## Mesker Park Zoo Amazonia

Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden officially opened the \$13 Million AMAZONIA, Forest of Riches exhibit on August 4, 2008. It is the largest and most spectacular exhibit to open in the Zoo's 80-year history. Over a five-year period, planning and construction on the new 10,000 square foot facility, a fantastic new entrance and upgrades to existing facilities were completed.

Funding for the project came from a variety of public and private sources. Evansville Parks Foundation was proud to assist with a donation of \$25,000 from proceeds from Evening on the River in 2007.

On a journey through AMAZONIA, visitors will encounter dozens of rainforest residents from high in the canopy to the forest floor below. Tropical trees and palms soar to the 45-foot tall roof and create a breathtaking tropical setting. Monkeys and beautiful birds welcome patrons to their treetop homes. A waterfall roars and a suspension bridge beckons. Evidence of researchers are apparent through the clipboards (educational signage) and the research station (classroom with interactive activities) they have left behind. Tapirs and other odd creatures greet you around each bend in the trail. Be on the lookout for the elusive and majestic jaguar!

Visit the <u>Mesker Park Zoo</u> web site to learn more about AMAZONIA.

