

# Paw Prints



A Publication by the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo

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The Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo's VISION is to be a valued nonprofit, whose cooperative support will be a key partner to ensure the success of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo.

The Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo's MISSION is to support the Big Bear Alpine Zoo by inspiring understanding, respect, and environmentally responsible action for the stewardship of wildlife and wildlife habitat through conservation, education, volunteer support, and fundraising.



## *It's Happening!*

As of Sunday, September 20, 2020, the Big Bear Alpine Zoo closed its doors after 60 years at the site. But no worries—the NEW SITE will open on Thursday, November 5, 2020. Old site: beautiful and stately old trees, many winding walkways, a friendly and cozy ambiance, lots of history. New site: hundreds of new plants, including flowers, trees, shrubs, ground cover; flat and easily accessible walkways; brand new buildings designed for each species' needs; state-of-the-art hospital and kitchen—in short, a dream come true! While tinged with sadness at saying farewell to the old site, the zoo is moving forward to a glorious campus just waiting to welcome you!

*FOBBAZ thanks each and every one of you who helped make this happen ♥*

Many and profound thanks to the Board of Directors, Docents, and our Office Manager for their generous contributions to this publication.

Laurey Haviland, Editor

**Thank you for helping us “go green” by joining our online service!**

**◀IF YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.....**

**Please send us an email at [fobbaz@fobbaz.org](mailto:fobbaz@fobbaz.org)**

**E-newsletters arrive promptly and allow FOBBAZ to use more of our funds for the zoo!**

## President's Message



It's so wonderful to be bringing you such great news. It's hard to believe, but the quest to build a new zoo started over 20 years ago. There were many, many stumbling blocks along the way. But now, that's all behind us.

The Friend's role in the project was significant since we funded the designing of the zoo as well as contributing \$500,000 for the construction and \$150,000 for the Grizzly stream.

None of this would have been possible without your support. You have consistently shown us how much you value and appreciate our efforts to fulfill our mission of supporting the zoo. Thank You!

Kathy Greenwood  
FOBBAZ President



Because the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be of great concern to everyone, and because the Big Bear Alpine zoo is in the process of moving and settling the animals in their new homes, FOBBAZ has had to cancel our events for the remainder of 2020. We will genuinely miss seeing and talking with you, but the health of our community and zoo animals must take precedence in all we do.

Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Please don't forget to "keep up with FOBBAZ" on our  
Facebook and Instagram pages!



# Let's Tour the ZOO!

Photography courtesy of Jon Haviland

The former site had very little parking—about 20 spaces on a *good* day, and zero when the snow-boarders and skiers were visiting! Our new site: “We’ve got this!” And it’s ours, all ours!



At the curve on Moonridge, looking west. We are told there WILL be lines.



The Bridge over Rathbun Creek, connecting the west end of the parking lot to the walkway to the Welcome Center.



The Welcome Center at the V of Moonridge (L) and Clubview Drive (R). Not sure what the third flag will be.



Handmade wooden sign—just look at the way different colored woods were used to give definition and personality to the animals!



# Welcome...



This is the front entryway into the Welcome Center. The “light” door to the left is a double outside one. The dark door is also a double door (open) into the Gift Shop. Look at the very cool ceiling-to-floor “tree” decorations on the wall. All hand done by a very talented carpenter!

Want more cool? Checkout below 🐿

Inside the HUGE gift shop—you can see the various cabinets and shelves being installed. We’re actually looking at the (partially hidden) cashiers’ counter on the left. And isn’t this handmade centerpiece awesome! It will probably hold gifts as well, though maybe we could swim in it during the summer!

Behind us, a door opens into a conference room, the curator’s office, the gift shop manager’s office, plus a storage area for the gift shop.

Restrooms are outside this area to the right.





Please walk this way...



This pond (right outside the Welcome Center) belongs to the black bears—big enough for friends! The building on the right contains their dens and separate entrances into this enclosure. The photo below is looking from the other direction; you can see the large viewing windows (and the Welcome Center through the window) and the rocky edge of the pond. And yes, the rocks are cemented in—no redecorating for the bears! Note the Reptile House through the chain link fence. Also please see the electric wire along the top of the fence—even superb climbers won't go on walk-about.





## Follow the path...



This is along the path past the black bears to the south, and will be the enclosures for the foxes—Aurora, Kit-Kat, Maid Marion, Robin Hood, and our old man Pippen. You can see the doors (white) that open into bad-weather/night time/health check housing. Unseen down front are cement water troughs complete with piped-in fresh water, and which won't rust, split, or otherwise become unusable!

Inside this building, across the path from the foxes, you can find many of the nocturnal animals in the collection: burrowing owls, screech owls, pygmy owls, Humboldt flying squirrels, ringtail, just to name a few. Take off the sunglasses—it's dark in there!





## Continuing south...



Here is the most southerly enclosure—the grizzlies! Our charming family (Mama Tutu, brother and sister Harley and Ayla) have the Ritz Carlton of the zoo. Up top of this photo is a good-sized pond (where you see the tree roots), which empties into a stream (waterless just now; no salmon, alas!) that zig-zags down the slope to the pond you see at the bottom. There are two huge pipes; the one on the left can be used as a tunnel, and the one on the right as a den (no back opening). They also have a building (out of photo on the right) where there are three huge inside dens. They will be used to keep the grizzlies safe (from the keepers?) during enclosure cleanup, night time sleeping, health checks, etc. Again, all this water is piped in for ease and cleanliness, and drains out in a bio swale on the east side of the zoo. And, as grizzlies can climb, though they mostly choose not to (they'd rather dig), you can see the electric lines at the top of the fencing.

# Wolf Retreat



Our beloved wolves actually have two, count 'em—two, enclosures, which will allow them to exhibit their natural behavior of trotting over large amounts of space. This is the most southerly one and around the bend from the grizzlies, but up there on the right (hiding behind one of the huge logs) is the opening into their second enclosure. They may come and go freely, and both spaces have ponds for them to play in. One incredible feature is a “creep fence” between the wolves and the grizzlies. Imagine building a garage to house your Mini Cooper. Then your son brings home a Monster Truck and wants to keep it in your new garage—won’t happen. Can’t put the HUGE into something built for the *small*. Well, that’s exactly how the “creep fence” works: the wolves may, if they wish, wander into the grizzly enclosure and back out again. The grizzlies, however, will not fit through the fence, and so cannot wander into the wolf enclosure. As both species normally share the same habitat, this concept allows a more natural interaction. Zoo staff are the ones in charge of when the creep fence will be opened or closed. Needless to say, both species will be intently watched! This is one of the newest concepts in zoo design, and we are thrilled to be cutting edge!



## Back toward the front...



The building you see up the slope is the kitchen, hospital, staff room, and maintenance headquarters. From this angle, we get a good look at the playground FOBBAZ put in. There are picnic benches (one of which is handicapped-accessible) there on a cement pad, and you will find those wooden benches all around the zoo. Grizzlies, by the way, are just on the right.

Here we are, back at the north end and ready to exit the zoo! The two circular cement pads in the middle of the walkway will support a large, colorful map of the zoo.

**Thanks for touring with us—here's hoping you'll return very soon.**

**Have a safe journey home!**



If the photographs look a little golden, we were shooting the tour during one of the worst days of the El Dorado Fire. Our sincere apologies!

A picture of our sun and sky that afternoon.

# The Movers and Shakers!

No, we did NOT put a harness on 750 lb. Harley and walk him down to his new home!

Moving the animals was a **MAJOR plan, event, and effort** on the parts of our extraordinarily dedicated BBAZ staff, Dr. Loudis (of San Diego) and his specialized team of veterinarians, RVTs, horse-trailer drivers, SBC Special Districts Recreation & Parks, Fish & Wildlife, Animal Welfare, the Sheriff's department, and FOBBAZ! Everyone had a job; everyone gave of their time and energy 200%! Best news of all is that every animal came through the move splendidly—not even a hangnail!

Sincere and profound thanks go to all, especially Glenn who had to wear a shirt and tie through it all!!



Photo courtesy of Lorie Judd, SBC Special Districts, Assistant Regional Manager