



# El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens

## MAYOR

Oscar Leeser

March 18, 2024

Dear Volunteers,

## CITY COUNCIL

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We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued dedication to the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens and your wonderful community!

The City of El Paso is excited to announce we are converting the management and oversight of the existing zoo volunteer program to the Zoo staff. The volunteer program was previously managed by the El Paso Zoological Society, a private nonprofit corporation.

**Rest assured your existing volunteer opportunities will go on seamlessly without interruption by this transition.**

The El Paso Zoological Society has been our valued partner for many years, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Society to re-imagine a strong and beneficial relationship moving forward.

The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens **remain devoted to our mission to celebrate the value of animals and natural resources** and create opportunities for people to rediscover their connection to nature.

In the coming weeks, we are excited to unveil our **enhanced volunteer program** which will give you more and diverse opportunities to volunteer. Some of these new opportunities will come in specialized volunteering opportunities depending on where you would like to help. For example, we will be starting up a construction volunteer group, a gardening volunteer task force, an event volunteer group, our outreach specialists and animal handlers, eco-rangers and a slew of other specialized volunteer opportunities with specialize trainings for each.

We will also be launching a volunteer-only web portal and be converting some space into a volunteer lounge where you can check in, leave your personal belongings also receive important updates and information.

When you come to volunteer, we will be asking you to fill out the city volunteer form and then continue with the service you have been providing the zoo. Mr. Rick LoBello our Education and Conservation Director will be coordinating the volunteer program along with some familiar and some new faces.

We express our **heartfelt gratitude for your continued volunteering** and support of the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [montisanoj@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:montisanoj@elpasotexas.gov) or call 915.212.2800.

Sincerely,

*Joe Montisano*

Joe Montisano, El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Director

