



Tapir Exhibit

This exhibit was the brainchild of the Director of the Houston Zoo and the Mayor of Panama City and is the first of its kind at the zoo. Tapirs have long been one of the most known and endangered animals in Panama and one of the most popular animals at the Summit Zoo, yet their enclosures were small, not in a prominent location and not very aesthetically attractive.

PJA was asked to assist in the site selection and design of a new exhibit that would place Tapirs in a prominent location, provide adequate space and animal management facilities, and would create an exhibit that is both beautiful and engaging for zoo visitors. The six holding areas each include shade shelters, individual pools, drinker

and feeding areas, and access to either exhibit area via a transfer chute.

The new exhibit, which opened in 2004 during the 3rd Annual International Tapir Symposium, is perhaps the largest Tapir enclosure in the world and displays the animals in an environment similar to their natural habitat. Each of the two exhibits contain forested and open areas, a large deep pool capable of accommodating multiple animals, and a variety of topography and substrate conditions. Large public viewing decks are placed at locations that afford excellent views of the Tapirs and place the visitors in an atmosphere that emphasizes the exotic tropical vegetation of the garden.

**Tapir Exhibit
Summit Zoo
Panama City, Panama
2003 to 2004
\$ 5 Million**

