

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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## News Release

April 10, 2013

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### **Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park *New Parrot Exhibit and Trail Upgrades***

CARLSBAD, NM – Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park (Living Desert) will be having a grand opening for its new Thick-billed parrot display and a ribbon cutting for trail upgrades on April 16, 2013 at 11:30 a.m.

The Thick-billed Parrot display is an important new exhibit as they are the only parrot species native to the Chihuahuan Desert. Thick-billed Parrots are an endangered species and Living Desert participates in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Thick-Billed Parrot Species Survival Plan.

“The zoo acquired a male Thick-Billed Parrot from the San Antonio Zoo and a female was loaned to the park from the Cincinnati zoo,” said Holly Payne, General Curator at the park.

State Parks has also completed an extensive \$200,000 renovation of the walkway through the first half of the zoo. These improvements provide consistent surfacing and meet the Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

“The refurbishment of the trail from the Visitor Center to the Nocturnal exhibit will provide visitors with a safer, more enjoyable visit,” said Southeast Regional Manager Alan Fiala. “Please come to the zoo and immerse yourself into the various zones of the Chihuahuan Desert.”

Living Desert became a State Park in June 1971, and has evolved into a premier indoor/outdoor living museum, offering outdoor recreation and natural history education for visitors. Contact Living Desert at (575) 887-5516 for additional information about the institution, including special events and activities for visitors and its ongoing commitment to wildlife conservation and science education or visit [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com).

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