2019 MEDIA KIT

ABOUT US

The Wilds is one of the largest wildlife conservation centers in North America for endangered species. A private, non-profit safari park, The Wilds combines cutting-edge conservation science and education programs with hands-on experiences and one-of-a-kind adventures. In southeast Ohio, The Wilds provides a natural, open-range home to rare and endangered species from around the globe.

ANIMAL POPULATION & NEWBORNS

More than 500 animals representing 28 species from around the world make up the animal population at The Wilds. Additionally, The Wilds hosts a raise-and-release program that includes hundreds of American burying beetles and hellbenders.

In 2019, The Wilds became the birthplace of 74 animals, including species such as dhole (Asiatic wild dog), cheetah, Bactrian deer, Père David’s deer, eland, scimitar-horned oryx, Masai giraffe, Bactrian camel, Sichuan takin, greater Asian one-horned and southern white rhinoceros.

MEMBERSHIP

Prices for Wilds’ memberships range from $55 - $150. Members receive free Open-Air Safari Tours at The Wilds; free or reduced admission to more than 100 zoological facilities in Ohio and across the country that are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA); free parking; free subscription to The Wilds’ member magazine; discounts on premium safari experiences, including the Wildside Tour and Zipline Safari, as well as a 10 percent discount in The Wilds’ gift shop and Overlook Café. Members also receive discounts on membership packages to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. https://thewilds.columbuszoo.org/home/visit/get-your-membership/membership-rates

2020 SPECIAL ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

In addition to safaris offered throughout the season, The Wilds presents:

5th ANNUAL RIDE FOR RHINOS
(Date to be determined in August)
In conjunction with Iron Pony Motorsports, this annual poker run includes over 400 motorcycles trekking from Columbus to Cumberland. Register with Iron Pony Motorsports and join us for the ride of a lifetime!
World Giraffe Day Tour
(Date to be determined in June)

World African Painted Dog Day Tour
(Date to be determined in August)

World Rhino Day Tour and Activities
(Date to be determined in September)

ADVENTURES & ATTRACTIONS

TAKE A TOUR...

The Wilds offers guided experiences to the public on a daily basis from May through September, as well as on Saturdays and Sundays in October. Guests may board a guided Safari vehicle or take a Zipline Safari to view rare and endangered animals living in natural, open-range habitats. From a horseback ride to a safari into the sunset, The Wilds offers a special experience for everyone.

...BY VEHICLE

OPEN-AIR SAFARI TOUR
Relax and feel the breeze in the comfort of an Open-Air Safari vehicle during an exciting day-tour experience that provides outstanding opportunities for wildlife viewing and photography. (Tours are approximately 2-2.5 hours)

SUNSET SAFARI TOUR
Fridays and Saturdays, June - September
Take in the sweeping views of The Wilds’ beautiful landscape bathed in the late evening sun. This guided tour provides an excellent opportunity to learn more about rare and endangered animals, which will be the most active during this time of day. The tour includes a stop at the Carnivore Center and other destinations for up-close experiences. Also included is a buffet-style dinner on the deck of the Overlook Café. (Tours are approximately 2 hours; dinner is served an hour before the tour during the summer months and immediately after the safari during the fall.)

WILDSIDE TOUR
This exclusive tour provides visitors with an opportunity to interact with animal management specialists for a one-of-a kind adventure. Guests may watch staff conduct a medical procedure, or they may be able to give a snack to the giraffes with our animal management team – every experience is unique! (These guided tours are 2.5 to 3 hours long, providing ample time in the pasture to see rare and endangered species.)
SUNSET WILDSIDE TOUR
Fridays and Saturdays, June - September

The awe-inspiring Wildside Tour becomes even more spectacular at sunset. These tours now begin with a more private dining experience—complete with music to accompany the beautiful scenery—and take place during typical feeding hours when animals are expected to be particularly active. The tours include a behind-the-scenes look at The Wilds’ facilities and opportunities to learn more about the special animals residing here.

EVENING AT THE OUTPOST
Sunday through Thursday, May – August

Grab a drink and rub elbows with the magnificent rhinos and giraffes during this exclusive one-of-a-kind tour. After boarding a Wildside truck with one of our animal management experts, you will be transported to our Safari Outpost, where complimentary drinks and light appetizers will be served. Relax and enjoy the scenic views of our pastures and herds while experiencing our newly-designed giraffe and rhino encounter areas, where you may get up close and personal with our herds. If rhinos and giraffes decide not to join the party, have no fear—upon exiting the Outpost, our Wildside Tour guides will be sure to include a visit with these majestic animals before your tour concludes.

...ON A ZIPLINE

ZIPLINE SAFARI TOUR

Enjoy The Wilds from an aerial perspective! Led by two professionally-trained guides, this 2.5-hour tour consists of 10 ziplines and a rappel built on a series of observation platforms overlooking various exotic animal species. Zip along a network of cables, through the trees and over the animal watering holes, lakes and pastures. This tour is designed to excite anyone with a love for wildlife and a bit of adventure. Reservations are required.

ZIPLINE OVERLOOK TOUR

A shorter version of the Zipline Safari Tour, this professionally-guided tour is a 1.5-hour journey across five ziplines overlooking the animal pastures.

ZIPLINE SUNSET TOUR

Enjoy the same Zipline Safari Tour at dusk on a Friday or Saturday. Be sure to make reservations as availability is limited!

*All Zipline participants:
• Must be of average mobility and strength and be in reasonably good health.
• Must be at least 10 years old. Children ages 10 and 11 must be accompanied by an adult on the tour and children ages 12 to 15 must have an adult on the premises.
• Must weigh between 70 and 250 pounds.
• Must wear closed-toe shoes.
...ON HORSEBACK

HORSEBACK SAFARI TOUR

Giddy up on a journey along beautiful hillsides near the pastures that The Wilds’ animals call home. Tours take approximately 1 hour, beginning at The Wilds entrance and traveling through wooded areas, along hillsides overlooking breathtaking landscapes with spectacular views of safari areas and habitats. Novice and experienced riders alike will enjoy this unique adventure.

SUNSET HORSEBACK SAFARI TOUR

Fridays and Saturdays, June - September

Guests can now literally ride off into the sunset during The Wilds’ Sunset Horseback Safari. Participants can enjoy the magical experience of viewing roaming herds and butterfly habitats while the last rays of sunlight illuminate the grasslands and hillsides. This ride is the perfect way to unwind at the end of the day while savoring the outdoors from a unique vantage point. Sunset Horseback Safaris include a buffet dinner. (Event lasts about 2 hours.)

*All riders:
  - Must be at least 9 years old. Riders under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult.
  - Must weigh between 70 and 250 pounds.

...BY BOAT (OR FROM THE BANKS)

FISHING SAFARI

The Wilds features more than 100 lakes and ponds, several of which are swimming with largemouth bass, red ear sunfish, brown bullhead, muskellunge, bluegill, channel catfish, green sunfish, long ear sunfish, pumpkinseed, white crappie, warmouth and bullhead.

Participants may use a boat supplied by The Wilds or fish from the bank of one of the scenic lakes. Up to six guests may partake in the excursion, which lasts about 4 hours. Attendants are available to transport guests, answer questions and assist with equipment.

*All participants:
  - Must abide by The Wilds’ catch-and-release policy
  - Must have a valid Ohio Fishing License
  - Reservations are required at least three days in advance
  - Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
  - Must wear lifejackets. Standard sizes are available or guests may bring their own.
  - Must wear closed-toe shoes.
MAKE IT A WILD WEEKEND

To make the most out of an adventure at The Wilds, guests can make reservations to stay overnight. Due to the increasing popularity of these accommodations, visitors are advised to make reservations in advance.

NOMAD RIDGE (May – October)

Nomad Ridge is a private, adults-only (21 and over) retreat for parties of two. The Asian-inspired yurts overlook The Wilds’ landscape from a private deck, where guests can gather around a fire pit and enjoy a view unobstructed by city buildings or urban lights.

As the sun sets behind the hills and rises over the valleys, couples can savor complimentary dinner and breakfast. Staff concierge is also available for 24-hour assistance. An Open-Air Safari is included.

The Woodland Yurts feature a choice of one queen bed or two single beds, and both the Grand Yurt and Premium Yurts feature one king bed. All options include a private bathroom, deck and wireless internet.

THE LODGE (Year-round)

The Lodge is a private luxury cabin located in one of the more remote locations at The Wilds and near one of the most scenic lakes on the property. While Nomad Ridge provides an intimate setting for parties of two, the Lodge is designed to accommodate groups of up to 12 people.

The Lodge includes a common area featuring comfortable sitting and dining areas, a fully-equipped kitchen (complete with dishes, pots, pans, utensils and linens), a screened-in porch, a gas fireplace and wireless internet. A private bath is included with every room in the Lodge.

A reservation at the Lodge includes complimentary passes (for up to 12 guests) for an Open-Air Safari. Other tours and safaris are available for Lodge guests at discounted rates.

THE WILDS CABINS at Straker Lake (March – December)

Nestled along Straker Lake, The Wilds’ Cabins at Straker Lake each offer accommodations for up to six guests with comfortable living areas and kitchens. Just steps away from each cabin is a communal dining hall where guests can gather and enjoy each other’s company. The Cabins are the perfect destination for a family vacation or corporate retreat.
CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SCHOOL GROUP PROGRAMS
The Wilds offers a variety of educational opportunities for students, from Outreach programming to overnight stays.

Details about school programs can be found under the Discover tab on The Wilds’ website.

WILDECAMP SUMMER CAMP
The annual week-long Wildecamp gives youth ages 8 to 18 the opportunity to explore unique habitats and wildlife. Details about Wildecamp courses can be found under the Discover tab on The Wilds’ website.

SCOUT OPPORTUNITIES
Scouts can participate in day trips, overnight stays and/or sleepover programs. Details about scout programs can be found under the Discover tab on The Wilds’ website.

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS
Various homeschool programs are offered multiple times throughout the year, and can accommodate day trips or overnight stays. Details about homeschool programs can be found under the Discover tab on The Wilds’ website.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND FIELD CONSERVATION
The Wilds currently maintains 28 species of animals, 19 of which are part of programs managed by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). 12 of these species are federally listed as Endangered and one is listed as threatened. The Wilds’ various programs and partnerships help advance The Wilds’ mission to “lead and inspire by connecting people and wildlife.”

HELLBENDER CONSERVATION CENTER
The Hellbender Conservation Center shows guests how eastern hellbender salamanders and American burying beetles are reared for reintroduction. Visitors can see an adult hellbender, as well as the series of aquaria used to rear the hellbenders from the egg to juvenile stage. Meanwhile, videos playing in the conservation center share stories of how scientists at The Wilds are helping hellbender and burying beetle conservation efforts.

The goal of the hellbender program is to maintain a four-year rotation of up to 300 hellbenders at a time. The facility also has the capacity to host other smaller species of conservation concern.

BREEDING PROGRAMS
The environment at The Wilds provides a unique space for successful breeding programs. The managed animal program totaled almost 500 individuals, a number of which were transferred to other zoos to support their breeding programs.

Research at The Wilds has also directly impacted conservation breeding programs. Some of those programs, as well as recent achievements within those programs, include:

- **Rhinoceros Breeding Program**
  The Wilds manages one of the largest white rhino herds in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) zoological community and remains the only known facility outside of Africa with fourth- and fifth-generation rhino calves that have been born in human care.
  - 2019 saw the arrival of two southern white rhinos born at The Wilds.
  - This brings the total number of white rhinos born at The Wilds to 22.
  - This year’s births are both fifth-generation calves.
  - The Wilds’ white rhino breeding program was recognized by the AZA with an Edward H. Bean Award for its contribution to the managed breeding program (2017).

- **Cheetah Breeding Program**
  The Wilds is one of 10 designated cheetah breeding centers within the AZA’s Species Survival Plan® (SSP) program and works with the Cheetah Breeding Center Coalition.

- **American Burying Beetle Release**
  The Wilds is one of four AZA-accredited facilities that breeds beetles for the endangered species recovery program and has been releasing beetles on site since 2010. Over the history of this project, The Wilds has raised more than 2,800 beetles and provided more than 2,100 beetles for release projects in Ohio.
  - The Wilds collected new breeding stock from the wild population of burying beetles that still exists in Nebraska.
  - The Wilds continues to release American burying beetles on site at The Wilds as part of the effort to restore this species in Ohio.
  - Mark and recapture study is helping us learn more about what happens after we release the beetles at The Wilds. In 2019, we confirmed the presence of overwintering beetles at The Wilds and caught 62 beetles across property, a new record for our monitoring efforts.

**REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FIELD CONSERVATION**

The Wilds is a founding member of the Conservation Centers for Species Survival (C2S2), a consortium of five very large AZA-accredited facilities dedicated to applying combined land and scientific resources to population sustainability.

While not an exclusive list, The Wilds has promoted population sustainability of the following animals:

- **Barn Owls**
  The Wilds houses barn owl nest boxes placed and monitored by some of our partners in bird conservation. Each year, we have seen barn owls successfully raising chicks in these nest boxes. In 2019, a male hatched in a Wilds nest box in 2017 was found breeding in another nest box, an exciting development for our conservation efforts for this declining owl.

- **Eastern Hellbender Salamanders**
Recent surveys conducted by The Wilds and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium on eastern hellbender salamanders in southeast Ohio have determined their population has declined by 80 percent in their native range. In response, government agencies, zoos, soil and water conservation districts, a land trust and educational institutions have joined forces to aid the recovery of hellbenders.

The Wilds works in collaboration with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, Oglebay Good Zoo and West Liberty University to collect hellbender eggs from their native range and to raise these animals in a protected setting for their eventual reintroduction into stream systems where this species is no longer found. We will continue to work with our West Virginia partners to monitor the success of our head-start releases and to help install “hellbender huts” that directly provide habitat in wild rivers. The Wilds is also a leader in environmental DNA monitoring for hellbenders.

- **Freshwater Mussels**

  The Conservation Medicine department has worked with the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium staff to develop ground-breaking techniques to help understand the health of freshwater mussels – one of the fastest declining animal groups on the continent – and the factors influencing the success of mussel conservation efforts. The Wildlife Ecology Department has developed an environmental DNA test to help identify populations of the critically endangered Carolina heelsplitter.

- **Scimitar-horned oryx**

  The Wilds has supported the efforts of the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF) to re-establish a population of scimitar-horned oryx in part of their original native range in Chad. Because of this work, these animals that have been extinct in the wild for almost 30 years are now thriving in their native habitat. This project is a collaborative effort including SCF, the government of Chad and the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi. In 2015 and 2016, several scimitar-horned oryx born at The Wilds were sent to Abu Dhabi to bolster the genetics of their “World Herd” that is the source of the animals being sent back to Chad.

  The Wilds’ Director of Animal Management Dan Beetem was invited to be part of the 2017 release of scimitar-horned oryx. With funding from the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium’s Conservation Management Committee (CMC) grant, he spent two weeks in Chad working with the team that monitors the released population of oryx and other wildlife in the reserve, placing tracking collars and processing over 40 animals prior to the release, and observing these animals as they left the base camp to become part of the new herd of wild oryx. Our staff is excited and proud to play a role in this historic effort.

- **Sichuan Takin**

  The Wilds is home to the largest herd of Sichuan takin outside of mainland China and the only zoological facility to manage a large herd made up of both male and female members. The Wilds has even provided other zoos with takin for their own animal care programs.

  Research completed on the takin herds at The Wilds has resulted in the development
of techniques used by researchers working with this species in China, the takins’ native land. This is a collaborative project involving the Wildlife Conservation Society, Smithsonian and various Chinese partners.

- **Songbirds**
  The Wilds is a founding member of the AZA SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) North American Songbird program. We also host a Motus tower, which allows us to detect tagged birds migrating through The Wilds. Thus far, we have had 17 detections of 7 different species through spring and fall migrations. Finally, The Wilds maintains a network of bluebird nesting boxes across the property.

- **Trumpeter Swan and Osprey**
  The Wilds worked with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo to release trumpeter swans and ospreys in Ohio. Both species are now well-established at The Wilds and both programs are no longer actively releasing these animals.

**RESTORATION ECOLOGY**

The Wilds is a living laboratory, helping researchers better understand how ecosystems can recover from human influence.

Within this setting, researchers can explore how ecosystems recover from significant disturbance—in this case, surface mining. Long-term ecological research has been underway at The Wilds since 1999 to understand these processes. The goals of The Wilds’ Restoration Ecology Program are to:

1. **Restore** ecosystem diversity and function,
2. **Maintain** restoration efforts and
3. **Protect** ecosystems against future disturbances.

The program focuses on evaluating current ecological conditions and applying adaptive management methods to assist in ecosystem recovery. Increasing native plant diversity and restoring ecological function are two of the main focuses of this program. In order to contribute to global conservation efforts, conducting research alongside restoration efforts and sharing the results is an integral part of the program.

A few recent restoration accomplishments include:

- Creating nearly 700 acres of prairie since 2004.
- Restoring more than 18,000 linear feet of stream and 84 acres of riparian buffer. These efforts included removing invasive species, shaping banks, adding rocks and other habitat, establishing native plants and installing riffles.
- Planting more than 15,000 trees since 2015 as part of an effort to reforest the landscape.
• Establishment of a 75+ acre ‘Healthy Forest, Healthy Wildlife’ site. Restoration in this forest includes invasive species removal, 19 acres planted with natives by spring 2020, vernal pool establishment and installation of bat roosting poles in 2019.

Recent and ongoing research projects at The Wilds include:

• A Wilds-Ohio State University (OSU) collaboration focusing on how native prairie grasses change soil properties over time

• A project with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to determine native prairie species which can effectively be used in reclamation

• Muskingum University researchers’ monitoring of imperiled populations of grassland nesting birds. The Wilds is uniquely suited to provide a habitat for these birds, the populations of which are declining throughout other areas of the state.

• Prescribed burns of prairies and monitoring how insects and other species respond to the burns

• The United States Forest Service’s testing of plots for biocontrol of the invasive tree Ailanthus with a native fungus

• The Ohio State University’s research on native bees and their responses to prairie restoration through monitoring and nest boxes

• West Virginia University’s investigation of the land’s ability to support rare native plant species

• West Virginia University’s investigation of native grass potential to be used as biofuel

• Denison University research using satellite imagery to track the recovery of the land since mining and the spread of invasive shrubs in the grasslands

• Working with the Office of Surface Mining to test various methods of tree planting to improve reforestation methods for reclaimed mine land

MORE FACTS AND FIGURES

PROPERTY

The Wilds sits on 9,154 acres (approximately 14 square miles) in Cumberland, Ohio about 90 miles southeast of Columbus. The property encompasses 2,000 acres of pastures and a 27-acre Carnivore Conservation Center.
Designated as an Audubon Important Bird Area, The Wilds’ property includes a birding station with a covered lookout. The grounds also house a butterfly habitat, hiking trails, more than 15 miles of mountain bike and hiking trails and about 150 lakes.

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

The Wilds is open seven days a week from May through September and Saturdays and Sundays in October. Select winter tours are available from November through April.

**VISITOR AND PARTICIPATION STATS**

The Wilds experienced the facility’s fourth highest attendance year on record after hosting more than 121,000 visitors in 2019. Driving this increasing attendance were popular tours—particularly the Open-Air Safari and Wildside Tours—as well as a variety of education group offerings.

**STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

In 2019, The Wilds staff was assisted by 57 adult volunteers and 38 teen volunteers. Both adult and teen volunteers support restoration and wildlife and research projects, interact with visitors to help enhance their Wilds’ experience and assist with educational programs.

**HISTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940s-80s</td>
<td>Area is surface-mined for coal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Federal Reclamation Act required contouring, topsoil and erosion control plantings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid 1970s</td>
<td>The Ohio Zoological Commission forms. Spurred into action by the numerous zoos in the state (Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Akron and the now-defunct Kings Island Wild Animal Habitat), Governor Jim Rhodes created a commission to develop a plan for how Ohio could support these cultural and tourism (and eventually scientific) organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late 1970s</td>
<td>Initial concept of The Wilds forms as a public-private partnership involving the Ohio Departments of Natural Resources and Development, the Ohio zoos and the private sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Formally incorporated in 1984 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit under the name “The International Center for the Preservation of Wild Animals, Inc. (ICPWA) dba The Wilds.” ICPWA received a gift of approximately 9,154 acres of land from the Central Ohio Coal Company, a subsidiary of American Electric Power Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Johnson Visitor Center completed (with geothermal heat).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<td>------</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Last cut of the Big Muskie to the east of The Wilds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Przewalski’s wild horses become the first species to be released into The Wilds’ pastures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>The Wilds opens to the public for tours.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accreditation awarded.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Day and overnight education camps begin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Overlook Café and the gift shop opens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>The Wilds and Columbus Zoo and Aquarium partnership begins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>The Lodge completed and opened for reservations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Lake Trail completed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>American Burying Beetle Facility constructed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Conservation Centers for Species Survival (C2S2) forms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Mid-sized Carnivore Conservation Center opens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Nomad Ridge opens to public.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>A southern white rhino calf becomes the first recorded fourth-generation white rhino to be born in human care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Conservation Science Training Center opens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Persian onagers born at The Wilds were the first wild equids ever produced through artificial insemination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Zipline, Horseback Safari and Fishing Safaris are added to The Wilds experience and generate additional revenue to support the mission.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>A &quot;<strong>Strong Voice for Conservation</strong>“ designation is received from AZA for our research-related activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>The Hellbender Conservation Center opens.</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>The Wilds presents the first annual Soirée fundraising event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>The Wilds welcomes the first birth of a fifth-generation white rhino outside Africa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Begins offering Sunset Wildside and Sunset Horseback Safari tours.</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>The Wilds hosted the Reebok Spartan Race.</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Construction of a larger White Rhino Management Facility begins.</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>New ACZM veterinary residency in Conservation Medicine and Ecosystem Health begins in partnership with The Ohio State University and the Columbus Zoo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Largest white rhino herd barn in the world opens at The Wilds.</td>
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</table>
"Kids Discovery Field Station" opens for kids.

The Wilds begins their partnership with the Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs -- Legacy Program for Men, an intensive peer-based program designed to assist those who have served or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in overcoming challenges that stem from daily military life, combat deployments and post-traumatic stress (PTS).

First litter of African painted dog pups born at The Wilds.

1st Annual "Ride for Rhinos" motorcycle ride is held.

2017

Dr. Jan Ramer is hired as Vice President of The Wilds.

The Wilds becomes a new member of the Source Population Alliance (SPA).

"Cardinal Award" received through the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (ODNR).

The Wilds receives "Top Honors" in AZA's national Edward H. Bean Award for the southern white rhino breeding program.

Thanks to a generous donation from J.W. (Bill) Straker, construction begins on The Wilds' Cabins at Straker Lake.

Four white rhino calves born at The Wilds.

Second F5 (5th generation) white rhino born at The Wilds.

Banteng calf born through successful artificial insemination at The Wilds.

2018

First litter of dhole pups born at The Wilds.

The Wilds hosts the first-ever Conservation Science Symposium at Muskingum University.

The Wilds Cabins at Straker Lake opens.

2019

New record attendance year with more than 121,800 visitors

4th Annual "Ride for Rhinos" motorcycle ride is held.

Received a national award from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums—the 2019 Volunteer Engagement Award for Innovation for the 'Outstanding Wilds Learning Program' (OWLs).

Economic Impact Study completed.

Renovations and upgrades begin at the Overlook building.
GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

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EMAIL: information@thewilds.org

PRESS CONTACT
For all media inquiries and requests, contact Columbus Zoo Community Relations at pr@columbuszoo.org.

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