

Louisville Clock will go to zoo

It should be in
place by spring

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The restored Louisville Clock, the gigantic one-of-a-kind, folk-art timepiece, will be permanently placed at the entrance to the Louisville Zoo, surrounded by a new \$1 million-plus landscaped plaza, its chief restorer, Adam Burckle, announced Monday.

All the work and materials on the plaza are being donated.

The decision on the clock's location was made last week at a meeting between Mayor Jerry Abramson and Burckle, who has spent the past five years restoring the famed city landmark.

The location was selected after the Louisville Arena Authority decided it couldn't go in front of the new downtown arena, and the Waterfront Development Corp. decided it wouldn't be a good fit at Waterfront Park.

Burckle, who owns a local cheesecake company and heads the nonprofit Adam Matthews Foundation, said the plaza should be developed by early March, with the clock in place soon after.

He said it will be viewed by about 900,000 visitors a year.

Zoo Director John Walczak said the clock "is a significant part of Louisville's history. It's fun, and it's going to be a nice front entry piece."

The clock dates to 1976, when it was dedicated on River City Mall, now Fourth Street. It was moved several times. It last operated outside Kentucky Kingdom in the late 1980s before being disassembled. Burckle rebuilt the clock, restoring the racing figures of the Belle of Louisville, Thomas Jefferson, Daniel Boone, George Rogers Clark and King Louis XVI.

Plans call for the five figures to race around the clock face every day at noon.

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