

FACT SHEET: WOLF PUPS 2015



INTRODUCTION: Late Friday evening, May 15, 2015, three wolf pups arrived at Bays Mountain Park. The three wolf pups will be added to the already existing pack of three (7) wolves at Bays Mountain Park and, like their soon to be pack mates, the pups will help Bays Mountain Park in a visual and breathtaking way tell the story of how important acts of conservation and preservation are to our ecosystems globally, but especially right here in our own region. Why gray wolves? Because over 200 years ago gray wolves used to roam this region before hunting and settler's efforts were responsible for their disappearance. The following are a few facts about our new arrivals:



There are a total of three (3) wolf pups being added to Bays Mountain Park's wolf habitat.

- Two (2) tan males:

- *Bodaway (Bo dah way); which is Arapaho for "fire maker"

- *Yonah (yo nah); Cherokee word for "bear"

- One (1) tan female:

- *Winema (why knee muh); Bodoc (tribe native to Oregon) for "woman chief"



All three pups come from Minnesota Wildlife Connection, a wildlife reserve and captive breeding facility where photographers and visitors schedule private viewings of whitetail deer, gray wolves, birds of prey, and other native species in their natural habitat.



Total fees paid for the wolves, including vet care before being released to our care was \$1,600.

- More than \$8,227 in funding was raised by park staff (organized and led by Naturalist Rhonda Goins) and volunteers. This money paid for the pups, the trip to get them and park preparations.

- Fundraising included private donations and a pancake breakfast held at Applebee's.



Pups are currently in the beginning stages of the "Socialization" process; a step before being introduced to the existing pack that is designed to ensure the wolf pups are not afraid of humans, unlike wolves in the wild who are very shy and elusive.

- Socialization is part of a two to three month process where staff and volunteers stay with the pups 24 hours a day, seven days a week until they are introduced to the pack.

- The wolf pups maturity is also considered before introduction to the pack.



More than 50 volunteers are assisting in this effort.

- All volunteers have undergone training for this effort.

- For several volunteers this is their third time assisting with wolf pups.

- A couple of volunteers will assisting for the sixth time.



The existing pack awaiting the introduction of the wolf pups (which is slated for possible mid-August):

- Tanasi (male), Aiyana (female) and Netar (female).

- Arrived at the park in May 2007.

- Arriving last year at the park were Unalii (tan male), Ahuli (tan male), Takoda (black female), and Ela (tan female).



Bays Mountain Park's wolf program began in 1992 with three wolves.

For more information, contact Senior Naturlist Fred Hilton (fredhilton@kingsporttn.gov) or Rhonda Goins (rhondagoins@kingsporttn.gov) at 423-229-9447.