

MARYLAND ZOO

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 July 2021

CONTACT: Jane Ballentine

O: 443-552-5275

MARYLAND ZOO FREE OF SINGLE-USE CONSUMER PLASTICS

-Continuing commitment to sustainability-

BALTIMORE – As three-time winners, The Maryland Zoo community is once again participating in the [Plastic Free Ecochallenge](#) this month. In the spirit of this global sustainability movement, we are excited to announce that The Zoo no longer sells drinks in plastic bottles! All bottled drinks, including water, are now sold in recyclable aluminum.

“This is just one more way to show how we are committed to sustainability and protecting wildlife and wild places,” stated Kirby Fowler, president/CEO of The Maryland Zoo. “Working together with our retail, food and beverage partner, Service Systems Associates (SSA), we are able to make these changes which help keep these plastics from entering the environment in harmful ways.”

Other changes that have been made to remove single-use plastics from Zoo concessions are:

- Dippin’ Dots and ice cream cups are paper;
- All spoons are made from wood;
- Condiment portion cups are paper;
- All food containers are paper products. In the near future, the Zoo will use washable plates, bowls and utensils at concession stands;
- We now have three refillable water bottle stations within the Zoo and encourage guests to bring their own reusable water bottles when they visit.

“Removing single-use plastic items from the Zoo is a direct action to protect wildlife,” continued Fowler. “Many of our staff are also committed to sustainability in their own homes and we encourage our members and guests to join us in reducing, or better yet eliminating, single-use plastics in our lives. Everyone who chooses to reduce their use of plastic is helping to protect wildlife.”

About The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. More than 1,500 animals are represented in the Zoo’s varied natural habitat exhibits in areas such as the award-winning Penguin Coast, Polar Bear Watch, the Maryland Wilderness, African Journey and the Children’s Zoo. Situated in Druid Hill Park near downtown Baltimore, the Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. For more information, visit www.marylandzoo.org.

About SSA

Sustainability, conservation and education are the quintessence of who these institutions are at their core, and SSA is the best partner for driving change and moving the needle. We’re always more than just a guest service partner. SSA is an equal in the fight for a stronger sustainable business and a larger position in conservation. The choices that guests make matter, and we lead our partners to go plastic-free in our gift shops, promote eco-friendly collections throughout our operations, and use sustainably sourced ingredients and practices to complete our menus. **Together, we are making the world better.** www.thessagroup.com

###