



## SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT ANNOUNCES NEW ZOO DIRECTOR

Email: [dhotle@springfieldparks.org](mailto:dhotle@springfieldparks.org)

Office Phone: 217-585-1821 ext. 1705

### GENERAL OFFICE

#### Bunn Park

2500 South 11th Street  
Springfield, IL 62703

[springfieldparks.org](http://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, CPA

Director of Finance  
& Administration

#### Lynn Saputo, CPRP

Director of Recreation  
& Marketing

#### Amanda Weaver

Asst. Director of Recreation  
& Marketing

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C.J. Metcalf

Lisa Badger

Kris Theilen

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Mallory Beck

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 26, 2021

Contact: Lynn Saputo

Phone: (217) 414-1461

[Springfield, IL] – The Springfield Park District has appointed **Doug Hotle** as our new Director of the Henson Robinson Zoo. Doug accepted the position and began his full-time employment at the Zoo on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Doug has worked professionally in the animal field for over 40 years. Doug began his wild journey as a teen with a private animal facility becoming involved with all types of exotic creatures and working alongside of legends such as Jack Hanna and *Wild Kingdom's* Jim Fowler.

Although Doug is often pegged as a “reptile guy” if you ask him to pick a favorite animal his answer is always “whatever is in front of me at the moment”. Doug began his official zoo career in the 1980’s as a penguin keeper and through his career has risen to the ranks of senior keeper, curator, general curator and eventually executive director with some of the top AZA accredited zoos in the country.



Doug’s reach into our understanding of the natural world extends beyond simply managing zoos and aquariums. Doug has traveled internationally to provide professional training for other zoos, design and build exhibits, perform conservation work in the field, publish scientific research as well as educational books for *Animal Planet* and the *Discovery Channel*. He has been known to pop up regularly as a guest speaker at professional symposiums as well as local television, *National Geographic* and most recently as a prominent figure in the documentary “*The Venom Interviews*”, where he is always eager to share his knowledge and excitement for all things wild.

The district is pleased to have selected someone with Director Hotle’s experience, tenure in the world of Zoos & Aquariums. “*We are excited to welcome Doug to our team here at the Park District and Henson Robinson Zoo. We are confident he is a great fit and will provide a fresh viewpoint to the staff and operations at our Zoo.*” – Director of Recreation & Marketing, Lynn Saputo. **We hope that you will come out this Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> for the Zoo’s “50 Years of Wild” Rewind Anniversary Celebration and meet Doug in person as you enjoy a full day of extra FUN at the Henson Robinson Zoo!**

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For more information on this topic and any other Park District news related items, please visit our website at [www.springfieldparks.org](http://www.springfieldparks.org).