

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

OREGON ZOO CAMPUS PLAN UPDATE

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

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

