

*For Immediate Release*

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## Explorer's Outpost Opens at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo



L to R: Ted Fox, Zoo Director; Janet Agostini, President, Friends of the Zoo; Allen J. Naples, Senior Vice President and President Central New York Division, M&T Bank; Liz Schmidt, Education Coordinator, Friends of the Zoo; Lorrie Murray, Director of Operations, Friends of the Zoo; Nathan Keefe, Director of Education, Friends of the Zoo.

Syracuse, N.Y. (July 18, 2014) – The Rosamond Gifford Zoo today hosted the grand opening of Explorer's Outpost, a new educational exhibit. The outpost connects visitors with the animals they encounter on the zoo's Wildlife Trails with a sensory experience using animal artifacts (biofacts). It is located at the beginning of the trail leading up to the spectacled bear exhibit.

Support for Explorer's Outpost was generously provided by M&T Bank through its gift to the recent Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo capital campaign.

At Explorer's Outpost, zoo visitors can:

- Touch a tiger skull, elephant tooth or bear claw
- Connect what they see and touch with animals on the Wildlife Trails
- Make connections between the structure of animal teeth and what they eat

- Appreciate differences and similarities between human skeletal structure and diet with those of animals at the zoo

“How often do you get to touch a tiger’s skull or feel an elephant’s tooth? Explorer’s Outpost provides our guests with a take-away, allowing them to engage in conversation and education as they tour the zoo,” said Janet Agostini, president, Friends of the Zoo. “We extend our heartfelt appreciation to M&T Bank whose early support of our capital campaign and generous gift provided the funds for this new, interactive exhibit that enlivens our guest experience.”

“We are happy to have contributed to Explorer’s Outpost and look forward to bringing zoo guests even closer to their favorite animals through this unique exhibit. Our zoo is a community asset and one that we encourage everyone to support,” said Allen J. Naples, senior vice president and president Central New York division, M&T Bank.

“The outpost is a starting point for self-guided or docent-led tours of the zoo’s Wildlife Trails, enriching zoo visits by making the natural world more approachable. By touching animal artifacts, our visitors will make a connection to help them understand deeper ecological concepts that they might not get by just observing our animals,” said Ted Fox, zoo director.

Explorer’s Outpost is open during regular zoo hours, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Founded in 1914, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is among the top 10 percent of zoos in the country as an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is dedicated to connecting people to the natural world by providing engaging guest experiences, exceptional animal care, and unparalleled conservation education.

The zoo actively collaborates with Friends of the Zoo to provide its guests “the best day ever,” ensuring experiences that excite, memories that endure, and knowledge that inspires worldwide conservation.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults (19-61), \$4 for youth (3-18) and \$5 for seniors (62+). Children two and under are free. For more information, call the zoo at (315) 435-8511 or visit [rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org).

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[www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org)

County Executive, Joanne M. Mahoney • Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Bill Lansley  
Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director, Ted Fox • Friends of the Zoo President, Janet Agostini

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