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# News Release

“We work together to build a community of the highest quality for present and future generations.”

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **New Exhibit Gra ces Zoo Plaza**

ABILENE, Texas - The Abilene Zoo is proud to announce the opening of Nakuru Lagoon, a new exhibit housing African Lesser Flamingos and African Yellow-billed Ducks.

As you enter the zoo gate, you’ll be greeted with the sights and sounds of the flamingos, a shady area for visitors, along with beautiful landscaping and a waterfall constructed by zoo staff. “Nakuru Lagoon is a wonderful place for birds and guests and sets the perfect tone for an exciting zoo experience,” said Zoo Director Bill Gersonde.

African Lesser Flamingos are native to tropical soda lakes of eastern and southern Africa, including Kenya’s Lake Nakuru. One of the smallest and brightest species of flamingo, they can be found in flocks of up to one million. Also on exhibit are African Yellow-billed Ducks native to southeastern and southern Africa.

Nakuru Lagoon is one of 5 projects included in Proposition #5 of the 2015 City of Abilene Bond Program. The bond issue provided \$1.03 million for the projects, with private donors contributing \$1.5 million. Part of the donations came from the Abilene Zoological Society, which contributed \$76,000, and the Grover Nelson Zoological Foundation, which donated \$117,182. Nakuru Lagoon cost approximately \$300,000.

“With spring quickly approaching, zoo staff are ready to welcome guests during spring break next week.” said Marketing Coordinator Jennifer Pacheco. “We encourage folks to take time during their visit to explore Nelson Lake aboard a swan paddle boat, ride the Safari Express, and visit Albert the alligator who’s moved from his winter quarters out onto exhibit in his summer home.” Wildlife Carousel is unavailable at this time while it undergoes an internal facelift and manufacturing of new gears. Zoo staff are awaiting these specialty made parts and hope to have it open very soon.

Since its founding in 1966, the Abilene Zoo has stood as a place of learning and adventure. Situated on 16 acres in the award-winning Grover Nelson Park, the zoo has more than 1000 animals of 270 species from around the globe. The zoo is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Last admittance is 4 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5.50 for children ages 3-12, \$7 for seniors aged 60 and older. Members are admitted free. [www.abilenezoo.org](http://www.abilenezoo.org), 325-676-6085.

**Mission Statement:** The Abilene Zoo is a place of learning and adventure, where families make memories, share the joy of discovery and become inspired to preserve wildlife.

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