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SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF THE HENSON ROBINSON ZOO

The Springfield Park District is excited to announce that Jeff Mitchell has been promoted to the

position of Director of the Henson Robinson Zoo (HRZ).

After earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, IN, Jeff began his professional career working at the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago where he worked with sharks, ray, freshwater fish, reptiles, amphibians and seahorses.

Throughout his career, Jeff helped to co-author and publish the first husbandry guide for Seahorses in zoos and aquariums as well as helped increase the collection of fish, invertebrates and reptiles by over 300% at the Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo.

Jeff began working for the Springfield Park District in 2018 when he accepted the position of General Animal Curator.

As Curator, he was responsible for the oversight of Zookeepers, the animal collection at HRZ, veterinary services, husbandry, and the overall wellbeing and safety of the animals,

keepers and patrons who visit the Henson Robinson Zoo.

Jeff quickly began to take on more responsibilities, and his leadership role as Interim Director of the Zoo since February proved he was the stand-out choice to promote full-time into this position.

"He has accomplished so much in just one year since joining our team with regards to Zoo operations, infrastructure and beautification. His charismatic personality and education to the public through Social Media has really re-connected the Community to our Zoo." states

Lynn Saputo, Director of Recreation and Marketing.

In his free time, you can find Jeff riding one of his bikes with the Springfield Bicycle Club around Springfield or looking for a hill to climb.

Please join us in welcoming Jeff into his new role as Director of the Henson Robinson Zoo and wish him good luck as he prepares to drive the Zoo's overall Mission and operations for a bright future!

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