

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Brevard Zoo Launches Accessible Kayaking System**

MELBOURNE, Fla., February 1, 2023 — In an effort to solidify its dedication to inclusivity, Brevard Zoo has launched a new experience: Accessible kayaking! Individuals living with paralysis or decreased mobility can now kayak through the Zoo's Wetlands area in the Wild Florida section of the campus.

Supported by a grant from the [Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation](#), the EZ Launch Accessible Transfer System will allow guests to transfer into kayaks using a transfer bench. This device will assist individuals using wheelchairs or other mobility devices, or those with limited mobility to transfer into their kayak independently. It also provides extra stability when launching and docking.

This launch system is only available at the Zoo's Wetlands kayaking area, which guests can find a marked pathway to in the Wild Florida section of the Zoo. The EZ Launch Accessible Transfer System is not yet available for Expedition Africa kayaking tours.

The system is available to the public when Wetlands kayaking is open or with the Zoo's Director of Operations approval. Guests planning their visit to the Zoo who would like to use this system are asked to call ahead of time to ensure it is running and staffed. Guests visiting impromptu can come by the Guest Services office to see if it's possible to reserve a time to use the kayaking system.

Age and weight requirements for using this system are the same as general policies for Wetlands kayaking. Guests must have the ability to independently transfer to use the EZ Launch Accessible Transfer System for their safety. Users must also provide verbal or nonverbal communication of their complete understanding of this before starting the transfer.

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## **About Brevard Zoo**

*Brevard Zoo is home to more than 900 animals representing 195 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education, and conservation. More information is available at [www.brevardzoo.org](http://www.brevardzoo.org).*

*Treetop Trek features five aerial obstacle courses that whisk guests above parts of the Zoo and through lush Florida landscapes. More information is available at [www.treetoptrek.com](http://www.treetoptrek.com).*

## **About the Reeve Foundation:**

*The [Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation](http://www.ChristopherReeve.org) is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for individuals and families impacted by paralysis. By uniting the brightest minds in the field, we are working tirelessly to accelerate scientific discovery across the field of spinal cord research by investing in labs across the globe. Additionally, through a cooperative agreement with the Administration for Community Living, the Reeve Foundation's National [Paralysis Resource Center](#) (NPRC) promotes the health, well-being, and independence of people living with paralysis, providing comprehensive information, resources, and referral services assisting over 100,000 individuals and families since its launch in 2002. The Reeve Foundation is committed to elevating our community's voices and needs to achieve greater representation and independence. We meet all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's standards for charity accountability and hold the BBB's Charity Seal. For more information, please visit our website at [www.ChristopherReeve.org](http://www.ChristopherReeve.org) or call 800-225-0292.*