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CENTRAL PLAZA

The redesigned Central Plaza is a lively, colorful, and fun outdoor meeting and activity area complete with shelter and shade structures, restrooms, food, and gifts. It is also the hub of the Zoo's outdoor exhibits: *Russia's Grizzly Coast*, Northern Trail, and the Wells Fargo Family Farm.

Splash Pad

While parents watch from shaded benches and tables, children play among life-sized animal sculptures and artistic trees as water rains down from above and splashes up from under their feet in the new splash pad interactive water fountain.

Grizzly Coast Café

Enjoy a taste of Russia right here in Minnesota featuring unique ethnic dishes plus other Zoo favorites, all in our new indoor café with large covered seating area.

Gift Shop

Take a memento home with you—plush toys will delight the kids, hand-painted Russian stacking dolls add a note of authenticity, and many other souvenirs echo the look of our new exhibit.

Lakeside Terrace

Beautifully terraced gardens will be the setting of a multi-use stage adjacent to the Zoo's Main Lake, offering music, animal demonstrations, and other programs.

Central Plaza Fun Facts:

The Central Plaza features one-of-a-kind stainless steel sculptures created by artist Heath Satow. Known for his contemporary metal sculptures, primarily in steel and stainless steel, Satow's works of art can be found around the world. At the Minnesota Zoo he created the following unique animal sculptures:

- Amur Leopard
- Amur Tiger
- Brown Bear
- Chinese Takin
- Moose
- Raccoon
- Woodland Caribou

A total of 1,180 tons, or 2,360,000 pounds, of natural boulders and stone were installed throughout the *Russia's Grizzly Coast* exhibit and Central Plaza.

The limestone seating for the Central Plaza's Lakeside Terrace is from Missouri but was fabricated on site. There are 118 individual stones and it took 483 cuts to create the curved seating.

The walkway of the new Plaza is painted with fun animal markings like tiger stripes, a coral snake, and 643 fish scales.

It took 380 gallons of coating to paint the Central Plaza walkway. If you were to paint the coatings in one coat, you could make a stripe four inches wide and 32 miles long.

Plaza Dimensions:

3.5 acres

Project Cost:

\$5 million