

Children's Zoo: Failing Infrastructure, Lack of Accessibility

(Photos taken February 2023)



Amphitheater, closed as of 2019

The bones of the current Children's Zoo were constructed in 1977.

The zoo has since been forced to phase out some Children's Zoo animal exhibits and close features, like the Amphitheater, because of lack of funds needed to rebuild.

The zoo invested more than \$300,000 in 2022 alone to keep some areas, such as kangaroos and the contact yard, open.

A full rebuild is needed to create an ADA-compliant space for children.



Original otter pool, opened in 1977



Aging facilities are found throughout the 46-year-old children's zoo



The most recent renovation came in 1998, paid for by proceeds from TZMI fundraising event WALTZ on the Wild Side.

The Children's Zoo does not present our animals using modern zoological practices, which is a standard of Tulsa Zoo's accrediting body, AZA.

Service areas, like the staff entrance to the otter exhibit shown lower left, are in need of updates.





Improve Our Tulsa

Tulsa Zoo

Proposed Funding: \$25.7 million

Rebuilding a 95-year-old zoo

Tulsa Zoo is owned by the City of Tulsa. The city pays nonprofit Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc., a management fee to operate the zoo (staffing, benefits, expert animal care, repairs and maintenance, and additional utilities).

The current management fee covers 42 percent of expenses. TZMI relies on ticket sales, memberships, paid educational programming, private events and fundraising events to fully fund operations. Since privatizing in 2011, TZMI has delivered a 117% return on the City of Tulsa management fee.

TZMI also fundraises to support Tulsa Zoo's master plan to rebuild decades-old facilities. Infrastructure packages like Improve Our Tulsa help the city and Tulsa Zoo replace failing infrastructure and keep outdated facilities safely operating for our animals, our 700,000 annual guests and our staff, until full replacement is feasible. To learn more, please visit: tulsazoo.org and buildingbeyond.org

With \$25.7 million, Tulsa Zoo can ...

- **Replace Failing Electrical, HVAC and Water Filtration Systems at The Rainforest – \$8 million**
 - Animals in this 26-year-old exhibit require a consistent indoor temperature year round
 - The many free-flight animals cannot be relocated in a short time in case of power or HVAC failure
 - Current electrical panel cannot accommodate a new backup generator or new HVAC
- **Replace Roofs at WildLIFE TREK, Conservation Center and Lemurs – \$4.8 million**
 - These roofs already have been assessed as failing
 - TREK roofs were not replaced in the 2013 renovation because of lack of funds
- **Replace Failing Infrastructure, Address Accessibility at Children's Zoo – \$9.4 million**
 - The 46-year-old Children's Zoo wasn't built to address modern accessibility needs
 - The zoo invested more than \$300,000 last year in temporary fixes to keep kangaroos and the contact yard open
 - Features have closed through the years and more areas face closure in the next one to two years to ensure the safety of the animals in our care and our zoo guests
- **Secure Zoo Perimeter for Animal Shelter – \$3.5 million**
 - Perimeter gate modifications and a new service drive/parking area are necessary to redirect a significant portion staff, volunteer and delivery traffic

Learn more at:
www.improveourtulsa.com



The Rainforest: Failing HVAC, Electrical, Water Filtration Systems

(Photos taken February 2023)



Critical infrastructure needs for this 26-year-old exhibit include a new electrical system, HVAC, life support and water filtration systems.

The zoo has spent more than \$500,000 on expensive, temporary fixes to repair outdated equipment.

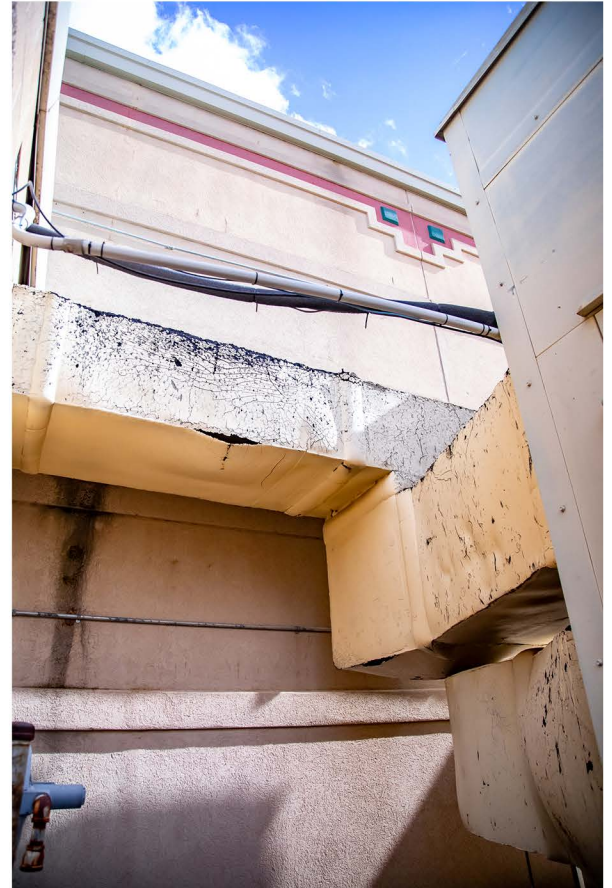
Maintaining a consistent indoor temperature year round is essential for the species housed here. Zoo staff would need weeks to relocate free-roaming animals, which is not an option in the case of equipment failure.



The backup generator for vital HVAC, life support and water filtration systems is out of date and must be replaced. Before this can happen, the exhibit needs a new electrical system. The current electrical panel is failing and the system does not meet current standards.

Modern HVAC and life support/filtration systems cannot be installed without this new electrical system.

All of this work has to be completed, and must be performed in a specific order. The problems cannot be addressed piecemeal.



TIMELINE OF A SUCCESSFUL CITY OF TULSA – TZMI PARTNERSHIP

**CITY OF TULSA + TZMI
 2011 AGREEMENT**

City of Tulsa pays TZMI a management fee to operate the zoo (including staffing, benefits, expert animal care, repairs and maintenance, additional utilities).

Current management fee covers 42% of the zoo's operating expenses.

TZMI relies on tickets sales, memberships, paid educational programming, private events and fundraising events to fully fund operations.

TZMI has delivered a 117% return on City of Tulsa management fee so far.

City of Tulsa agreed to supplement TZMI's private donor fundraising with access to public funding packages necessary for zoo master plan projects.

By the end of Phase 2, TZMI will have raised \$66 million for our zoo for the taxpayers' \$36.7 million, for a 180% return on taxpayer investment.

..... **1928** | TULSA ZOO OPENS

..... **2011** | TZMI BEGINS

Zoo owner, City of Tulsa, entrusts Tulsa Zoo Management Inc. (TZMI) to revive a near century old zoo.

MASTER PLAN: PHASE 1

..... **2014** | MARY K. CHAPMAN RHINO RESERVE OPENS • \$4MM



..... **2017** | ASCENSION ST. JOHN FAMILY DEN OPENS • \$300,000



..... **2017** | LOST KINGDOM OPENS • \$21MM



..... **2018** | OSAGE CASINO & HOTEL GIRAFFE BARN OPENS • \$1MM



**We invite you to
 tour your Tulsa Zoo.**

Contact Lindsay Hutchison,
 President/CEO
 LHutchison@tulsazoo.org

DELIVERS ON PROMISE OF PRIVATIZATION

TOP ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRIVATIZATION

Region's largest paid daily attraction
 700,000 guests annually
 300+ species / 2,000 animals

Increased staffing by 78%

Secured AZA accreditation

Boosted fundraising \$35.5MM

Increased memberships to 19,000 households

Delivered Master Plan Phase 1 plus Phase 2 playground

Invested more than \$14MM in board-directed maintenance

Improved accessibility to families with financial need

- Museums for All discount for anyone utilizing SNAP and WIC benefits
- Extended same discount to foster families

We are excited by the possibilities offered as the City of Tulsa continues to keep its commitment to provide access to public funds for the master plan.

MASTER PLAN: PHASE 2

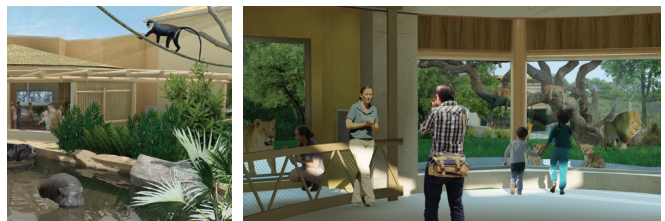
..... **2020** | HELMERICH PLAYGROUND: BEHAVING LIKE ANIMALS OPENS • \$3.2MM



..... **2022** | OXLEY FAMILY ELEPHANT EXPERIENCE & PRESERVE (under construction) • 93% Funded \$30.6MM/\$32.8MM



..... **2023** | WILLIAM S. SMITH AFRICAN WILDS: CARNIVORES (breaks ground 2023) • 57% Funded \$20.9MM/\$37MM



MASTER PLAN: PHASE 3

..... **TBD** | FRONT ENTRY COMPLEX



..... **AFTER PHASE 2**

Once Phase 2 is complete, your zoo still needs more than \$120 million to correct aging infrastructure and provide a safe, modern experience for our goal of 1 million guests annually.



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ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS



MEMBER of
 World Association of Zoos and Aquariums
WAZA | United for Conservation®

WE'RE A SOCIAL SPECIES.

