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## **Virginia Zoo unveils new exhibit for American bison**

NORFOLK, VA – The Virginia Zoo is excited to reveal a brand-new exhibit for their resident American bison, Lily. This move comes in preparation for the new capital campaign and expansion project, the EdVenture & Exploration Campaign, which in part seeks to create an all-new EdVenture & Exploration Campus to further the Zoo's educational offerings. The former bison habitat, along with the area previously known as "North America," will be the site of this new campus which will serve as a space for education programs and housing Animal Ambassadors that currently live behind the scenes.

Lily first arrived at the Virginia Zoo in 2000 and at 26-years-old, is one of the Zoo's senior residents. Her keepers say Lily is a joy to have around the ZooFarm with her unwavering sassy personality. Her favorite enrichment activities include knocking down barrels and laying in her mud wallow during the summer. The relocation went smoothly and now Lily is familiarizing herself with the new space where she has been seen brushing up against trees and taking in the views of the Lafayette River. This new bison habitat is located in Flora Point near Turtle Oasis, the first EdVenture & Exploration Campus addition to the Zoo. Flora Point is now open and the bison exhibit is visible to the public.

Many new opportunities will be available at the Virginia Zoo as each stage of the EdVenture & Exploration Campaign progresses. With the generous support of donor Joan Brock, all donations up to \$350,000 made to the EdVenture & Exploration Campaign will be matched in order to help the Zoo reach their \$16.2 million goal. To learn more about the campaign and contribute to this initiative, visit [edventureandexploration.org](http://edventureandexploration.org).

### **About American Bison:**

American bison are the largest terrestrial animals in North America characterized by broad shoulders with a hump and a slim tail end. They are native to the grasslands and prairies of North America stretching from northern Canada down to the southwest United States. Due to wild population decline, their movements are greatly regulated and conservation herds are closely monitored throughout national parks. American bison are listed as "Near Threatened" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of species that are threatened by extinction.

### **About the Virginia Zoo**

The Virginia Zoo, located in Norfolk, Virginia, is home to more than 700 exceptional animals representing over 150 fascinating species. Founded in 1901 and residing on 53 beautifully landscaped acres, the Virginia Zoo has demonstrated a commitment to saving and protecting

the world's wildlife by inspiring a passion for nature and taking conservation action at home and around the world. The Virginia Zoo is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is recognized as a global leader in education, recreation, science, wildlife conservation, and animal care and welfare. For more than a century, the Zoo has connected adults, families and school children with the natural world and its wildlife. To learn more, visit [www.virginiazoo.org](http://www.virginiazoo.org).

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