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524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd • Newport News, VA 23601 • Phone (757) 595-1900

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Nature Comes Alive at the Virginia Living Museum—Explore, Discover, and Connect with Nature Like Never Before**

We are *VIRGINIA'S* Living Museum, the only one of its kind east of the Mississippi River, where native plants and animals from across the Commonwealth come together in one spectacular location. At VLM in Newport News, the natural world isn't just something you see—it's something you live! Get up close with porcupines, marvel at playful otters, or encounter endangered red wolves. Every corner immerses you in Virginia's diverse ecosystems, offering endless opportunities for discovery and connection.

With over 250 native species, including 8 that are endangered or threatened, the Museum showcases ecosystems from the mountains to the sea. It's all about making connections—between visitors and the environment, between animal and plant, and between people and the planet.

#### **New! Discover Our State-of-the-Art Wild Care Center**

We're proud to unveil the Wild Care Center, a state-of-the-art facility that sets the standard for animal welfare. Featuring a cutting-edge veterinary suite, an animal nutrition center, and spacious habitats for animal ambassadors, the Wild Care Center offers a behind-the-scenes look at the high standards we uphold in caring for Virginia's wildlife. This facility fosters a deeper appreciation for the animals that call Virginia home and highlights our commitment to conservation and rehabilitation.

#### **Endless Wonders Await**

Explore the captivating world of the Cypress Swamp, where an alligator lurks beneath the surface, or head to the Chesapeake Bay to discover its fascinating underwater creatures. Watch as red wolves roam freely in their naturalized habitats or spot beavers busily building dams along the river. Each exhibit tells a unique story, whether it's the mesmerizing camouflage of a flounder or the swift movements of the hawks soaring across the sky.

The **Dinosaur Discovery Trail** lets you walk among giants—literally! From a baby T. rex photo op to full-size dinosaurs, it's a chance to travel back 150 million years. Hands-on activities for budding paleontologists await, and you can dig for fossils or explore real-life dinosaur specimens, including an incredible whale fossil from Hampton Roads.

## **Interactive Fun for Everyone**

Whether you're a future veterinarian or an aspiring environmental scientist, the Wild & Well exhibit gives you the chance to role-play as an animal doctor, learning how we care for our resident wildlife. Younger visitors can play, learn, and grow in the Nature Playground, complete with a whimsical hobbit house, climbing spider web, and a lush garden. It's the perfect blend of play and learning!

## **A Green Future, Today**

At VLM, we're passionate about sustainability. Explore our Conservation Garden and Living Green House, the largest collection of native plants in Virginia, and learn how to garden, build, and live sustainably. It's all part of our mission to inspire future generations to protect the planet.

## **Accredited and Recognized for Excellence**

We're proud to be accredited by both the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the American Alliance of Museums (AAM)—a distinction that only nine other institutions across the country hold. These prestigious accreditations reflect our unwavering commitment to conservation, education, and care. VLM is also a certified Virginia Green attraction, underscoring our dedication to environmental stewardship.

## **Come Explore Today!**

Located at 524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd., Newport News (I-64, exit 258-A), the Virginia Living Museum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dive into nature, get hands-on with our exhibits, and create lasting memories with your family and friends.

### **Admission:**

Adults: \$19.95+

Children (ages 3-12): \$16.95

Members and kids under 2: Free

Group rates available for 10+