



# Springfield Park District

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT ANNOUNCES JACKIE PEELER AS THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE HENSON ROBINSON ZOO**

[Springfield, IL] – The Springfield Park District has named Jackie Peeler the Director of the Henson Robinson Zoo. “Jackie has done a great job leading and managing the Henson Robinson Zoo over the past five months as the Interim Zoo Director,” said Springfield Park District Executive Director, Derek Harms. “She is a talented manager with over 25 years of experience and we are excited she will be the next leader of the Henson Robinson Zoo. We look forward to working with Jackie to advance the mission of the zoo.”

Peeler began her professional career as a zookeeper and developed her knowledge about animals and zoo operations at several facilities before taking the position of Assistant Director at the Henson Robinson Zoo in 1999. She earned a Bachelor’s of Science in Biology from the State University of New York- Binghamton.

“I’m excited about the future of the zoo,” said Peeler. “I’m looking forward to building partnerships to act on the opportunities that will allow the zoo to grow and continue to serve the community.”

Opened in 1970, the Henson Robinson Zoo began as a small children’s zoo that has since evolved into a facility that houses over 45 species of animals from five continents. The zoo is an entity of the Springfield Park District and is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). AZA accredited institutions are dedicated to conservation, education, science and recreation and are leaders in the care and conservation of wildlife and as well as educating people about the natural world.

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