



Thanks to You, A Better Zoo



2016 BOND PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

OREGON
ZOO



Our community has created something truly special here. Since the birth of Packy in 1962, we've had a strong connection with elephants, and now this world-famous elephant family is getting the world-class home it deserves. This habitat was designed to inspire generations of zoo visitors to take action on behalf of elephants everywhere.

—Heidi Rahn, Oregon Zoo bond program director

A Zoo Reborn



Chendra strolling through North Habitat

If you want to see the impact of the Oregon Zoo bond, look at the bottom of Chendra's feet. "There are more creases and tread since she's been on the sand," says Bob Lee, elephant curator. "This is a more natural state. She's more active and she's quick to climb since we've opened up new spaces."

At "just" 5,000 pounds, Chendra is the smallest adult in the region's biggest family: the Oregon Zoo's elephant herd. Her creased feet and enthusiastic exploration are results of the new Elephant Lands habitat—a sprawling home for the zoo's elephants made possible by a community-supported bond that is transforming 40 percent of the zoo's campus over ten years.

In 2007, the zoo was feeling its age. Infrastructure dated to the 1950s. Many animal habitats were built in the 1970s, when zookeepers emphasized sanitation and knew a fraction of what we now know helps animals thrive and express their natural behaviors.

In 2008, the community voted to invest \$125 million in the zoo to protect animal welfare, increase access to conservation education and improve sustainability. With a comprehensive 20-year master plan to guide our work, the Oregon Zoo is making good on the region's investment—building new animal habitats, conserving natural resources and equipping our visitors with the knowledge to improve the world around them.

Better Creature Comforts

A PLACE FOR FAMILIES: ELEPHANT LANDS

When you see Samudra and Lily, the Oregon Zoo herd's youngest members, romping in the mud or swimming together in their new 160,000-gallon pool, you aren't just seeing a big brother and his rambunctious sister. You're seeing the close bonds of a thriving elephant family.



With its hilly corridors, shady areas and an expansive indoor space, Elephant Lands supports the needs of these amazing animals by providing choice—engaging their curiosity, strengthening family relationships and encouraging activity. Male elephants socialize with each other or come and go from the female family group like they would in the wild. Automatic feeders throughout the habitat promote natural foraging behavior by releasing food at random times. Four feet of sand cushions and protects the elephants' feet.

Keepers observe that the elephants are already more active, grazing across the habitat and burning enough energy that they need naps during the day.

Through the Oregon Zoo Foundation's \$3 million Campaign for Elephants, private donors provided additional support for educational interpretive displays, technology and features to enhance the habitat. The community's generosity helped the zoo go above and beyond in creating a new home for the elephant family.



TOP-NOTCH CARE: VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER



Caring for animals from pythons to penguins requires specialized equipment and facilities. Until 2012, veterinarian staff and their patients were housed in a 50-year-old retrofitted office building. A new clinic was the highest priority of the bond-funded projects.

At 15,500 square feet—twice the size of the old hospital—the new Veterinary Medical Center features bright, calming spaces for animals and new equipment for their caregivers. Separate environmental controls keep a variety of animals comfortable at the same time.

In the animal holding areas, skylights open to fresh outside air and views of the sky. Heated and rubberized floors, perches, pools and elevated beds provide comfort to recuperating animals.

With support from more than 500 individuals, businesses and foundations, the Oregon Zoo Foundation contributed \$460,000 to purchase state-of-the-art medical equipment to ensure top-quality care in the Veterinary Medical Center.

The new Veterinary Medical Center is an excellent and comprehensive veterinary facility...Even more impressive is that the building is a LEED Gold-certified building, which also aligns with the zoo's mission and sustainability goals.

—2015 accreditation report,
Association of Zoos and Aquariums

A Zoo for Learning

TAKING ACTION: THE EDUCATION CENTER

With up-close animal encounters and engaging educational experiences, the Oregon Zoo is a gateway to nature, providing people with knowledge about wildlife and the inspiration to protect it. The zoo's new education center, opening in spring 2017, is a revolutionary embodiment of this principle, providing visitors with a destination to learn about the natural world around them.

Zoo campers and teen volunteers will have dedicated workshop spaces where they'll gain the skills and awareness to become the next generation of wildlife stewards. In the Nature Exploration Station, visitors will discover where to connect with nature in their neighborhoods and what actions they can take to create a better future for wildlife. A host for conservation organizations around the region, the education center will also connect visitors with wildlife and nature experts, expanding the reach of zoo and conservation partner programs in our community.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "CSI Wildlife" will teach kids about wildlife trafficking and forensics as they solve mysteries using scientific techniques.

Gifts to the Oregon Zoo Foundation's \$1.5 million Education Campaign will support enhancements to the new center—such as technology in the classrooms and an expanded space for teen volunteers and interns—as well as expanded education programming at the zoo and in the community.

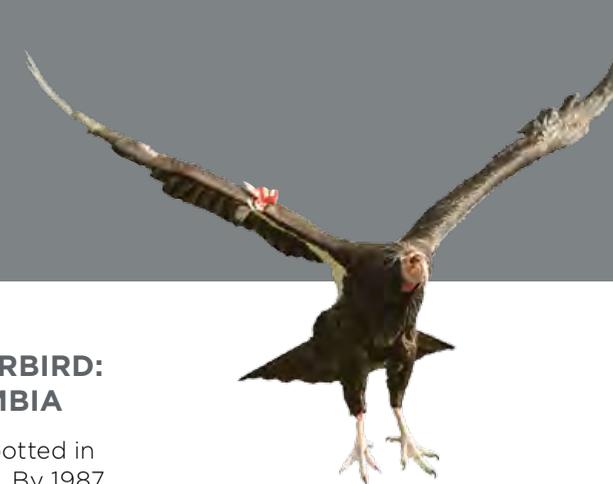


RETURN OF THE THUNDERBIRD: CONDORS OF THE COLUMBIA

The last California condor was spotted in Oregon more than a century ago. By 1987, condors were extinct in the wild. In 2003, the Oregon Zoo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners began an audacious project: returning condors to the skies. The Oregon Zoo's Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation, constructed with support from private donors, is one of a small handful of specialized facilities where condors are bred and raised for release out of public view.

When Condors of the Columbia opened, visitors were able to see these magnificent birds in Oregon for the first time in more than 100 years. A spacious aviary serves as home for condors from the recovery program who cannot be released into the wild. Interactive exhibits and close-up views of birds provide visitors with the knowledge and inspiration to help their wild counterparts survive.

Survey results demonstrate the impact of the exhibit. Sixty-five percent of visitors didn't know that condors once lived in Oregon. Once they learned about the history of North America's largest land bird, the vast majority surveyed—between 78 and 93 percent—stated they were more likely to take actions to protect it, including switching to non-lead ammunition and cleaning up microtrash.



This is where I feel zoos are important, and it makes me proud to be an Oregonian.

—Zoo visitor



Sustainability in Action

SAVING WATER: 6.5 MILLION GALLONS ADDS UP

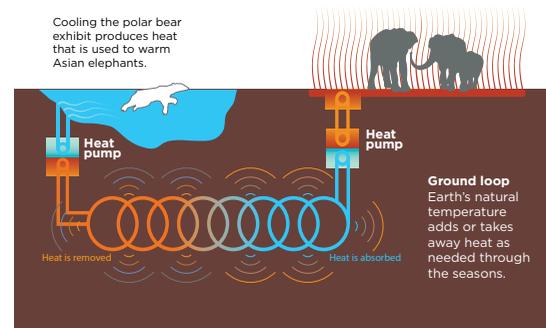
Sustainability is central to the vision of the bond program. We're using each construction project as an opportunity to reduce the zoo's impact on the natural world.



Penguins were the first beneficiary of the zoo's commitment to sustainability. Before the 2012 upgrade to the penguins' water filtration system, keepers had to empty and refill their pools frequently, which sent 6.5 million gallons of water a year into Portland's sewer system. Now the pools are dumped and refilled four times a year instead of twice a week, reducing the zoo's water bill by \$100,000 every year and giving keepers more time to spend on animal care.

SAVING ENERGY: KEEPING COOL, KEEPING WARM

Keeping the thermostat at "just right" for the zoo's animals while saving electricity requires creative solutions. As part of Elephant Lands construction, contractors installed underground coils drawing heat away from cooling polar bears to Elephant Lands, where it warms the elephants' indoor habitat. This "geothermal slinky" is just one step toward a greener zoo.



Elephant Lands was awarded runner-up honors for Sustainable Project of the Year in the 2015 Portland Business Journal Better Bricks Awards.

Delivering on Our Promises

Throughout the process of transforming a community treasure, we've asked our community to weigh in and provide their expertise. We're staying on budget and delivering results above and beyond what we promised.

The Citizen's Oversight Committee believes the Oregon Zoo bond program has been very effective in implementing the vision of the voters. The region's voters have been very well served by the program.

—Bill Kabeiseman,
oversight committee chair

We surveyed you to understand your priorities: Metro collected visitor and resident opinions about everything from rhino and hippo habitats to construction phasing preferences to programming offered in the education center. These surveys shaped the design and construction process for all bond-funded projects. We're also contributing to our region's economy: seven-hundred workers from locally contracted firms were on site during the course of the Elephant Lands project alone.

Experts from our community are ensuring that we're on track and on budget. A citizens' oversight committee of volunteers monitors progress and costs and reports annually to the Metro Council. Their latest report indicates that the zoo has met all goals, and the bond program has a clear organizational and governance structure with processes in place that ensure good stewardship of bond funds.

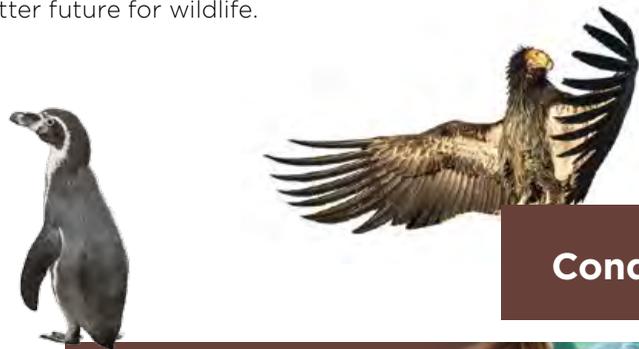


Thank You

Thanks to your compassion, your commitment to conservation and your generosity, the Oregon Zoo is realizing a dream. We shared our critical needs, and our community stepped forward. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks to you, millions of gallons of water are conserved every year. Enthralled zoo visitors can gaze upon a giant native bird, missing from Oregon skies for more than 100 years, and learn how they can help it survive. You've made it possible for elephants in our care to thrive in a home that piques their curiosity and nurtures their family bonds. Because of you, millions of zoo visitors will discover how to take action to create a better future for wildlife.

We are deeply grateful for your support and generosity. Come visit. You'll be amazed at what we've accomplished together.



Penguinarium Filtration

2012

Veterinary Medical Center

2012

Elephant Lands

2015

Condors of the Columbia

2014



Education Center
Under Construction

2017

Polar Bear Habitat

2019

Rhino Habitat

2020

Primate Habitat

2020



To learn more about the Oregon Zoo bond program, visit oregonzoo.org/newzoo. To learn more about the Education Campaign or make a gift, call 503-220-5707 or visit oregonzoo.org/support-education.

The Oregon Zoo inspires the community to respect animals and take action on behalf of the natural world. We do this by creating engaging experiences and advancing the highest level of animal welfare, environmental literacy and conservation science.

OREGON
ZOO

4001 SW Canyon Road
Portland, Oregon 97221
503 226 1561
oregonzoo.org



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