

# OREGON ZOO NEWS

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **HELP POLAR BEARS BY RIDING YOUR BIKE TO THE ZOO**

*In support of Bike to Work Day, people who ride their bike to the zoo get in free May 19*

PORTLAND, Ore. — As sea ice in the Arctic Ocean melts due to global warming, polar bears who depend on the ice are drowning. Shrinking sea ice is forcing bears to swim greater distances to find food, up to 75 miles more than average. Global warming is caused by human activities, including automobile emissions.

To help bring attention to global warming and support Bike to Work Day and Metro's "Drive Less, Save More" campaign, the Oregon Zoo is inviting the public to bike to the zoo and receive free admission on May 19.

Bike to Work Day helps kick off the zoo's new bike incentive program, where cyclists who bike to the zoo will receive 50 cents off regular admission.

The zoo also supports Metro's "Drive Less, Save More" effort to increase public awareness about the personal benefits of reducing single-person car trips. Metro hopes to inform the public about transportation choices and encourage simple, convenient actions that help people save time and money.

"When people leave their cars at home, they help the environment by reducing pollution and greenhouse emissions," says Robert Liberty, Metro Councilor and avid bike commuter. "By biking, busing or MAXing, riders not only save money at the gas pumps, they also help polar bears in the wild."

Biking to the zoo isn't as challenging as one might think, according to Liberty.

From the west, bikers can come by roads on well-marked bike paths and from the east by biking to your nearest TriMet stop and placing your bike on the bus or the MAX. Metro's "Bike There!" bike map has the best and latest routes to take in Portland and surrounding areas. It is available at various retail locations for \$6.

"Riding your bike is a great way to get some exercise, see a different view of Portland and reduce pollution," says Liberty. "It's a win, win, win."

## **TriMet offers another solution**

TriMet offers environmental and easy solutions for getting to the zoo without a car. The Washington Park MAX station at the zoo is the deepest transit station in North America and every 15 minutes or less, a train is ready to drop zoo visitors within a 20-second elevator ride of the zoo entrance. If packing light is a concern, collapsible strollers and bikes are allowed on the MAX.

The zoo is also accessible by bus. The 63 bus to Washington Park runs about once an hour every day of the week. Starting in downtown and ending in the Sylvan neighborhood, the 63 is a great way to explore other areas of Washington Park like the Rose Garden or the Hoyt Arboretum.

Similar to last year, MAX and bus riders can also receive a 50 cent discount when they show their TriMet pass at the ticket office.

The zoo is a service of Metro and is dedicated to its mission to inspire the community to create a better future for wildlife. Committed to conservation, the zoo is currently working to save endangered California condors, Oregon silverspot butterflies, western pond turtles and Kincaid's lupine. Other projects include studies on black rhinos, Asian elephants, polar bears and bats.

The zoo opens at 9 a.m. daily and is located five minutes from downtown Portland, just off Highway 26. The zoo is also accessible by MAX light rail line. Zoo visitors are encouraged to ride MAX or take TriMet bus #63 to the Oregon Zoo. Call TriMet Customer Service, 503-238-RIDE (7433), or visit [www.trimet.org](http://www.trimet.org) for fare and route information.

General admission is \$9.50 (12-64), seniors \$8 (65+), children \$6.50 (3-11), and infants 2 and under are free. A parking fee of \$1 per car is also required. Additional information is available at [www.oregonzoo.org](http://www.oregonzoo.org) or by calling 503-226-1561.

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