## Die Landesregierung Nordrhein-Westfalen



## **Press release**

## Zoos, parks and State Garden Show can open next week, with restrictions

Minister Heinen-Esser: I appeal to all visitors to not gamble away regained freedoms by disregarding hygiene and distance rules

The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, Conservation and Consumer Protection has issued the following statement:

As of next week, zoos and animal parks, botanical gardens, and gardening and landscape parks can reopen in North Rhine-Westphalia. Opening requires the respective facilities to ensure adherence to strict hygiene rules through their own safety plans and measures. This also means that the State Garden Show in Kamp-Lintfort can open back up to visitors, with restrictions. The state government has authorised this based on the current decrees from the Ministers-President Conference on 30 April 2020. If zoos and gardens have taken the necessary safety precautions, they will decide and announce individually when and how they will reopen. The specific requirements are stipulated in the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance (CoronaSchVO) from 4 May 2020.

"I am pleased that important, natural oases of relaxation and peace are opening back up during these difficult times, especially in urban areas," says Minister of Environment and Agriculture Heinen-Esser. "I appeal to all visitors to calmly enjoy these services and consistently follow the hygiene regulations. Please support the operators and do not gamble away this regained freedom by disregarding the hygiene and distance rules."

Last week the state government agreed to provide around 11.8 million euros in financial aid to zoos and animal parks. In Kamp-Lintfort, visitors were given a first impression of the State Garden Show on select days in April via a guided tour.

"Zoos, gardens and parks play an important role in conservation, and familiarise people with animals and nature. They move people and regions. Garden shows also make a crucial contribution to biodiversity and expansion of a green infrastructure. They improve quality of living and environment in our state's cities and municipalities, and are meeting

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places for all ages," emphasises Heinen-Esser. She is also planning to personally visit the facilities soon.

Please direct enquiries to the press office of the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, Conservation and Consumer Protection, telephone 0211 4566-294 (Christian Fronczak).

This press text is also available online on the state government website at <a href="https://www.land.nrw">www.land.nrw</a>

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