



600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

## Council work session agenda

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Tuesday, September 5, 2023

11:00 AM

Oregon Zoo, Conservation Hall,  
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID:  
615 079 992 or 888-475-4499 (toll free);

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This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Oregon Zoo Conservation Hall. You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID: 615 079 992 or 888-475-4499 (toll free)

### Call to Order and Roll Call

### Work Session Topics:

11:00 Oregon Zoo Campus Planning Update [23-5916](#)

Presenter(s): Heidi Rahn, Oregon Zoo Director  
Kristin Solomon, Senior Capital Project Manager

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

12:00 Chief Operating Officer Communication

12:05 Councilor Communication

Adjourn

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ការគោរពសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ ១ សំរាប់ព័ត៌មានអំពីកម្មវិធីសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ Metro ឬដើម្បីទទួលបានការប្តឹងរើសអើងសូមចូលទស្សនាគេហទំព័រ [www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights)។ បើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការអ្នកបកប្រែភាសានៅពេលអង្គប្រជុំសាធារណៈ សូមទូរស័ព្ទមកលេខ 503-797-1700 (ម៉ោង 8 ព្រឹកដល់ម៉ោង 5 ល្ងាច ថ្ងៃធ្វើការ) ប្រាំពីរថ្ងៃ ថ្ងៃធ្វើការ មុនថ្ងៃប្រជុំដើម្បីអាចឲ្យគេបកប្រែភាសាសំរាប់លោកអ្នក ។

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**Oregon Zoo Campus Planning Update**  
*Work Session Topics*

Metro Council Work Session  
Tuesday, September 5th, 2023

## **[STAFF REPORT FOR USE FOR WORK SESSIONS AND COUNCIL MEETINGS]**

### OREGON ZOO CAMPUS PLAN UPDATE

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Date: August 17 2023  
Department: CAM/Zoo  
Meeting Date: September 5 2023

Presenter(s), (if applicable): Heidi Rahn,  
she/her, Zoo Director, Kristin Solomon,  
she/her, Senior Capital Project Manager  
Length: 20 minutes

Prepared by: Kristin Solomon  
503.914.6025  
kristin.solomon@oregonmetro.gov

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### **ACTION REQUESTED**

The purpose of this work session is to provide updates for Oregon Zoo Campus Planning process and project status.

### **IDENTIFIED OUTCOMES**

- Council members are aware of current project process and scope.
- Council members provide feedback on the concepts being proposed in the Campus Plan.

### **STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

The purpose of the project is to update the Oregon Zoo's 2011 Master Plan and 2013 Conditional Use Master Plan by analyzing current needs, including animal habitats, buildings and facilities, guest and staff experience, and site infrastructure.

This project will document the existing facilities and proposed potential projects, as well as conduct a thorough zoning and building code review which will then be submitted as a Conditional Use Master Plan ("CUMP") for a Conditional Use Permit with the City of Portland.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2008, voters in the region passed the \$125 million Oregon Zoo Bond Measure 26-29 that enabled the zoo to develop a comprehensive study to define the next 14 years of future development. The Oregon Zoo Comprehensive Capital Master Plan was completed in 2011 and the Conditional Use Master Plan was approved in 2013. As part of this effort roughly 40% of the zoo was renovated to improve sustainability, animal welfare and access to education, and included new habitats for California condors, polar bears, elephants, and primates, as well as a new veterinary medical center and education center. The total financial investment for this work was \$150 million.

The new Campus Plan is evaluating existing conditions at the zoo to propose upgrades for the remaining 60% of the campus to modernize facilities. Through this work the zoo will connect our community to the wonder of wildlife by creating an unparalleled guest experience.

Several projects identified (the penguinarium and giraffe exhibit in the Africa zone) will address concerns from the AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) by modernizing habitats.

Other areas, such as Stellar Cove/Tiger/Red Panda, the Great Northwest, and Africa will replace some of the oldest structures at the zoo, dating back to the 1950s and 1980s. Not only were these structures built before current strategies about animal choice and guest viewing were developed, but accessibility was not considered in building design or code.

New buildings are also being proposed as part of the Campus Plan. A herpetarium (for reptile and amphibian exhibits) and tropical house (for tropical birds, bats, and mammal exhibits) will house species that are in the zoo's current collection as well as new species. These two buildings will improve guest experience by providing a more diverse collection of species. This will create more balance overall in the collection that currently emphasizes megafauna which require large amounts of space. These new buildings will provide shelter from the elements during extreme weather and enable the zoo to offer a better year-round experience for guests.

Improvements to the guest experience are also being developed through an addition of a new "south hub" which includes a restaurant and adjacent plaza space. Modifications to the front entry is also recommended to improve wayfinding, guest flow and amenities.

Metro Council's adopted budget for FY24 included zoo campus planning as part of the agency's capital improvement plan.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

none

For work session:

- Is legislation required for Council action?  Yes   x No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached?  Yes    No
- What other materials are you presenting today? powerpoint presentation

Materials following this page were distributed at the meeting.



**Oregon Zoo**

Together for Wildlife

Sept. 5, 2023

# Campus Planning

# Agenda

Walking tour of existing conditions

Project timeline + milestones

Community engagement

Plan concepts

Sustainability

Prioritization + phasing

Next Steps + feedback





# Campus Plan Timeline

Winter 2022 Campus Planning work began

Spring/Summer 2023 Campus Plan development and community engagement

Fall 2023

- Council feedback in 9/5 work session
- Final community engagement report to be presented to Council in October
- Plan concept accepted by Council
- Submit for Land Use (Type III) in November

Spring 2024 Approved Campus Plan and CUMP



# Campus Plan

All areas of the zoo have been analyzed and considered for future improvements.

The proposed project zones are:

- Entry plaza
- Great Northwest
- Coastal shores
- South hub
- African zone
- Expansion site

## Themes

- Improve animal welfare
- Inspiring guest experiences
- Infrastructure upgrades/operations improvements
- Accessibility



# Community engagement

The planning process incorporates in-person engagement sessions with historically marginalized communities, including representatives from the following organizations\*:

- Adelante Mujeres
  - Autism Empowerment
  - Boys & Girls Club of Portland Metro Area
  - Cairo PDX
  - Centro Cultural
  - People of Color Outdoors
  - Rosewood Initiative
  - Self Enhancement Inc
  - Youth Empowerment Project PNW
- Ongoing work is being done with the Oregon Zoo Foundation to build an outreach strategy for the business community.
  - Engagement work is also being done with staff, the ZAP youth program, the Community Advocacy Council, volunteers, members, and the Foundation.

*\*not a complete list of groups that were contacted to participate.*



# Engagement

“Formative” evaluation, Aug. 7-10

## Participants

Community partners: 15  
Members & frequent visitors: 120  
Staff: 127  
Volunteers: 14  
Community Advocacy Council: 8  
ZAP members: 10  
OZF Board: 10

**TOTAL = 304**







# Entry Plaza

- Memorable sense of arrival
- Refresh plaza experience
- Adaptions for mobile ticketing
- Maintain strong views and mountain goat exhibit
- Expanded guest amenities
  - Shade
  - Seating
  - Improved snacks
  - Etc.

# Entry Plaza









# Great Northwest

- Maintain immersive forest experience.
- Improve guest paths
- Modernize animal habitats and keeper facilities
- Showcase our local species recovery projects
  - California condors
  - NW pond turtles
  - Leopard frogs



# Great Northwest









# Coastal Shores

Simplify & improve circulation:  
reduce redundancy, enhance  
options

Address aging infrastructure

Enhance guest amenities

- Restrooms
- Snacks
- Elevators & stairs to  
entry plaza
- New, more relevant  
carousel experience

Showcase our sea otter  
conservation efforts



# Coastal Shores









# South Hub

Create a new heartbeat at the south end

Expand and improve guest amenities and food options

Create new concentration of Asian animals adjacent to Elephant Lands

New cutting-edge ambassador animal and herp facilities

Improve play, rest and flexible event spaces



# South Hub



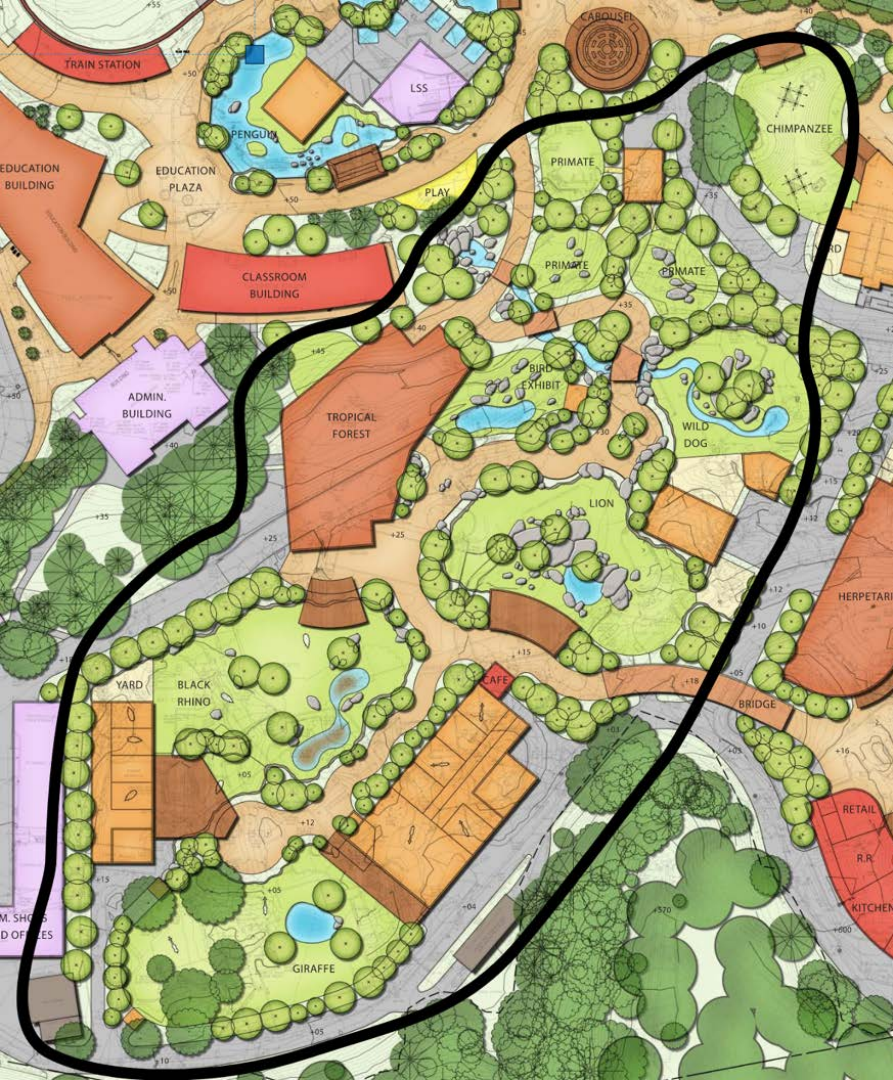


# South Hub









# African zone

Modernize facilities

Wider and more accessible guest routes with clear wayfinding

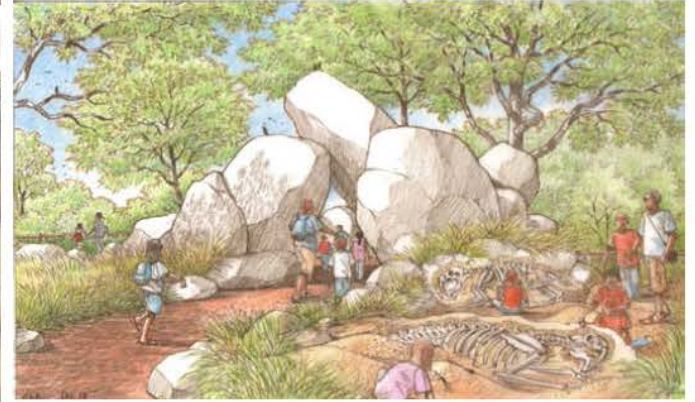
New interactive opportunities in the south half of the campus

Enhanced hillside experience including elevator shortcut

New tropical bird and horticulture showcase facility with ability to support on-site events



# African zone







# Potential Admin expansion site

If acquired, the expansion site could:

- Replace old administration facility
- Reduce congestion in current operation and facilities yard
- Open up space on zoo site for additional animal use or guest amenities.

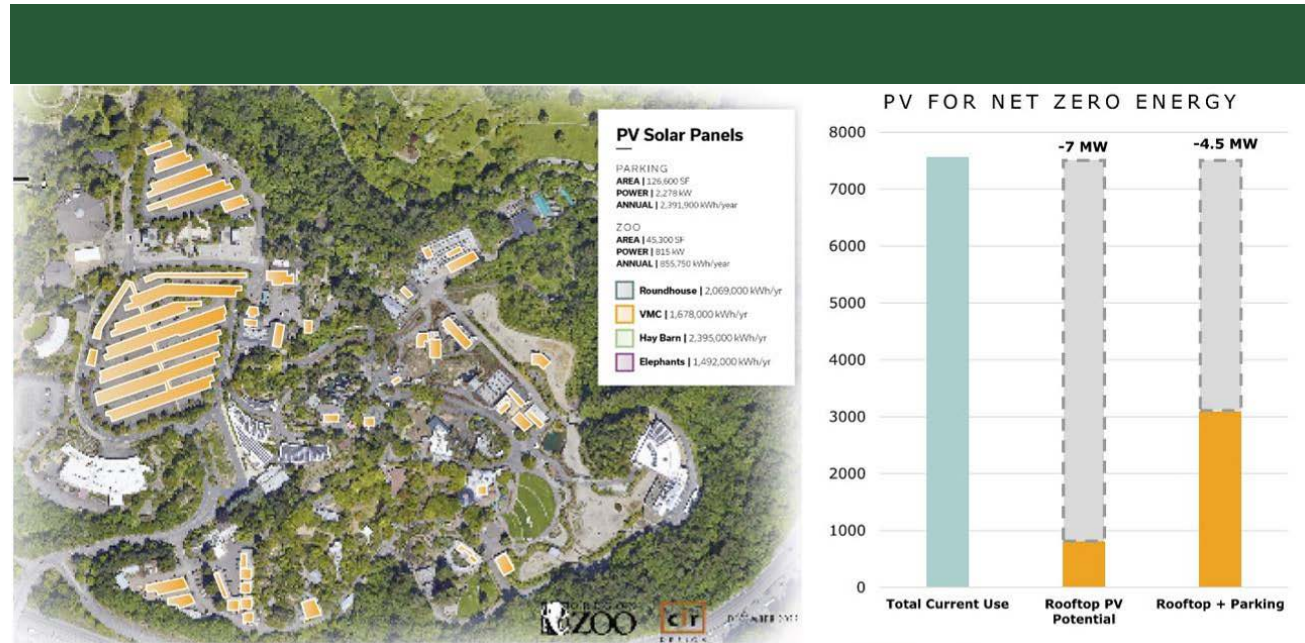




# Ambitious sustainability goals

*Significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from operations by 2040 and prioritize actions that contribute to reduced regional greenhouse gas emissions.*

- Reduce energy demand
- Prioritize strategies that contribute to regional grid decarbonization
- Consider the climate impacts of a building through its entire lifecycle
- Minimize urban heat island effect









# Phasing and implementation



Oregon  
Zoo

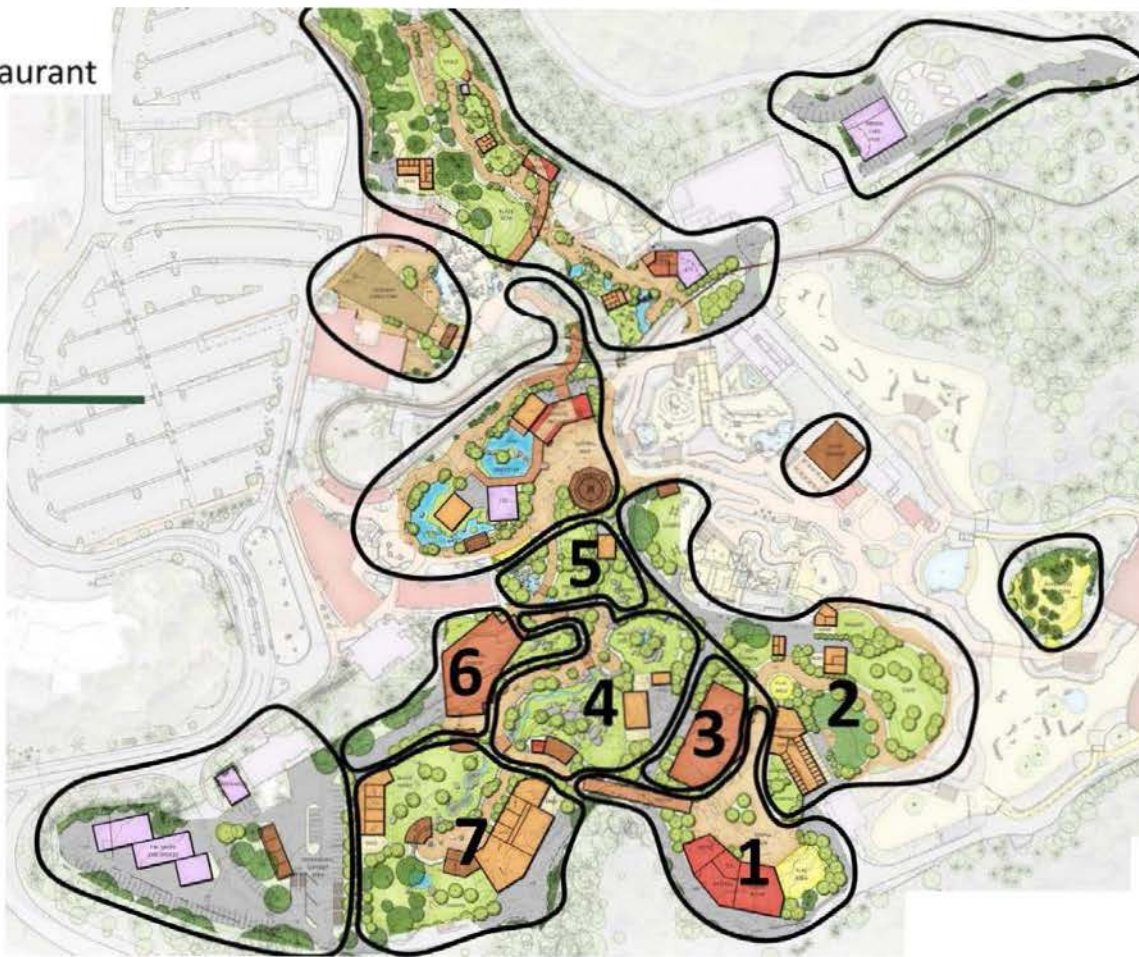
## PROJECT AREAS

### South Sequence

1. South Hub and Restaurant
2. Asia
3. Herpetarium
4. Predator
5. Primate
6. Tropical Forest
7. Savanna

### Non-Sequenced

- Entry Plaza
- Great Northwest
- Coastal Shores
- Gate J / C3
- Gate A / FM
- Polar Plaza
- Destination Play



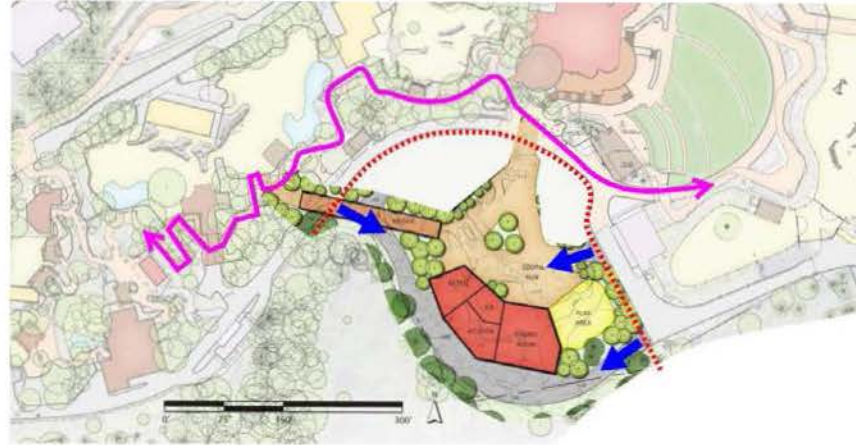
# Sequencing example



## South Hub & Restaurant

- Establishes new restaurant allowing Aviary Café to go away
- Creates guest route connection between Africa Plaza and Treetops area
- Could consider temporary exhibit north of bridge
- Demo and construction impacts
  - Cheetah (out of collection)
  - Painted Dog (until Predator)
  - Lion (until Predator)
  - Lemur (until Primate)
  - Other species in predator building?

During Construction



Resulting Condition



# To be finalized by Spring 2024

- Final Campus Plan
- An updated Conditional Use Permit is in process and on track
- Cost estimate and construction phasing plan





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Oregon  
Zoo

# Reactions



# Oregon Zoo

Together for Wildlife

The Oregon Zoo is part of Metro.  Metro