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DONN & MARILYN LIPTON FRAGILE FOREST

New outdoor summer habitats for chimpanzees and orangutans

Chimpanzees and orangutans got a breathtaking new look at life when they moved into their new outdoor summer homes at Donn & Marilyn Lipton Fragile Forest. With its leafy habitats, flowing streams, huge deadfall trees and vines, Fragile Forest opened to the public in May 2005. During the fall, winter and early spring, the great apes can be seen indoors at the Jungle of the Apes exhibit.

Fragile Forest challenges these primates in unique ways. Designers and exhibits crew have made life interesting for these very intelligent animals by including a variety of enrichment devices such as puzzles, special food chutes built into craggy walls of the habitat to vary the chimps' daily diet, and a pulley system to lift food items into the treetops of the orangutan habitat.

At Lichtenstein **Chimpanzee Refuge**, an expanse of 12,000 square feet, the chimpanzee family of 10 live in a space surrounded by rocky cliffs. In Dana Brown **Orangutan Reserve**, the space is about 7,000 square feet and more vertical than the chimp habitat to accommodate the orangutan family of three that likes life in the trees. The orangutan exhibit is covered by custom-made steel mesh, hand-woven so that it cannot be undone by busy hands.

St. Louis was the first zoo to form a bachelor gorilla group. Wild gorilla males may choose to live in an all-male group if too young or unable to assume leadership of a family group. In 1998 the American Zoo and Aquarium Association gave the Saint Louis Zoo a Significant Achievement Award for its long-term success in forming an all-male group of gorillas. The Zoo is currently home to a new bachelor group of teenage gorillas at the Ann and Paul Lux Family **Gorilla Habitat** in Fragile Forest.

Admission to the Saint Louis Zoo and Fragile Forest is free.

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