



**Henry Vilas Park Zoological Society**  
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## ***New Zoo Plans on Display in Capitol Rotunda*** ***Arctic Passage Habitat featured***

(Madison, WI)— Just in time for the holiday season, the Capitol Rotunda is host to the Henry Vilas Zoo's Arctic Passage model. The Arctic Passage is a planned exhibit for polar bears, seals, snow owls and reindeer. It is scheduled for completion in 2007. The exhibit will remain on display on the first floor of the rotunda until December 9th.

This habitat is part of a larger renovation effort called the Zoo Century campaign. It is a ten-year, \$27 million fundraising initiative to complete major renovations of the completely free Henry Vilas Zoo. The Arctic Passage exhibit and a completely new Children's Zoo are the first phases of Zoo Century.

The Capitol Rotunda is the first stop in the Arctic Passage model's journey around the area this winter season. Zoological Society Executive Director Mark Schemmel commented, "We are eager to share our plans with the children and families of Dane County and happy that Capitol visitors will have a chance to view the Arctic habitat."

The Arctic Passage will provide visitors a journey that will educate and entertain. Visitors will see free swimming harbor seals, a replica iceberg, a replica of a ship used to research in the arctic, a place to watch the reindeer, and incredible viewing of the polar bears on land, in the water and under water. Zoo Director Jim Hubing describes the new exhibit, "There's enough natural habitat to encourage natural behavior so that our visitors are going to see animals the way they live."

The Henry Vilas Park Zoological Society has been the Henry Vilas Zoo's member-supported fundraising organization since 1914. The Zoological Society promotes the Zoo's mission to conserve and protect the wonders of the living natural world, to build an understanding by people of animals by promoting conservation, and to provide high quality recreational and educational experiences to over 500,000 annual visitors. For more information visit [vilaszoo.org](http://vilaszoo.org).

The free Henry Vilas Zoo is open 365 days a year. Featuring three indoor buildings, it is a great winter destination.

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