



Find your **FUN**, find your *smile* at springfieldparks.org

GENERAL OFFICE

Bunn Park
2500 South 11th Street
Springfield, IL 62703

springfieldparks.org

Phone | 217 544-1751

Fax | 217 544-1811

ADMINISTRATION

Derek Harms, CPRP
Executive Director

Jason Graham
Director of Parks
& Planning

Stephen H. Flesch
Director of Finance
& Administration

Lynn Saputo
Director of Recreation
& Marketing

Amanda Weaver
Asst. Director of Recreation

TRUSTEES

Leslie A. Sgro
President

Grant Hammer
Robin Schmidt
C.J. Metcalf
Sierra Senor-Moore
Lisa Badger
Kris Theilen



Photo courtesy of the Henson Robinson Zoo

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 11, 2019

Contact: Jeff Mitchell, Director
Phone: (219) 743-5924

SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT'S HENSON ROBINSON ZOO IS SAD TO ANNOUNCE PASSING OF THE OLDEST ASIATIC BLACK BEAR IN THE UNITED STATES.

[Springfield, IL] – The Springfield Park District's Henson Robinson Zoo is sad to announce the passing of Asiatic Black Bear "Mandy".

Mandy was born on January 15, 1984 in West Virginia and came to the Henson Robinson Zoo on March 19, 1986. Mandy was paired with her companion Boo-Boo and lived at Henson Robinson Zoo for over 33 years. Before her passing, keepers noticed some unusual behaviors and vet staff from the University of Illinois and Henson Robinson Zoo vets scheduled a wellness check. During this check, Mandy's health and wellness was assessed and it was determined that she needed to be humanely euthanized by the veterinarian staff.

Director Jeff Mitchell stated, "Mandy was a very charismatic bear and a great ambassador for her species at the Henson Robinson Zoo. Having spent over 33 years here shows the quality of care here at Henson Robinson Zoo. The staff have taken care of Mandy over the years and their affection for Mandy never lacked. We are devastated by her passing and are working together as a group to remember Mandy as the wonderful, fun loving, slightly stubborn bear that she was."

Mandy was the oldest Asiatic Black Bear in North America at 35 years and 9 months old. The oldest Asiatic Black Bear ever recorded lived to be 42 and the average Asiatic Black Bear lives between 25-29 years.

###

For more information on any other Park District news related items, please visit our website at www.springfieldparks.org