Goals & Purpose

This plan was created by Friends of Zoo Boise in partnership with Zoo Boise staff in the City of Boise Parks and Recreation Department. The process was led and designed by GLMV Zoos.

As you explore our new master plan, you'll see everything from expanded habitats and improved support facilities to innovative new enrichments and breeding opportunities. Through careful planning, we've gone all in for our animals! Because, as leaders in global conservation, we knew it was imperative that our growth continued to set us apart in our care for wildlife at home and around the world.

You will also see a strong focus on our other passion — you! As a member of our local and global community, we have created this plan with the goal of inspiring every visitor who walks through our gates. Through new species, animal encounters, and added amenities, our new master plan ensures Zoo Boise will be a cornerstone of our community for generations to come.

Thank You!

This plan was created by Friends of Zoo Boise in partnership with Zoo Boise Staff in the City of Boise Parks and Recreation Department.

The process was led and designed by GLMV Zoos.

Doing Our Part to Keep Your World Wild
What did we focus on with this plan?

We assembled a dream team that included Zoo leaders and animal care staff, City leadership, Friends of Zoo Boise board members, and zoo design experts from GLMV Zoos. Together, we identified the following focus areas:

- Conservation
- Animal welfare
- Guest education
- Animal residency plan and phasing
- Efficient business operations
- Facility support services
- Integration with Julia Davis Park
- Sustainable site operations
- Enhanced guest experience
- Efficient business operations
- Facility support services
- Integration with Julia Davis Park
- Sustainable site operations

Next, we started with a simple evaluation. What are our key strengths, and what are our areas of growth?

Key Strengths of Zoo Boise

- Best animal welfare and care possible
- AZA accreditation
- Natural park feel with mature trees
- Diverse animals and year-round viewing
- Up-close encounters with animals
- Intimate zoo feeling
- Conservation at the center of our mission and a reputation as conservation leaders

Key Areas of Growth

- Some dated exhibits
- Future expansion sites
- Outdated infrastructure
- Entry experience, parking, and ticketing
- Office and staff support space expansion
- Consistent zoogeographic layout needed
- Increase food and catering sales
## Goals of Master Plan

Think of the 2021 Master Plan as a roadmap for the next 15 years at Zoo Boise. Along our journey, we will:

- Prioritize animal welfare
- Promote wildlife conservation
- Educate guests
- Foster community connectivity
- Improve front entry experience and flow
- Create new revenue streams
- Support administration and facilities
- Expand veterinary services
- Engage in zoological research
- Enhance guest experience
- Advance site operations

From the smallest of projects to the largest, each step of the process is important. But because we know it can be challenging to prioritize and implement 15 years of improvements, we have divided the future into four key phases with the first phase focused on creating early momentum! Delivering a plan that is capable of being fully realized is essential to our team as well as the future of Zoo Boise.

## Overview of Master Plan Phases

### Phase 1 – Heart of Zoo Boise (Completed in 0-8 Years)

- Red Panda & Flying Fox
- Magellanic Penguin
- Sea Eagle
- Snow Leopard
- Sloth Bear & Grandma’s House
- New Commissary
- New Giraffe Feeding
- Meerkat
- Admin Building Conversion
- New Gift Shop & Family Restrooms
- Temporary East Entrance
- Wayfinding Signage
- Boundary Beautification
- Education Complex
- Kijji Renovation

### Phase 2 – Asia Expansion (Completed in 9-15 Years)

- Tiger Renovation
- Orangutan
- Animal Hospital
- Waterfront Cafe
- Africa Petting Zoo
- Adventure Course
- Conservation-Themed Playground

### Phase 3 – The Americas (Completed beyond 15 Years)

- Mountain Lion
- River Otter
- Walk-through Aviary
- Butterfly House
- Splash Pad
- Event Plaza
- New East Entrance
- Food & Retail Options
- Conservation Building & Event Space
- Staff Support Buildings
- Flamingo
- Capybara
- Coati
- Mountain Lion
- River Otter
- Walk-through Aviary
- Butterfly House

### Unphased – High-Impact Projects (Unspecified Timeline)

- Multi-species African Yard
- Nature Play
- Admin & Guest Services Building
- Waterway Fountains
- North Snack Cart
- Repurpose Penguin Habitat
- New Carousel
The Future Zoo Boise

Mission Statement

Zoo Boise connects visitors with animals to inspire and involve our community in the conservation of wildlife worldwide.
Imagine walking through the front gate and immediately hearing the splash of water, the laughter of excited families, and the squawks of flying birds just ahead. Welcome to your newly renovated Magellanic penguin habitat!

Moving further into the heart of the zoo you may be the first to spot the white fur of a snow leopard through the dense green vegetation. If you’re really lucky, you may even hear a rare growl from the snow leopards as they play tug of war with keepers in their newly constructed mountain habitat.

Passing beyond the Himalayan mountaintops, you’ll encounter another well-known species: the sloth bear. With their distinctive ear tufts and ambling walk, these special bears are a part of an important and captivating conservation story – one that will be amplified as you are presented the opportunity to feed them from within the newly added education hub: Grandma’s House.

Before completing your journey through the heart of Zoo Boise, you’ll come face to face with the incredible Steller’s sea eagle in a new and much larger habitat. Not only can you see these impressive birds perching on large boulders and rocks ledges, you may also witness them soar effortlessly the full length of their impressive new habitat.

In addition to red pandas, the Conservation Plaza contains several unique animals representing various continents around the world, including a new meerkat habitat representing the continent of Africa. The new additions to the plaza greet you by chirping and posting up, keeping a sharp eye on you as you pause to laugh at their antics.

Last but not least, you make your way across the waterway to try out the new giraffe feeding platform. This already successful revenue-generating opportunity raises thousands of dollars for conservation every year and gives you an opportunity to be nose-to-nose with the tallest animals on earth.

This phase is themed as a journey from the Himalayas to the Asian lowlands. The theme reflects one of the most important conservation stories in Asia: human-animal conflict. Many of the species being cared for by Zoo Boise are under threat because of these conflicts, including snow leopards, tigers, sloth bears, and others. Grandma’s House will help zoo guests to bridge the connection between these issues in Asia to human-animal conflicts right here in Idaho, including how to support species such as cougars, wolves, and more through Idahoans’ daily practices.
These species have proven to be some of the Zoo Boise’s most popular animals. By bringing them into the heart of the zoo and focusing Phase 1 on their development, we are aiming for an early burst of momentum and engagement from our community as improvements are made. This will also help to inspire momentum for future growth and subsequent phases.

Zoo Boise has a history of strong community support and now we want to reward that support by elevating your experience from the moment you step through the gates.

Other improvements in Phase 1 include:
- Expanded commissary
- New gift shop and restroom
- Southern expansion and service drive
- Temporary east entrance
- Perimeter fence beautification
- Lift station relocation and bat house demolition
- Wayfinding and Zoo signage
- One-way traffic flow along Zoo perimeter

Phase 1 will further be divided into three packages: Project A, Project B, and Additional High-Impact Projects.
Phase 1A: Red Panda & Flying Fox

Anticipated Cost $1,105,900

Funds Allocated to Conservation $92,592*
Imagine rounding the corner and seeing a blur of red fur streak by overhead. What was that? You look around – the architecture tells you you’re somewhere in Asia, and the tall trees and grasses resemble a lowland forest. Suddenly, a burst of flapping wings erupts just behind you, and you turn to see a family of flying foxes hanging from the trees. They too saw the bouncing streak of fur, followed by a long, bushy tail: it’s the red panda!

Animal Habitat: This new multi-species habitat transports guests to an Asian forest complete with lush vegetation and an overhead tree canopy. This highly naturalistic habitat is the new home to a well-known zoo favorite, the red panda, and the charismatic flying fox! Tall climbing structures are included throughout the habitat, along with an overhead transfer chute. This not only provides enrichment opportunities for both species to engage natural behaviors, it also gives guest the opportunity to be nearly surrounded by animals.

Guest Experience: A new behind-the-scenes meet-and-greet opportunity is proposed for guests to interact with a red panda up close! As guests move through the habitat, their outdoor views shift to indoor habitats on both sides, including a view into the red panda nursery (and potentially spot some new baby red pandas).

Conservation: Speaking of baby red pandas, red pandas are a member species of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan (SSP). Zoo Boise participates in this SSP through breeding and professional care of red pandas. This is one of the Zoo’s most significant conservation initiatives as red pandas in the wild face extensive habitat loss due to logging, grazing livestock, demand for firewood, human encroachment, and farming. The red pandas will resent Asia and be one of the anchor species located within Conservation Plaza.

Building & Architecture: Immersive, themed Asian-style architecture draws guests in to tall habitats featuring elements such as climbing structures and overhead chutes. This habitat also presents an opportunity for sustainable features such as solar panels or green roofs.
Phase 1B: Magellanic Penguin

Anticipated Cost $3,003,710
Funds Allocated to Conservation $251,487*

*Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost.
Remember the ruckus and flurry of activity we spotted earlier? Well we're back there again at the site of our new and improved Magellanic penguin habitat. Prepare to race penguins as they zip back and forth in the water, and see if you can identify the other species sharing this habitat.

Animal Habitat: This new habitat is built around a much larger pool. The increased space not only improves the quality of our penguins' lives, it also allows guests to see them display a broader range of natural behaviors! And there will be plenty to see: from an underwater viewing to a variety of nestbox sites to provide mating choices for adults. This habitat will be fully netted to allow animals 24/7 access to the pool with complete protection from wild predators. This mixed-species habitat will also feature flighted birds such as arctic terns or brown-footed boobies.

Guest Experience: If you’ve ever dreamt of getting up close to these charismatic swimmers, you’ll soon have your chance. An updated paid animal-encounter provides guests the opportunity to meet and feed the penguins.

Conservation: Penguins are also an SSP species. This larger habitat will provide the required space for Zoo Boise to contribute more significantly to breeding and caring for this species. The penguins will be one of the anchor species in the Conservation Plaza representing South America.

Building & Architecture: Guests will walk up to a large, underwater viewing pool. With naturalistic rockwork-wrapped indoor-habitat buildings, the area will resemble a South American coastline. A large terrestrial side will include nest boxes and breeding sites. Habitat netting will allow birds such as arctic terns and brown-footed boobies to fly through the air. Hidden out of sight, a new state-of-the-art life support systems (LSS) will ensure the health and safety of the animals for years to come.
Phase 1B: Snow Leopard
Anticipated Cost $4,695,132
Funds Allocated to Conservation $393,102

Phase 1: Heart of Zoo Boise
Completed in 0-8 years

Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost.
Walking along, you suddenly realize that the scenery has changed. It’s as if you’re climbing a mountain, as the greenery is replaced with large boulders and pine trees. Up ahead you see a crowd of people gathered, but something is different at this habitat. The usual laughter and chatter has gone quiet. You hear murmuring and excited whispers. As you walk up to join them, you see what all the fuss is about: perched on the rocks ahead of you is one of the world’s rarest cats.

**Animal Habitat:** The snow leopards’ expanded habitat will feature multiple yards to provide space for more leopards and create the potential for successful breeding. These areas will feature 2- to 3-story climable surfaces that span above guest-access areas, allowing the leopards to traverse through their habitat at multiple elevations, a natural behavior for these big cats. An additional indoor habitat provides even more variety of choice for this species. The indoor habitat building will also include a new, upgraded, and largely expanded commissary for all the zoo animals’ diet prep.

**Guest Experience:** As guests walk up the hill on their journey into the Himalayas, they are almost completely surrounded by snow leopard habitat, creating a truly transporting experience. Inside the restroom and nursing rooms, guests will be able to catch a peek via one-way mirrored windows that face into the habitat.

**Conservation:** The new habitats will both increase the area and diversity of the environment to more closely resembling the natural habitats of these secretive cats. These improvements will help us more easily share their conservation story and the risks to their survival in the wild. As we educate our visitors, we are also raising money to save them in the wild by supporting long term partners such as the Snow Leopard Trust.

**Architecture & Buildings:** Structures within the habitat will feature prominent Himalayan rockwork so as to create a naturalistic environment for the leopards. Additional structures will be found in the area designed in the style of traditional Himalayan mountain dwellings.
Phase 1B: Sloth Bear
Anticipated Cost $2,208,060
Funds Allocated to Conservation $184,871

Phase 1: Heart of Zoo Boise
Completed in 0-8 years

Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost.
You are now heading back down from your journey in the mountaintops. As you near the bottom of the hill, the sides of the path begin to turn green again, and the hush of the guests has been replaced with the standard sounds of laughter and conversation. Suddenly, the crowd's volume increases and you see dozens of children pressed up against the fence. As you approach, you see they're trying to get a better look at a funny sight: a large black sloth bear noisily slurping up a pile of squirming worms!

**Animal habitat:** This proposed habitat will feature 1-2 large outdoor yards with indoor rooms for cold-weather conditions. In addition to more space to roam, the sloth bears will gain a much more dynamic environment, including climbing structures, trees, and pools for them to swim in, as well as rock features and other enrichment elements to stimulate these curious bears.

**Guest experience:** Continuing the journey through Asia, guests will be met at the sloth bear habitat with up-close viewing opportunities to witness the incredible behaviors of these unique bears. Guests will also have access to an indoor flex space, which can be used for indoor viewing as well as for classroom and education use!

**Conservation:** Sloth bears are threatened due to human encroachment and human-animal conflict in their wild Indian habitat. Zoo Boise's care for this special, shy species supports the global India-based conservation effort for sloth bears known as Wildlife SOS.

**Architecture & Buildings:** The indoor habitat building also houses important animal care office space and a multipurpose classroom, which will be made available for rent as a revenue-generating tool to support Zoo Boise's mission and conservation initiatives.
Our goal is to fascinate every guest and inspire a love for the wild world and conservation. With this in mind, we have proposed a dedicated conservation education center in the heart of the zoo. Enter Grandma’s House, an immersive Himalayan-themed stone house where guests can get close-up views of both sloth bear and snow leopard habitats while also learning all about conservation!

This structure will help guests imagine themselves in the remote Himalayan mountains and what living in these regions may be like for humans and animals alike. The building will be filled with interpretive exhibits that explore the conservation stories of Zoo Boise’s Asian species, including complex topics such as habitat loss, human-animal conflict, and how guests can help animals right here in Idaho. Grandma’s House will be a prime opportunity for guests just like you to pause and dive deeper into getting to know your Zoo Boise animals.

**Phase 1B: Grandma’s House**

### Anticipated Cost

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* Construction must be integrated with sloth bear and snow leopard habitats
** Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost
The final species in our tour of Asia is set to take Zoo Boise to new heights, literally. While we’ve asked you to climb mountains, cross grasslands, and hike through forests, now we invite you to look up: it’s the new home of our much-loved Steller’s sea eagles!

**Animal Habitat:** The netted outdoor habitat will include tall trees as well as perching platforms and nesting platforms. The long footprint of the habitat will allow the eagles to be fully flighted from one side to the other.

**Guest Experience:** Viewing opportunities will be placed at both the top and bottom of the habitat’s hill, providing guests a chance to catch sight of the eagles (with their 7-foot wingspan!) gliding from top to bottom of habitat.

**Conservation:** This rare and majestic bird is a vulnerable species in the wild. Zoo Boise is committed to providing our individual eagles with an environment that provides them with the highest quality of life and the best possible space for successful breeding.

**Building & Architecture:** A tall, fully-netted, naturalistic surrounding will be designed to resemble a remote Asian seacoast.

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**Phase 1B: Sea Eagle**

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* Cost is dependent on the construction of the penguin habitat  
** Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost
While the previous pages outlined many of our “star” projects, we remain committed to the belief that all progress regardless of scope or complexity is invaluable to our success in the future. Below are projects of smaller scale, but high-impact:

**NEW GIRAFFE FEEDING PLATFORM**

Our current giraffe-feeding platform is not accessible from the giraffe viewing area. This creates a major hurdle for guests who wish to participate in this revenue-generating activity upon arriving to the giraffe habitat. This impediment costs the zoo potential revenue dollars every single day. By creating a new giraffe feeding deck off the Africa plaza, we are confident we can re-energize the area and encourage more guests to engage in this wonderful experience.

**MEERKAT HABITAT**

Who doesn’t love to watch this social, entertaining species? With a new habitat, our meerkats would now be located in the Conservation Plaza, adding a small, charismatic species to Africa’s plaza representation.

**NEW GIFT SHOP & FAMILY RESTROOM**

Located just south of our current entrance, this new gift shop will have an open-air feel, featuring large overhead doors or sliding walls that allow the gift shop to open up directly into Conservation Plaza. While we’re excited about the look and feel of this vision, we’re also optimistic that by connecting traffic flow in these two areas, we will see increased opportunities for revenue generation. A new proposed family restroom is another much-needed upgrade and would include updated amenities.

**NEW EDUCATION COMPLEX**

Our team is especially excited about this project. This will be a creative remodel of our Small Animal Kingdom to house education animals with a walk-through animal viewing experience on the north end of the building. Our reimagined 2-story education building will feature staff offices on the second floor and classrooms on the first floor, as well as a separate zoo entrance for school groups. Due to its proximity to our northeast parking lot, this building creates a prime opportunity to increase the efficiency of school field trips and displaces strain on our main entrance. Along with the building, our plan includes the creation of two new outdoor education classrooms and two new outdoor habitats for education animals, providing both indoor and outdoor viewing opportunities for guests inside the education building and zoo guests passing by its exterior.
SOUTHERN EXPANSION & SERVICE DRIVE
A new expansion of the zoo to the southeast is slated to perform dual roles. In the short-term, it will expand the perimeter fencing and be used as a much-needed laydown area for large-scale storage (e.g., mulch). Long-term, it will be paved to add additional parking options for staff and volunteers.

TEMPORARY EAST ENTRANCE
Gorongosa includes another entrance gate by the E.O. Wilson Building. We propose a mobile ticket booth to take tickets there along with a small gift shop kiosk. This measure adds convenience for those parking on the backside of the zoo.

WAYFINDING & ZOO SIGNAGE
To be located to the northeast of the zoo along Julia Davis Drive, this new proposed signage will provide guests with better directions to the entrance of the zoo. There is currently minimal signage directing people to the zoo or identifying the zoo.

KIJJI CAFE RENOVATION
Kijji cafe will undergo a renovation in order to provide a more visible and accessible ordering experience while also providing the highest quality food to zoo guests. The renovation will also expand the capacity of the very popular catering and event kitchen that is currently located at the E-Grill, allowing for a potential increase in revenue-generation opportunities.

BOUNDARY BEAUTIFICATION
Perception is important, and currently, our perimeter may not appear very inviting. The plan proposes supplementing our chainlink and wire fencing with naturalistic landscaping or wraparound signage.

### Phase 1 High-Impact Projects

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<th>Funds Allocated to Conservation</th>
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<td>Restroom &amp; Gift Shop</td>
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*Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost
Phase 2: Asia Expansion

Projects in this phase build off of developments completed in Phase 1.

New Orangutan Habitat

It’s finally happening! We are thrilled to share that we’ve proposed the addition of a great ape to Zoo Boise. This new habitat will be a big draw to the zoo. Based on visitor surveys and staff and board input, there is significant community interest in seeing a great ape join Zoo Boise.

Orangutans were selected over other great ape species due to factors such as animal care, space footprint and verticality, and climate adaptability. Not to mention, orangutans are known as a keystone conservation species with a captivating and challenging conservation story. As an endangered species that needs breeding and professional management support, we hope to provide a safe place for some of these charismatic, highly intelligent, and fun-to-know animals.

Tiger Renovation

Our tigers will get a significantly expanded home in Phase 2. This newly designed habitat will include two large yards and will allow more opportunities for a tiger to... well, be a tiger! The complexity of natural behaviors displayed in the wild is significant, and we believe that by improving the quality and increasing the quantity of space, our tigers will become a dynamic anchor species in our Asian area.

Animal Hospital Update & Expansion

Our zoo simply wouldn’t exist without our dedicated animal care staff. As we have developed this master plan, their input has been of the utmost importance to us. Something we heard from them was the need for a more advanced and larger animal veterinary care facility.

This new animal hospital will actually be an update and expansion of the existing hospital. It will include a 2-story vet staff building that will connect directly to the proposed orangutan building/hospital. This direct connection prevents additional stress and human/animal safety measures from arising should the need to seek medical care for these large, complex species ever arise.

<table>
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*Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost.
Phase 2: Asia Expansion

Animal Hospital

Waterfront Cafe

In our exploration phase, we learned that a centralized dining experience is highly desired by not only Zoo guests but also our dining management partners (SSA). Due to its central location, our plan is able to ensure that, with a typical foot traffic pattern, most guests will pass this dining area more than once during their visit, thus increasing stay time and the chance that they may contribute to revenue generation or conservation spending.

This is also projected to more than double the food prep area SSA currently has in their front-entry food space. With this growth comes better access for catering operations, which positions our zoo as an even more desirable venue for future events.

Finally, an outdoor dining experience is proposed on the other side of large overhead doors to create a seamless indoor/outdoor dining experience when weather allows.

Theme & Education

The theme for this phase is focused on the variety of species and life found in southeast Asia’s old-growth forests. The important educational message here is how critical these forests are, as thousands of plant and animal species need their rich diversity in order to survive. Orangutans, for example, are a species that can only thrive in this environment. Additionally, it is widely accepted that old-growth forests throughout Asia and the rest of the world contain volumes of important future discoveries in new species, medicinal plants, and many other unique qualities that contribute to the overall health of our entire planet.
Phase 2B: Orangutans

Anticipated Cost: $11,821,288
Funds Allocated to Conservation: $873,157*

*Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost.
Phase 2B: Orangutans

We’re back on our journey through the future Zoo Boise, and now, we are jumping ahead 9-15 years. As you walk past all your now long-familiar Asian habitats, you arrive at a large, dome-like building. Stepping inside, you are immediately greeted by the vocalizations of an energetic young orangutan playing with guests through the glass. You see him look up, and you do too. Above is an elevator full of more zoo guests. You can hear their excitement through the elevator as a second curious orangutan makes her way up the climbing structure to get a better look at them.

Animal Welfare: This hugely important new project would require the addition of 2-3 new animal staff to provide specialized care unique to orangutans. In addition to a dedicated team of keepers, Zoo Boise’s future orangutan residents will live in an environment that allows them to engage a wide variety of their natural behaviors. This includes access to a multi-story habitat with climbing structures as well as access to an O-line that would allow them to explore beyond their habitat from the safety of an aerial suspension system. Their outdoor habitats will also infuse variety into their environment, as will proximity to other Asian species near their habitat.

Guest Experience: Inside the dome, guests will see indoor viewing of the orangutans, along with other animals in surrounding habitats such as tapir, small Asian primates, or small mammals, reptiles, and birds. Guests may even see a multi-species habitat with some of these other animals cohabitating with the orangutans. Perhaps the most exciting element, however, is the proposed glass elevator. This elevator will provide guests an opportunity to ascend to the treetops and view the orangutans from an upper-level viewing deck which not only provides a stunning alternative view of the orangutans, but also the Boise skyline.

Conservation: The glass elevator will be a conservation-spending revenue generator to raise funds for orangutans facing constant threat in the wild due to human-animal conflict, and most notably, palm oil production and the deforestation that accompanies it.

Architecture & Buildings: This proposed design will be a major architectural undertaking due to a relatively limited footprint. Our design team has proposed capitalizing on vertical space – a convenient solution for an arboreal species! This tall multi-story structure will also provide the zoo with an iconic vertical feature as its flagstone identifier.
Phase 2: Asia Expansion

Completed in 9-15 years
Its been a long day, and you've still got so much more to see at the zoo! As your stomach growls, you glance up and notice a new dining area. You head in through the large overhead doors, order some lunch, and head back outside enjoying the sunshine the outdoor seating area offers. The sounds of the zoo are all around you and include the peaceful splashing of new fountains dancing on the surface of the waterway. You smile to yourself to see how it has exploded with life. Its waters are teeming with small shimmering fish and waterfowl squawking loudly as they drift down the waterway. You feel at peace in the stillness of your moment, even though you are surrounded by hundreds of other zoo-goers.

Who knew that you could find this kind of experience while just stopping to eat lunch at the zoo? You take the deepest breath you've taken all day and sigh it out as you wait for your lunch to be served.

PHASE 2B: WATERFRONT CAFE

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*Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost
Africa Petting Zoo

We are proposing a new conservation play area and Africa petting zoo adjacent to the E.O. Wilson Building. And, in keeping with the theme of hands-on interactions, this area will also include a hands-on conservation-themed playground as well as a concession venue.

Adventure Course

A more active revenue-generation opportunity such as an adventure course is proposed in the African area. This will serve to reactivate the area, keep guests in the area longer, and raise more money for conservation! The proposed adventure course would be located alongside the existing waterway or within the boundaries of the waterway, and may include elements such as a ropes course. While this is a proposed consideration, it will be important to give further thought to how it will be staffed and operated.

Conservation-themed Playground

One of the creative delivery mechanisms for conservation education is proposed via a conservation-themed playground. This area would focus on cultivating curiosity and provide children (and those young at heart!) with the opportunity to explore some of the sustainable solutions developed around the world in response to conserving natural resources and protecting wildlife.

For example, the play area may include hand pumps and water wells to demonstrate how damming and erosion work. Or perhaps guests are given instructions on how to connect daily-living items such as lamps or fans to a solar panel to experience the accessibility of solar energy. Finally, there may be a gardening area with compost demonstrations where kids can get their hands dirty!

The possibilities for this area are endless. Ultimately, the selected activities would be identified by zoo staff.

Phase 2: Additional High-Impact Projects

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*Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost
ADVENTURE COURSE & CONSERVATION PLAYGROUND
Projects in this phase build off of developments completed in Phases 1 and 2.

**Americas Expansion**

In our final phase, we break new ground: it’s time to expand! With plans for growing to the northeast, this expansion will allow for a permanent second entrance and better access to guests entering the Park from the 3rd Street entrance. With ongoing development and construction in this area, we anticipate these trends in population growth and parking will bring more people from this side of that zoo. We think it’s pretty exciting to think of local Boise residents being able to walk from their homes to their zoo!

In addition, this area will grant us better connections to other destinations within the greater Julia Davis Park area.

**Two Continents, One Project**

This newly developed area will focus on both South and North American species, many of which will be new to the zoo. In addition to several new species, this expansion proposes the addition of a new building dedicated to conservation and events. With this exciting new event space, we will be able to provide the coolest new rental venue in Boise, thereby creating yet another diversified income stream for the zoo.

This venue will be accessible from outside the zoo, so it can be rented for large events without requiring entry to the zoo itself.

The conservation portion of this building will highlight local species and potential conservation opportunities as they pertain to our own backyards. On the second story, there will be conservation staff meeting spaces and dedicated staff will be housed there as well.

**Phase 3: The Americas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anticipated Cost</th>
<th>$17,910,664</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funds Allocated to Conservation</td>
<td>$1,245,500*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost.
The following elements are currently proposed for this large-scale expansion:

- Representing North America is the beautiful and elusive cougar, whose serious nature will be balanced out by the second addition: North American river otters. These intelligent, playful, often interactive animals are a wildly popular species in any zoo.
- A new North American aviary and relocated butterfly house will also feature walk-through interactive opportunities for guests to engage with songbirds and butterflies.
- As we move into South America, we are greeted by a very chatty flock of flamingos excitedly splashing about in their habitat. But they’re not the only ones cooling down: up ahead, you spy a bunch of soggy-haired kids shrieking as they cool off in a splash pad that almost seems to be a part of the flamingo pool itself! We believe families can now stay longer on hot days when their children have a chance to cool off in the splash pad.
- New South American habitats will include capybara and coati. These habitats are just ahead of another netted aviary – but this one is full of beautiful North, Central, and South American bird species, including many large and popular parrot species such as macaws!
- Expansion will also include a food and restroom node to increase stay time and dollars spent inside of zoo. This will now be the third full-service food venue (along with central food and Kijiji Café) within the zoo.

**Theme & Education**

The theme for this expansion looks at the wide variety of animals living in the Americas. This area will be filled with sights, color, sounds, and surprises. The educational theme for the area is the realization and fascination of our own local flora and fauna. We will only conserve that which we love, so our goal is to help guests fall in love with the species they can see in their own environments.

### Phase 3: The Americas

**Anticipated Cost**

$17,910,664

**Funds Allocated to Conservation**

$1,245,500*
Unphased: High-Impact Projects

Multi-species Africa Yard
This proposed multi-species habitat would connect the existing zebra and giraffe habitats, as well as potentially the nyala habitat to the north. In doing so, animals benefit from a more diverse and enriched living experience, and guests benefit from the opportunity to view a variety of species together, much as they see in the wild.

Waterway Fountains
These proposed fountains would provide both form and function. In form, they offer a pleasing visual and auditory experience for guests visiting the Waterfront Cafe. In function, they serve to increase aeration and water movement so as to decrease algae growth in the waterway.

New Carousel
Though there is no exact location identified at this time, a new carousel will create a possible new revenue generation opportunity.

New Admin and Guest Services Buildings
To elevate guest experience before they even set foot in the zoo, we propose a new entrance. This construction would entail tearing down the existing E-Grill and restrooms and building a new 2-story membership and guest services building with administrative offices.

Repurpose Previous Penguin Habitat
The former penguin habitat is to be repurposed for an African species.

Unphased: High-Impact Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Project</th>
<th>Anticipated Cost</th>
<th>Funds Allocated to Conservation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multi-species Africa Yard</td>
<td>$3,980,742</td>
<td>$177,706*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost. 
**Nature Play Area**

One of our conservation aspirations is to teach people how they can practice conservation every day, even in their own backyards! This was the inspiration for our proposed new Nature Play area. A large play complex that may include features such as shallow riverbeds for stacking rocks, climbing across logs, and splashing through water demonstrates to kids (and those young-at-heart adults) that our wild world is dynamic and easy to participate in. Agility courses based on other natural elements will also be included, along with all-natural play structures and substrates. We envision this area being large enough that school groups can come and learn in the nearby education complex, then let loose in the nature play area, providing a “different kind of zoo day” option for educators, which could potentially increase repeat visits by the same school group due to the variety of available experiences.

**North Snack Cart**

The addition of a small, casual snack cart provides inexpensive dining options for guests in an area of the zoo that is currently lacking food options.
## Phase 1
### Phase 1A
- Gift Shop and Restrooms
- Red Panda and Flying Fox
- Waterway Dredging
- Conservation Plaza Theming

### Phase 1B
- Demolish Zoo Farm
- Grandma’s House
- New Penguin
- Sea Eagle
- Sloth Bear
- Snow Leopard
- New Commissary

### Additional High-Impact Projects
- Administration Building Conversion
- Demo Bat House
- Boundary Beautification
- Gift Shop & Restroom
- New Giraffe Feeding
- Lift Station
- Meerkat
- Kijiji Cafe Renovation
- Wayfinding and Zoo Signage
- One-Way Vehicle Traffic
- South Expansion and Service Drive
- Temporary East Entrance
- Education - New Buildings
- Education - Renovate SAK

### Phase 1 Anticipated Cost
$17,395,734

### Funds Allocated to Conservation
$1,289,584*

## Phase 2
### Phase 2A
- Animal Hospital - Expansion
- Waterfront Cafe
- Relocate Administration Trailer
- Orangutans
- Tiger Renovation

### Additional High-Impact Projects
- Adventure Course
- Africa Petting Zoo
- Conservation-Themed Playground
- Demolish Old Commissary
- Southern Expansion - Pavement

### Phase 2 Anticipated Cost
$18,886,248

### Funds Allocated to Conservation
$1,388,058*

## Phase 3
### Phase 3A
- Americas - Expansion

### Phase 3 Anticipated Cost
$17,910,664

### Funds Allocated to Conservation
$1,245,500*

## Unphased High-Impact Projects
### Phase 3A
- New Carousel
- Multi-Species Africa Yard
- Nature Play
- North Snack Cart
- Waterway Fountains
- Repurpose Penguin Habitat
- Admin and Quest Services Buildings

### Unphased Anticipated Cost
$3,980,742

### Funds Allocated to Conservation
$177,706*

*Conservation funds are included in the anticipated cost.

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All dollar amounts shown are estimates developed during the master planning process and are conceptual in nature. The above costs are for fundraising and planning purposes only and should not be used beyond the master planning phase of each project. GLMV Zoos recommends that each project receive updated costs upon completion of a design development package and again during the development of construction documents in order to maintain the desired budgets outlined above. All costs are based on data provided with limited information as to the locations and conditions of utilities and subsurface conditions. Budget numbers include calculations for both hard and soft costs, allocated funds for conservation, and anticipated inflation based on our case. In addition to the above numbers, a separate spreadsheet including breakdowns of the above-mentioned items has been provided by GLMV Zoos as part of the final deliverables.
Animals We Can Dream About

Conservation is at the heart of all we do at the zoo. You can see this reflected in the variety of endangered, threatened, and vulnerable species we care for and in our nationally recognized contributions to biodiversity through grants, breeding, education, and premier animal care.

As we dream about future, these are species that Zoo Boise is confident it could provide excellent care for while also meeting our overall goals for conservation, education, and guest experience.

Non-Viable Animals for Zoo Boise

After much discussion with our animal care staff, zoo leadership, and the animal behavior experts within our design team, we have agreed that the following species are not viable in the future for at least one of the following reasons: insufficient space available; Boise’s climate is not suitable for the animal; expense to build exhibit and support areas; expense to maintain and operate; availability to acquire these species; staff knowledge and expertise.

- Koala
- Elephants (Asian and African)
- Gorillas
- Polar Bears
- Hippo
- Giant Panda
- Rhino
- Moose
- Elk
- Chimpanzee
- Sea Lions & Seals
- Cape Buffalo
- Bison
- Pangolin
Animals We Can Dream About

Black Bear

Trumpeter Swan

Mandrill

River Otter

Okapi

Booby

Blue and Yellow Macaw

Amphibians

Pelican

Watusi

Cougar

Fox

Orangutan

Bongo

Lynx

IBEX

Pelican

Tarantula

Giant Rabbit

Ibex

Aquatics

Amphibians

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We all know how important well-placed amenities like restrooms, food options, and play features are during a day at the zoo. Because of their importance, our plan will focus on these elements and their effect on pedestrian traffic flow.

First, we focused on ensuring guests would have what they needed to enjoy their time with us. Next, we moved on to optimizing that foot traffic. Over the years, we have learned just how impactful these amenities can be to a zoo’s bottom line! These areas, along with activity nodes and animal encounters, are key contributors to the length of a guest’s visit. And the longer a visit spans, the higher the potential becomes for gaining support via revenue-generation and/or conservation spending.

We have identified opportunities for growth in our current layout, including several dead-end paths, non-ADA-accessible routes, and “dead zones” with limited activation potential. To remedy these issues, our design team has proposed key activity nodes throughout the Zoo. Each node will contain food, play, restroom, and a form of revenue generation. By creating multiple well-rounded groupings, we aim to increase exposure and reach to guests in all parts of the Zoo.

While we have focused on identifying activities that have revenue generating opportunities, each project proposed should also explore free activities and animal interaction opportunities. Free activities are great ways to promote conservation efforts, allow guests to rest, and keep children engaged and entertained.

Table 1 below identifies some of the free activities proposed within this master plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>PHASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature Play Area</td>
<td>Unphased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation-Themed Play Area</td>
<td>Phase 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Grandma’s House’ Education Pavilion</td>
<td>Phase 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flamingo Splash Pad</td>
<td>Phase 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa Petting Zoo</td>
<td>Phase 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk-Through Aviaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 below identifies some of the proposed or reimagined paid conservation activities within this master plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAP ID</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>PHASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Penguin Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Phase 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mr. Mac Encounter</td>
<td>Phase 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>New Giraffe Feeding Deck</td>
<td>Phase 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Adventure Ropes Course</td>
<td>Phase 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Africa Petting Zoo - Conservation Coin Feeders</td>
<td>Phase 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Warthog Brush a Hog</td>
<td>Unphased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Nectar Feeding (Butterflies and Birds)</td>
<td>Phase 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sloth-Bear Feeding</td>
<td>Phase 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Orangutan Glass Elevator</td>
<td>Phase 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conservation Penny Presses</td>
<td>Unphased</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All photos courtesy of Zoo Boise Facebook Page
Phase 1 focuses on two key conservation species: red pandas and snow leopards. Both species will represent and support a healthy breeding population as well as in-situ work in Asia.

Phase 2 will focus on orangutans as a keystone species to southeast Asia. The Bornean and Sumatran rainforests are one of the most threatened environments in the world. Anchored by the orangutan, a plethora of other species, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and mammals will be represented in this conservation effort. Like Gorongosa, a long-term in-situ partner will be identified in conjunction with this capital campaign and new habitat.

Phase 3 is focused on the Americas. This represents the animals right here in the Boise region and species all over the Americas. Backyard conservation initiatives provide zoo guests a great opportunity for be part of local conservation efforts and habitat restoration. By partnering with local wildlife departments, Zoo Boise can provide education about species like cougar, trumpeter swans (also a breeding program), sage grouse, North American songbirds, and more. The Americas expansion also opens the opportunity for a variety of Central and South American conservation species to be identified.

Each species identified within this master plan has a direct correlation to Zoo Boise’s overall goals. Many species tie directly to conversation commitments, SSP breeding programs, and/or the inspiration and fascination of guests to become life-long conservationists.

Educating future generations is a pivotal and mission-critical component of any zoo and we take extra pride in our education and outreach programs at Zoo Boise. The expansion and renovation of our popular Small Animal Kingdom will allow for several key strategic investments to take root.

First is an expanded classroom and education space. The current education programming has maxed out their capacity due to space. These formal classrooms, combined with multi-purpose rooms integrated into other animal buildings will allow for increased capacity for education programs, STEAM programming, overnights, and even adult evening education programs!

Second, by renovating Small Animal Kingdom and adding new animal holding and education animal space, our hardworking education team will be able to significantly expand its ambassador animal program. This will allow more animals to interact with guests both on-site and off-campus during classroom visits or other off-site programs. The ambassador animal program will also then be able to take on larger species like raptors, parrots, ferrets, rabbits, raccoons, armadillos, tortoises, snakes, and more.
In 2019, our community leaders in the Boise City Council adopted a goal of 100% clean electricity by 2035. This goal, along with natural gas and geothermal energy goals, comprise a blueprint for the coming decades known as Boise’s Energy Future.

As a member organization of Boise’s community, we feel deeply committed to working with the City to meet these goals at the Zoo. This depth and breadth of reframing how we approach energy will present unique challenges to us as an organization that require a large amount of resourcing. The City’s plan outlines six strategies that pave the path to 100% clean electricity by 2035, including:

**Short-term Strategies:**
- Increase participation in energy-efficiency programs
- Take credit for all renewable electricity that the utility delivers
- Increase rooftop and community solar installations
- Encourage participation in Green Power program

**Long-term Strategies:**
- Power city government facilities and operations with renewable electricity (this includes the zoo)
- Support new renewable electricity generation while ensuring reliability

We include this information from the City to help our community and supporters better understand the context around our own sustainability goals at the zoo. We want to be transparent and inclusive in our own journey toward energy efficiency, and ultimately, clean, renewable sources of energy.

Our planning partners with GLMV Zoos are equally committed to championing sustainable design issues and opportunities for their partners and projects. Together, we are dedicated to planning significant and positive contributions to Boise’s short- and long-term energy goals.

Many energy efficient systems can be integrated directly within new buildings and habitats identified within the 2021 Master Plan. The critical step is to ensure sustainable design elements are planned for throughout the entire design process of each project and not as an after thought or non-essential component. Many times the success of sustainable design can be directly contributed to the role it holds within the given design.

An example is the image to the left illustrating the use of bifacial solar panels as the primary shade canopy in addition to the generation of solar energy.

If not designed as a critical component within the architecture of the building, these elements could easily be reduced in scope or removed entirely as the design progresses. In addition, the exposed panels help reinforce and educate zoo visitors of the sustainable goals and initiatives adopted by the zoo.
Select and Develop Sites to Promote Livable Communities
Consider regional land-use patterns and impacts to the watershed and wildlife habitat when selecting sites. Seek opportunities to redevelop existing sites, structures and infrastructure. Develop links to public transit and strategies to develop pedestrian friendly, mixed-use communities. Provide areas of dedicated open space, greenways and flyways for wildlife.

Develop Flexible Designs to Enhance Building Longevity
Consider future needs and design in the flexibility to accommodate them through the use of modular planning and flexible building infrastructures for HVAC, power and communications. Design for ease of expansion.

Use Natural Strategies to Protect and Restore Water Resources
Design the site to limit disruption to existing vegetated areas and use natural storm-water treatment systems such as bioretention, bioswales, pervious paving and vegetated rooftops to purify runoff and promote groundwater recharge.

Improve Energy Efficiency While Ensuring Thermal Comfort
Improve the building envelope and develop passive solar strategies to improve comfort and reduce energy demand first; then optimize energy efficiency of HVAC systems. Use energy analysis to refine the design and utilize full systems building commissioning to ensure systems perform as designed. Coordinate daylighting with high-efficiency electric lighting and smart controls.

Reduce Environmental Impacts Related to Energy Use
Explore opportunities to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and to use cleaner sources of power. Consider cogeneration, fuel cells, photovoltaics, solar hot water and other renewable energy sources. Explore other opportunities to use green power. When evaluating building system options, consider overall source energy use.

Promote Occupant Health and Well-being in the Indoor Environment
Enhance the indoor environment by providing a connection to nature and daylight, improved lighting and acoustics and improved indoor air quality. Develop systems and detailing to ensure thermal comfort and avoid future microbial contamination. Use natural ventilation and/or HVAC systems that promote effective ventilation and consider systems that promote occupant control.

Conserve Water and Consider Water Reuse Systems
Conserve water with the use of low-flow plumbing fixtures and water-efficient appliances and HVAC equipment. Consider collection of rainwater, reuse of gray water for nonpotable uses and construct wetlands for natural wastewater treatment.

Use Environmentally Preferable Building Materials
Evaluate the environmental impacts, resource efficiency and performance of proposed building materials over their full life cycle. Seek out nontoxic materials from local, renewable and sustainably acquired resources that minimize waste and pollution from manufacturing, installation and maintenance. Use wood products from independently certified sustainably managed sources.

Use Appropriate Plant Materials
Use plant material native to the region’s climate, soils and water availability to ensure survival while reducing maintenance and irrigation requirements. Use native species to the greatest extent possible. Explore opportunities to provide habitat for wildlife and to restore degraded site areas.

Plan for Recycling During Construction, Demolition and Occupancy
Provide collection bins for recyclable materials at the point of use on each floor, and a staging area for materials collection at the loading dock. Where appropriate, consider vertical chutes to make collection easier. Require contractors to develop a construction waste management plan prior to construction that identifies licensed companies to recycle materials.