

# NewsyBITS

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## WILD CANADA AT THE WILDER INSTITUTE/CALGARY ZOO

As of December 1, 2023, the “Canadian Wilds” experience at Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo has reopened as “Wild Canada”, featuring seven of Canada’s ecological zones. Visitors are invited to take a journey through these seven zones, celebrating the wonder and diversity of a world where people, animals and the land are connected.

### Can’t Miss Experiences in Wild Canada



#### **The Taylor Family Foundation Polar Bear Sanctuary**

Two male polar bears, ‘Baffin’ and ‘Siku’, have moved from Winnipeg’s Assiniboine Park Zoo to the new [world-class polar bear habitat](#) at the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo, constructed in consultation with industry professionals and polar bear care experts.

This remarkable polar bear habitat is enhanced with exceptional animal care and enrichment programs designed to encourage the expression of natural behaviours, provide cognitive challenges, and stimulate play. The habitat includes expansive tree-filled grassy meadows, several pools, a wading stream, and an unobscured view of the horizon. The whole space is over 2 acres (or 8290 m<sup>2</sup>), which is roughly equivalent to five ice hockey rinks!



#### **Brawn Family Foundation River Lodge**

Watch as sleek [North American river otters](#) zip and zoom their way through the water in the Brawn Family Foundation River Lodge. With powerful tails and webbed feet, these otters can reach speeds of 13 km (8 mi) per hour and hold their breath for up to eight minutes! As acrobatic as they are in the water, river otters are also comfortable on land, making their homes in burrows on the water’s edge.

Don’t miss the new otter overhead tunnel! This stunning feature connects two different otter habitats that gives a one-of-a-kind view of these slippery, agile creatures as they scamper from one side to the next.

#### **Whooping Crane Habitat Presented by Canadian Natural**

In the 1940s, only 21 whooping cranes remained in the wild due to overhunting and habitat loss. Since then, the population number has risen to 660 in 2021 thanks to [positive conservation efforts](#) including captive breeding and reintroduction programs.

For more information, please contact Mito Ota – Manager, Travel Trade & Services  
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Photo Credit: Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo