

# Cincinnati Zoo Elephant Trek

Cincinnati, Ohio



The Cincinnati Zoo's Elephant Trek is a 5-acre habitat that will be home to endangered Asian Elephants. The habitat is complete with a barn area which consists of primarily hot-dip galvanized steel structures to aid in the care and shelter of the endangered Asian Elephants. This galvanized Elephant Trek exhibit provides a durable and environmentally friendly habitat that will be a catalyst in joining both visitors and elephants in a huge way!

Hot-dip galvanizing was chosen as the preferred method for coating steel structures in the construction of the zoo exhibit due to its unparalleled corrosion resistance and durability. Given the nature of zoos and the exposure to varying conditions, the protective layer of zinc ensures a robust defense against rust and corrosion. The actuating gates, inspection areas

and holding structures were designed with the understanding and intent of withstanding the heavy and potentially abrasive conditions presented by the elephants. In this project the fabricator and the galvanizer worked closely on planning the draining and venting to allow for several progressive dips of large pieces that were made into one structure before galvanizing. This eliminated significant welding on the jobsite and maximized productivity. It also allowed the fabricator to make appropriately sized structures to contain the elephants.

The longevity of the galvanized steel coating reduces the need for frequent maintenance, contributing to overall cost-effectiveness and minimizing disruptions to both the animals and the zoo operations. Moreover, hot-dip galvanized structures offer an aesthetically pleasing finish, contributing to the visual appeal of the exhibit. In prioritizing safety, the strength of galvanized steel provides a secure enclosure for the animals, ensuring their well-being while offering an environmentally friendly option with its relatively low environmental impact. This comprehensive set of advantages makes hot-dip galvanizing a sound choice for constructing durable, low-maintenance, and visually appealing zoo exhibits. ■

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**Galvanizer**

AZZ Galvanizing - Hamilton

**Fabricator**

Thermeq

**Other**

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

## Recreation & Entertainment