



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 6, 2008

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Saint Louis Zoo 314/781-0900
Janet Powell, ext. 4633
Christy Childs, ext. 4639

Wachovia Securities
Teresa Dougherty, 314/955-1058

SAINT LOUIS ZOO ANNOUNCES \$2.5 MILLION GIFT FROM THE WACHOVIA FOUNDATION
TO RENOVATE ITS SOUTH ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE
U.S. Sen. Christopher Bond Instrumental in Securing Funding

ST. LOUIS — Visitors arriving at the Saint Louis Zoo can look forward to a world-class welcoming experience as they begin their outing at a world-class zoo, thanks to a \$2.5 million commitment from The Wachovia Foundation. Other funding sources for the project include a federal appropriation secured by Senator Bond.

Dramatic changes at the Zoo's south entrance on Wells Drive, one of the Zoo's two entrances, will change the vehicle traffic, the safety of pedestrians and the overall aesthetic experience as visitors begin their day. The Wachovia Foundation's gift, along with a \$5 million appropriation in 2006 from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development and Related Appropriations Act, will make this transformation possible.

"This major renovation, to be called the Wachovia South Arrival Experience, has been our goal for a number of years," said Dr. Jeffrey P. Bonner, president and CEO of the Saint Louis Zoo. "It is paramount that we ensure our visitors' access and safety, and at the same time set the stage for a unique wildlife experience. With the generous help of The Wachovia Foundation, and in conjunction with Wachovia Securities, we will bring a new awareness of animal conservation to our visitors. We think this will become one of the most admired public spaces at the Zoo."

A naturalistic new bridge will span Wells Drive, allowing for pedestrians, strollers and wheelchairs to pass from the south parking lot to the Zoo entrance without conflicts in traffic. To accommodate the bridge, the Zoo's iconic Z-O-O sculpture will be moved to a prominent spot on the parking lot, and Wells Drive pavement will be lowered.

Approaching the Wachovia South Arrival Experience of the Zoo, guests will first notice handsome sculptures of African wildlife set in an island of greenery, rock outcroppings, footpaths, waterfalls and pools. In this African savanna habitat, honey locust trees will be

- more -

trimmed to resemble acacia trees, the “flat tops” in Africa that are trimmed by foraging giraffes and elephants. A conservation message that will greet new arrivals to the Zoo will underline the importance of caring for wild things in wild places.

The new life-size bronze sculptures, yet to be commissioned, may represent such animals as a lioness with cubs, a resting Grevy’s zebra, playful Chacma baboons, a graceful gerenuk, a sleek caracal or a black mamba. Also, the sculpture of a 19-foot-tall African elephant has been made possible by Casa Audlon Charitable Lead Trust, established by Mahlon B. Wallace, III and Audrey Wallace Otto.

“Among the places that are genuine iconic symbols of pride in St. Louis, the Saint Louis Zoo stands out,” said Daniel J. Ludeman, president and CEO of Wachovia Securities. “And, through our gift to this unique institution, we hope to convey our commitment to St. Louis as we welcome visitors to the new south entrance.”

“Our firm recognizes the responsibility and the opportunity we have to help shape our communities,” said Erin Budde, community affairs director at Wachovia Securities. “We are pleased to be able to support the important work of the Saint Louis Zoo with this commitment.”

About half of the Zoo’s 3,000,000 visitors each year arrive at the Zoo’s entrance on Wells Drive. When the Commission of the Saint Louis Zoological Park Subdistrict, the Zoo’s Board of Trustees and the Zoo Friends Association adopted a new Strategic Plan in 2007, one of the goals was to improve the south arrival plaza, Wells Drive and south parking lot to create a safer, more streamlined space. “Working with our partners in the City of St. Louis, Forest Park and MoDOT, we undertook a traffic study in Forest Park. We looked at designs that would move foot traffic from our busy “front door” and still be convenient and enjoyable,” adds Bonner. “With the help of U. S. Senator Christopher ‘Kit’ Bond and former U.S. Senator Jim Talent, a federal appropriation has made possible some traffic changes.”

Sen. Bond said, “The Zoo is a terrific destination for St. Louis families and visitors to the City. We want to be sure everyone enjoys the experience from start to finish. The new entrance is safer for drivers and pedestrians and gives visitors a glimpse through sculpture of the wildlife they will find inside as they enter. I am pleased to have played a role in securing funds for improving this local treasure.”

The Zoo’s south parking lot, which runs parallel to Highway I-64, will be transformed into a greener place. Asphalt will be reduced by 30%. There will be a modest reduction in parking spaces. About 5% of the lot will be surfaced in permeable paving, to allow for landscaping. Green space on the lot will be increased 40%.

- more -

The Wachovia South Arrival Experience will be designed by PGAV. The project will be completed in 2009.

###

About The Wachovia Foundation

The Wachovia Foundation is a private foundation that provides grants to eligible 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations to support four primary focus areas: Education, Community Development, Health and Human Services and Arts and Culture. The mission of The Wachovia Foundation is to build strong and vibrant communities, improve the quality of life, and make a positive difference.

About Saint Louis Zoo

Named America's #1 Zoo by Zagat Survey and Parenting Magazine, the Saint Louis Zoo is widely recognized for its innovative approaches to animal management, wildlife conservation, research and education. One of the few free zoos in the nation, it attracts about 3,000,000 visitors a year. For more information, visit stlzoo.org.

See color renderings on following pages





View Looking West on Wells



