

REDWOOD SKY WALK

— AT SEQUOIA PARK ZOO —

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Redwood Sky Walk's Adventure Segments to Close for Maintenance, ADA Routes Remain Open

City's Redwood Sky Walk Special Projects Manager Provides Detail

Eureka, CA Sept. 11, 2021—The City of Eureka's Sequoia Park Zoo has attracted record numbers of visitors since opening the new Redwood Sky Walk in June of 2021. After a busy inaugural summer season, zoo staff continuously inspect the experience for wear and tear. Today, Jim Campbell-Spickler, Special Projects Manager for the Redwood Sky Walk announced that he will temporarily close the Redwood Sky Walk's special Adventure Segments. ADA accessible paths on the Redwood Sky Walk will remain open and fully operational during this time.

“The Redwood Sky Walk is designed to be a dynamic experience and the adventure bridges have been engineered to move and sway with people, weather, and wind events. However, because of this movement, we must pay special attention to wear and tear trends and stay ahead of any emerging needs,” Campbell-Spickler said. “As we close out our first high season of activity, we are confirming which pieces of equipment will benefit from a seasonal refresh. This closure will also allow our team to prep the experience for the high wind events anticipated during the upcoming winter season.”

Jim Campbell-Spickler is no stranger to adventure, heights, or risk management. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife at Humboldt State University, then stayed on to complete his Master of Science in Biology. Since then, he's spent his career up in the trees, on the sides of cliffs, and more, always observing and studying nature. In 1997, he established Eco-Ascension Research and Consulting and used his combined talents for science, observation, and tree climbing to help with a number of special projects all over the world. Over the years, he's worked as a scientist, a tree climber, a naturalist, a project manager, and he's been featured as a subject matter expert by National Geographic multiple times.

As a part of Campbell-Spickler's current role, working for the City of Eureka, he oversees daily, weekly, and monthly inspections of the Redwood Sky Walk, liaises with the engineers who helped design and build the structure, and works with the city's building inspectors to ensure the continuous safety of all visitors to the Sequoia Park Zoo. Campbell-Spickler also holds chief responsibility for ensuring the ongoing protection and welfare of the redwood trees themselves. As a trained biologist, he often interacts with guests and shares his vast knowledge of the complex ecosystems at work in Northern California's coastal redwood forests.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Jim on our team," Sequoia Park Zoo Director Gretchen Ziegler said. "His unique background is a perfect match for the very special experience we are now offering on the Redwood Sky Walk. Jim's been with us on this project since the early days of planning when he was a subcontracted consultant. The city recognized the value of his contributions and expertise right away."

The City of Eureka will announce the Redwood Sky Walk's Adventure Segment reopening schedule as soon as it is confirmed. There will be no changes to gate admission policies, prices, or schedules during this time.

The community is reminded that even outside of regularly scheduled maintenance periods, the Redwood Sky Walk is subject to close for weather events, special inspections, and more - sometimes with little warning. Visitors hoping to experience the Redwood Sky Walk should routinely check sequoiaparkzoo.net and redwoodskywalk.com before leaving home to confirm accessibility during the time of their planned visit.

"While keeping the new Redwood Sky Walk experience open as much as possible is a priority, our number one goal is always public safety. The Sequoia Park Zoo staff and I really appreciate the patience of all visitors during these required maintenance cycles," Campbell-Spickler said. "We are pleased that we will be able to keep the ADA accessible routes on the Redwood Sky Walk open as we work to prep the Adventure Segments for another high impact season in the weeks ahead. While the summer's bridge movement often comes from visitor foot traffic, the winter's movement is more likely to come from high seasonal winds. It's my responsibility to monitor this anticipated wear and to continuously optimize the experience to make sure it is everything it was always designed to be. That's a responsibility I take very seriously."