. He will also support upcoming planning for the zoo's environmental sustainability, as well as a fresh look at the zoo's animal population sustainability.

Sweeney's accomplished career in zoo leadership has spanned facilities around the world including the United States, Spain, Qatar, Barbados and the United Kingdom. He currently serves as an Association of Zoos & Aquariums inspector and the Asian Hornbill Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) program leader; and he has served on numerous national and international animal care and conservation committees and advisory groups. Previously, during his time as Assistant Director of Virginia Zoo, he oversaw \$30 million of design and construction projects.

"I am deeply grateful to all our Woodland Park Zoo staff for continuing to make our institution a world-class conservation zoo and an extraordinary place to fulfill our mission of saving species in the Pacific Northwest and around the world," said Woodland Park Zoo President and CEO Alejandro Grajal. "I have no doubt Sweeney will be an excellent addition to our leadership team, and I look forward to his arrival in May."

Woodland Park Zoo is currently open 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. For more information about Woodland Park Zoo, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500. Follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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