



LOS ANGELES ZOO DRAFT PLAN | 2022

**ALTERNATIVE 1.5:
The California Focused
Conservation Alternative**

**Creating a just
and sustainable world
where people and wildlife
thrive, together**

Preface



The Zoo recommends Alternative 1.5: The California Focused Conservation Alternative in 2022

In 2016, the Los Angeles Zoo began the process of reimagining its 133-acre campus for the future. We engaged the public to understand and consider what Angelenos wanted their Zoo to be. By 2018, we had created the Zoo’s *Vision Plan for 2028 and Beyond*, which became the Proposed Project for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) developed to evaluate the plan as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In 2021, the Project’s final EIR was published by the City’s Bureau of Engineering, which was developed with a public feedback process. The EIR was transmitted to the Los Angeles City Council for approval and public feedback continued with more than 300 comments submitted to the public City Council file records on the Vision Plan. In addition to the Proposed Project, the EIR fully evaluated three alternatives: a no project alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2.

Because of the ongoing feedback, the Zoo decided to continue listening, engage key stakeholders, and reflect on how to honor these comments. As a result, the Zoo collectively created a new, fourth alternative: Project Alternative 1.5, the California Focused Conservation Alternative.

This document, the *2022 Los Angeles Zoo Draft Plan ALTERNATIVE 1.5: The California Focused Conservation Alternative*, describes the new alternative in detail. It prioritizes California biodiversity and best demonstrates the Zoo’s values and mission, creating a place to save wildlife, enrich our communities, and create connections to nature for Angelenos today and in the future.

Letter from the Chief Executive Officer & Zoo Director



Creating a just and sustainable world where people and wildlife thrive, together.

This is the vision that guides your Los Angeles Zoo, and this Plan — Alternative 1.5, the California Focused Conservation Alternative — outlines our next chapter. Expanded habitats will provide our animals with the highest level of care and welfare in the Zoo’s history. For the first time, guests will experience the incomparable California condor and learn about the amazing conservation work that takes place right here in Griffith Park to save them from extinction. This Plan will allow the Zoo to help lead Los Angeles’s efforts in reaching net-zero carbon emissions and creating a more sustainable City where everyone has equitable access to the outdoors and nature that surrounds us. And all of this will be accomplished while protecting and restoring native habitat within the Zoo’s existing 133 acre footprint.

This Plan envisions a Zoo designed to meet the needs of all of the communities of Los Angeles — a place where people of all ages, backgrounds, identities, and abilities are welcomed and have equitable access to the plants and animals that call the Zoo and Griffith Park home. It is about connecting with nature and each other. It is about the collective impact that we can have on global conservation when we create space for all people to be a part of the conversations and solutions.

Our effort is also rooted in justice, acknowledging the land on which the Los Angeles Zoo exists as the ancestral lands and home of the Gabrielino Tongva peoples, who are the original stewards and custodians of this territory. We recognize their continuing connection to the land, waters, and culture, and pay respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

Since 1966, the Los Angeles Zoo has welcomed over 80 million visitors and provided Angelenos with the unique opportunity to connect with a variety of rare and endangered species and with nature. Yet nothing could have truly prepared us for the last few years — a global pandemic, calls for action around social justice, and rapidly advancing climate change have brought immense loss and heartache, as well as increased awareness and resilience. It is with this new lens that we approach our next chapter, and commit to expanding our efforts as global leaders in conservation, animal welfare, sustainability, and equity.

I look forward to taking this next step on our journey to excellence and beyond in animal welfare, conservation, sustainability and regeneration, learning and engagement, accessibility and equity with all of you.

Denise Verret
Denise M. Verret
CEO & Zoo Director, Los Angeles Zoo

A close-up photograph of a giraffe's head, showing its distinctive brown and white patterned fur, large dark eyes, and prominent ossicones. The giraffe is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat.

01 | A ZOO FOR LOS ANGELES

Even as our relationship to nature is changing, most Americans value nature in “remarkably broad, diverse ways” and place a high value on “contact with the natural world.”²



Underwater viewing opportunities and up-close hippo encounters are part of the Plan's Africa experience.

Zoos help make nature more accessible for millions of people around the world

For the first time in human history, the majority of us live in urban areas, often separated from daily reminders of nature’s staggering beauty — and, increasingly, its alarming fragility. Human actions have dramatically altered our planet’s climate. Many of the world’s natural habitats are shrinking, endangering the plants and animals that call them home.

Many Americans face gaps between their interests in nature and their opportunities to pursue those interests in their lives.¹ Zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in urban centers can help bridge these gaps. They provide access to nature for everyone and create connections to nature that last a lifetime.

The AZA is dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. AZA represents more than 235 institutions in the United States and overseas — including the L.A. Zoo — which collectively draw more than 200 million visitors every year worldwide (exceeding the annual attendance of the NFL, NBA, and MLB combined). AZA institutions meet the highest standards in animal care, spend more than \$200 million on field conservation annually, and enhance the public’s understanding of wildlife and the need to conserve the places animals live.

The only zoo in the nation’s second-largest city

Located near the heart of downtown Los Angeles in Griffith Park, the Los Angeles Zoo provides the nation’s second most populous city with an outdoor refuge, a community hub, a gateway to nature, and a global conservation organization — all in one location. For millions of visitors, the Zoo embodies the values of caring for one another, our planet, and our shared resources.

Thirty-six percent of Angelenos do not have immediate access to a park.³

Serving a regional population of 18.7 million people, Griffith Park is the most-visited park in the City of Los Angeles, placing the L.A. Zoo at the epicenter of outdoor activities for Angelenos.⁴



Footnotes:
1. <https://natureofamericans.org/findings/interest-action-gap>
2. <https://natureofamericans.org/findings/valuing-nature>
3. <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/livable-city/la-ol-childhood-development-green-space-20160219-story.html>
4. <http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe-largest-oldest-most-visited-parks-4-2011-update.pdf>
5. <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/publications/files/wup2014-highlights.pdf>
6. <https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/how-la-got-one-of-the-countrys-largest-urban-parks>

Left: 82 percent of North America’s population lives in an urban area.⁵

Above: At 4,310 acres, Griffith Park is among the largest urban parks in the continental U.S.⁶

The Los Angeles Zoo meets local and global needs

“Mother Earth is not a resource, she is an heirloom.”

— DAVID IPINA, YUROC ARTIST

A NATURE EXPERIENCE FOR MILLIONS

The Los Angeles Zoo provides fun, safe, and meaningful outdoor experiences to millions of visitors. We foster lasting relationships between people and wildlife, at a time when many species are threatened in the wild. And we are an oasis for local residents and tourists to relax, recharge, and renew their connections to nature.



From up-close encounters to free nature play programs, the Los Angeles Zoo makes nature accessible to millions of area residents of all ages.

A HUB FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Los Angeles Zoo is a hub for showcasing the economic, cultural, and social benefits of environmental sustainability. The Zoo’s 133-acre campus demonstrates to millions of visitors that healthy ecosystems are key not just to our communities, but also to thriving cities and natural areas everywhere.



Electric vehicle charging stations, drought tolerant landscaping, permeable pavement, and storm water management practices are already features of the Los Angeles Zoo.

A REGIONAL GATEWAY TO NATURE

The Los Angeles Zoo is strategically located at the crossroads of the L.A. River, the I-5 corridor, and Griffith Park, providing a gateway to nature. Proximity to hiking trails in Griffith Park and bike paths along the L.A. River — and accessible public parking — ensures that the Zoo serves a community that is much broader than our annual visitorship alone.



Cyclists, kayakers, runners, hikers, horseback riders, and local residents are part of the diverse community that enjoys greater access to the revitalized L.A. River corridor.

A GLOBAL CONSERVATION LEADER

The Los Angeles Zoo is leading the charge on global conservation efforts, from repopulating mountain yellow-legged frogs to their native range in the San Gabriel Mountains to addressing human-elephant conflict in Cambodia. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) gave special recognition to the Zoo’s efforts in 2016 and 2017, and our 2021 Conservation Strategic Plan guides our efforts today and into the future.



Hundreds of California condors again fly freely over the skies of California, Arizona, Utah, and Mexico, thanks to the efforts of the Los Angeles Zoo and its partners in this unprecedented endeavor.



02 | GUIDING PRINCIPLES

OUR MISSION

Through the passion of our team, the Los Angeles Zoo is leading the way in saving wildlife and connecting Angelenos to the natural world by providing exemplary animal care, delivering distinctive and diverse learning opportunities, and creating unforgettable experiences.

Saving Wildlife.
Enriching Our Communities.
Creating Connections to Nature.

OUR VISION

Creating a just and sustainable world where people and wildlife thrive, together

Six guiding principles inform our daily actions and shape our long-term strategic vision

The Los Angeles Zoo is fully committed to embodying these six fundamental principles every day as well as making them the foundation to this Plan.



ANIMAL CARE
Achieve the highest level of animal welfare



CONSERVATION
Advance conservation efforts locally and globally



VISITOR EXPERIENCE
Create meaningful, safe, and fun experiences for our visitors and our communities



EQUITABLE ACCESS
Ensure our facility, operations, and outreach are for all Angelenos



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
Demonstrate environmental sustainability and best practices



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE
Embody operational excellence at every level



Achieve the highest level of animal welfare

CARING FOR INDIVIDUALS, SAVING ENTIRE SPECIES

We are passionate about, and dedicated to, providing the highest level of welfare for each and every animal in our care. We will fulfill this vision with state-of-the-art facilities for our animals and the comprehensive and diverse resources our staff needs to ensure that the animals’ medical, nutritional, behavioral, and environmental needs are met on a daily basis.



Top right: Skilled Zoo staff examine a California condor.

Bottom left: The giant river otters’ naturalistic habitat is a model for future exhibits.



ENRICHING ANIMALS' LIVES AND PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES

We will create facilities that provide enriched environments for all of our animals; invest in night quarters suited to each species’ unique needs; and construct back-of-house spaces that support our conservation programs.

SUPPORTING OUR STAFF'S QUEST TO BE THE BEST

Our veterinary services are second to none, and our dedicated keepers provide the care and enrichment that animals need to thrive. We will support our staff through programs and facilities that help them grow professionally, including opportunities to continually learn through shared experiences and field conservation projects.

NATURAL SETTINGS WITH MIXED-SPECIES HABITATS

Building upon our previous success with Elephants of Asia and Rainforest of the Americas, we will create natural settings for each animal habitat. Mixed-species habitats will create enriched environments for animals as well as engaging experiences for Zoo guests.



Advance conservation efforts locally and globally

SAVING ANIMALS FROM CALIFORNIA TO CAMBODIA

The Los Angeles Zoo helped change the course of history when it partnered with other agencies and zoos to rescue the California condor from extinction. We will expand upon this legacy by creating facilities and programs that support conservation action around the world.



Top right: Through the efforts of the Los Angeles Zoo and its partners, the California condor population has increased from just 22 individuals in the 1980s to nearly 500 birds today.

Bottom left: The Zoo supports conservation programs in Cambodia to protect Asian elephants in the wild.



SHARING OUR WORK

To advance our work with endangered species, we will create facilities that support the full range of our conservation and breeding programs and that meet our commitment to transparency, inviting guests behind the scenes to learn about these programs firsthand.

ACHIEVING STRATEGIC GOALS

Launched in 2021, the L.A. Zoo Conservation Strategic plan provides increased focus and direction to expand our positive impact on biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods. This includes new programs to make conservation more accessible to youth from communities all across Los Angeles, directly engage in local conservation efforts, and strengthen global efforts to save species and the habitats we share.

PARTNERS IN THE FIELD

We will continue to partner with groups such as the Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education (GRACE) Center in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Our shared goal is to help wild animal populations survive threats such as human-animal conflict and habitat destruction in ways that are compatible with local economies and personal livelihoods.





Create meaningful, safe, and fun experiences for our visitors and our communities

NATURE FOR ALL OF US

Being in nature reduces stress and promotes physical, emotional, and mental well-being. The Zoo will create immersive nature experiences that will improve the quality of life for all.



Top right: A family explores during the Zoo’s free program Family Nature Club, creating life-long connections to nature

Bottom left: Zoo guests connect with a chimpanzee — an only-at-the-Zoo experience for many Angelenos



UNIVERSAL ACCESS IS UNIVERSALLY BETTER

The Los Angeles Zoo welcomes a diverse audience and strives to make each visit safe, inclusive, and accessible. Our goal is to foster lasting relationships between animals, nature, and guests of all ages, backgrounds, identities, and abilities.

A LIVING CLASSROOM

The Zoo provides a living classroom and inspiring place for informal and formal learning. We are committed to integrating interpretive exhibits, engaging learning opportunities, and group activity spaces throughout the Zoo.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The Zoo offers opportunities for everyone, from quiet animal observations to facilitated adventures to taking action in actual conservation programs. We envision a Zoo where these opportunities are supported by a campus that is accessible for all.



Ensure our facility, operations, and outreach are for all Angelenos

AN ACCESSIBLE ZOO FOR ALL ANGELENOS

The Los Angeles Zoo is a place for all Angelenos to gather and connect to animals and nature. We will create an accessible campus designed to proactively meet the needs of visitors of all ages, backgrounds, identities, and abilities.



Top right: The Zoo is a certified sensory inclusive venue with KultureCity, helping guests who have challenges with sensory regulation to successfully navigate a visit.

Bottom left: The Zoo greets 1.8 million visitors every year from communities throughout Los Angeles. The Zoo is a partner in the LA For All campaign to help foster a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.



RESTROOMS

To ensure the Zoo is a place for everyone, we will include fully accessible non-gendered restrooms with adult changing tables and sensory friendly features.

GETTING AROUND

An accessible loop throughout the campus will help guests access all parts of the Zoo more easily and separate pedestrian traffic from Zoo vehicles and the tram. The campus design will offer various sensory spaces as well as viewing opportunities that meet the needs of all abilities.



Demonstrate environmental sustainability and best practices

EXEMPLIFYING L.A.'S GREEN NEW DEAL

The Los Angeles Zoo is committed to achieving greater environmental sustainability and to sharing stories of our past successes and future challenges with visitors. The entire Zoo campus will demonstrate the values and best practices set forth in the City of Los Angeles' Green New Deal.



Top right: Inspired by Thai architecture and built to LEED Silver standards, the elephant barn demonstrates the Zoo's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Bottom left: The Zoo is working with its City partners to install solar panels that will both feed the grid and supply the Zoo itself with power and battery backups to replace fossil fuel-based generators.



LEED STANDARDS

We have adopted LEED Silver standards or better for all new construction envisioned in this Plan. Each of the Zoo's structures added since 1998 already meet this standard, including the entry complex, the elephant barn, the L.A.I.R., and Gottlieb Animal Health and Conservation Center. This is in alignment with the City's goal of being a leader on environmental, economic, and social equity issues.

DEMONSTRATING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, BUILDING GREENER NEIGHBORHOODS

The Los Angeles Zoo provides access to nature that works in conjunction with the greener neighborhoods that the City is seeking to foster. The Zoo is a partner with the City to advocate for environmental justice for all of our residents. With nearly two million annual visitors, we are in a unique position to be a hub and showcase for the City's sustainability initiatives.

THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR OPTION

Evaluated in the Vision Plan's Environmental Impact Report as Alternative 1.5, this Plan is considered the Environmentally Superior Alternative.



Embody operational excellence at every level

OPERATING WITH EXCELLENCE AND EFFICIENCY

We will create facilities and systems that support staff in creating a world-class zoo experience for animals and visitors alike. Our physical campus and operational practices will empower the highest and best levels of safety, accessibility, efficiency, and customer service.



Top right: Providing staff with the robust facilities and support they need to excel at their jobs is central to the Plan.

Bottom left: Facility age and design impact operational efficiency. Collaboration, such as between vet and animal care teams during this seal exam, will be improved with the Plan.



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

We will ensure that we have the facilities necessary to support a 133-acre Zoo, from retail shops and animal service areas to accessible restrooms and inviting cafes and restaurants with food options for the diverse dietary needs of our communities. We will provide robust facilities to support staff in all facets of their work, ensuring the Zoo is clean, efficient, well-maintained, and supportive of a thriving organizational culture.

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

We will enhance our facilities, infrastructure, and operations to achieve maximum efficiency at all levels. Examples we envision include enlarged service and food storage areas for more efficient bulk purchasing, and separation of service traffic from visitor areas for more efficient flow.



03 | PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public participation

In an effort to truly reach out to the community, public engagement and participation was made integral to our process at the beginning, middle, and end.

In 2016-2017, during the original Vision Plan's creation:

- Three public meetings were held to receive input from community members.
- An interactive website (microsite) allowed those who could not attend the public meetings to give input and ideas.

In 2019-2021, during the initial Environmental Impact Report process:

- Public meetings with proper prior notice were held during the draft and final Environmental Impact Review phases.

In 2021-2022, during the development of the Alternative 1.5 Plan:

- Zoo staff conducted listening sessions and tours with key stakeholders, including neighborhood councils, elected officials, City partners, community thought leaders, and non-profit organizations.

All suggestions, concerns, and compliments were evaluated throughout the process and formed the basis of Alternative 1.5, the California Focused Conservation Alternative Plan.

"This is a fantastic vision of what our zoo can become. I truly hope that the vision's realized as the zoo is such an incredible asset to the community."

— COMMENT DURING PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Public meetings and online survey

PUBLIC FEEDBACK TO THE PLAN

“Looks very good from an animal collection/welfare point of view. Please keep that up. I am pleased with the plan.”

“We all need a place to see animals and nature working together.”

“We especially liked the focus on sustainability, improved visitor circulation, and expanded California habitats.”

“We need those canyon oaks and black walnut trees more than we can even imagine.... Restoration of these habitats and expansion of those trees should be the priority, not the other way around!”

“Citizens of LA will be provided an appreciation of the environment of our total world at the renovated zoo.”

The Los Angeles Zoo conducted two public meetings and one public open house (December 2016, February 2017, December 2017).

- Combined attendance: 254
- Total comments received: 367



For those that couldn’t attend in person, a website and online survey were created. An important takeaway from the online survey was the ranking of key values to inform the plan:

1. Animal Care and Welfare
2. Conservation
3. Education
4. Guest Experience
5. Veterinary Science
6. Sustainability
7. Community Resource



Left: Members of the public discuss the Vision Plan with Zoo staff.

Right: Former Zoo Director John Lewis presents the plan at the December 2017 public meeting.

Public feedback

PUBLIC FEEDBACK TO THE PLAN

“Can’t wait for the work to start. Everything is really well thought out and this will really make the LA Zoo World-Class.”

“I love how it connects humans more to nature rather than the main focus to be the animals. I love how it equally focuses on both.”

“Do not kill trees; do not add more parking. We need more trees and fewer cars.”

“Something the Zoo and the City need.”

“Amazing vision.”

During the Plan’s Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process, public agencies, organizations, and individuals have given comments about the Plan through a process in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Approximately 83 sets of comments from individuals, organizations, and agencies were received during the initial EIR process in 2019-2021.

In 2021, the Zoo held additional onsite meetings with stakeholders to better understand and address public input. The result is the 2022 Alternative 1.5 Plan, which is now the EIR’s Environmentally Superior Alternative.



Left: The project’s Environmental Impact Report process has been conducted in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Right: People who attended an open house at the Zoo had the opportunity to complete surveys in person.



04 | THE PLAN: ALTERNATIVE 1.5, THE CALIFORNIA FOCUSED CONSERVATION ALTERNATIVE

A transformational vision for animals, nature, and our communities

“Without zoos to provide opportunities for young people to see and learn about animals so that they will grow up to become the conservationists of tomorrow — the world will be a pretty sad place.”

— BETTY WHITE

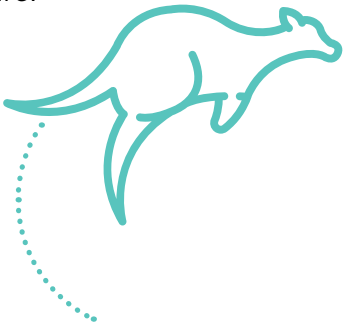
Our vision for your Los Angeles Zoo is transformative — for the animals in our care, for everyone who spends time at the Zoo, and the natural world we share. This Plan touches every aspect of the Zoo — from entry to exit, from underground infrastructure to rooftop solar, and from consolidated behind-the-scenes operations to strategically located visitor amenities throughout the campus. This Plan is comprehensive for each of the Zoo’s 2,100-plus animals as well as for each of our 1.8 million annual visitors from Los Angeles and around the world.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR
Evaluated in the Vision Plan’s Focused Recirculated Environmental Impact Report as Alternative 1.5, this Plan is considered the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

A TRANSFORMATIONAL VISION FOR ANIMALS

162%
MORE SPACE

Space dedicated solely to animals and their welfare is increased by 162%, giving more room to meet the individual needs of each animal in our care.



A TRANSFORMATIONAL VISION FOR NATURE

95% TREES
PROTECTED

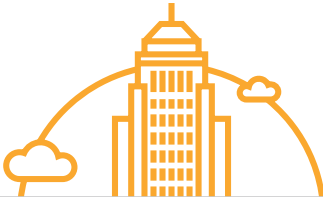


Six acres of Coast Live Oak Woodland inside the Zoo are designated for protection, preserving over 100 California live oak and Southern California black walnut trees. With this action, we will protect 95% percent of all native, significant trees on the Zoo’s undeveloped land.

A TRANSFORMATIONAL VISION FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

ZERO
EXPANSION

The future of Los Angeles is green, so the Plan achieves its goals for increased animal space while saving habitat with zero expansion into Griffith Park. Rainwater and runoff is captured to reduce water consumption by 44%, while integrated solar systems power 45% of the Zoo’s energy use.



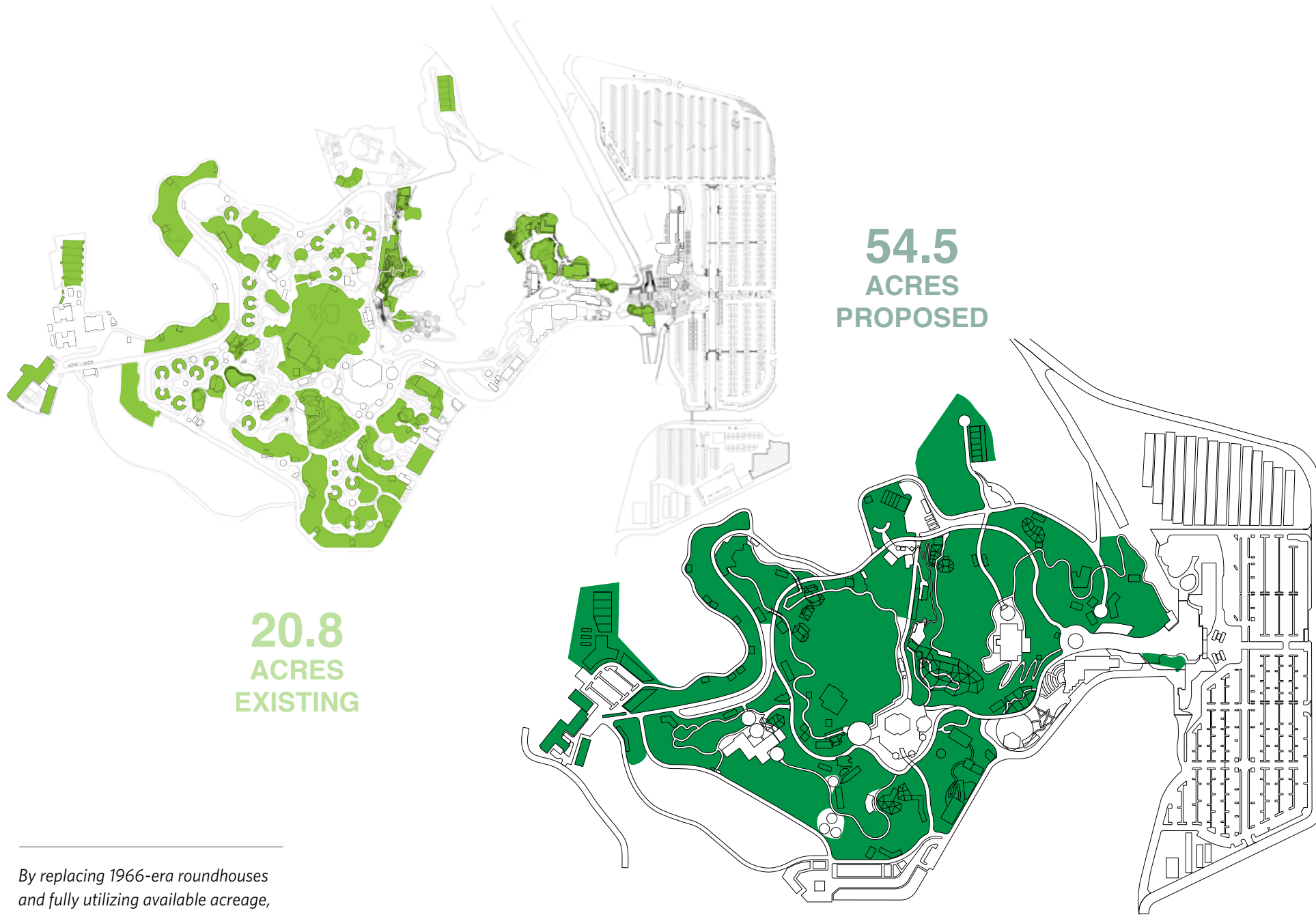


Animal welfare

PRIORITIZING ANIMAL WELFARE AT EVERY STEP

Previous Master Plans have addressed discrete sections of the Zoo and made improvements for one or two species at a time, such as the chimpanzees, elephants, gorillas, and orangutans. For the first time in the Zoo’s history, this Plan dramatically expands spaces and services dedicated to the care and welfare of every animal in our charge. The magnitude of this change not only fulfills our vision of being one of the best zoos in the world for the animals that live here, it dramatically transforms the visitor experience as well.

- 1 The Zoo’s spaces dedicated solely to animals and their welfare increases by 162%, from 20.8 acres to 54.5 acres.
- 2 The Zoo’s Plan creates spaces for animals that prioritize discrete and varied animal welfare needs, ranging from habitat to enrichment — decisions that benefit **animal care** and create a better visitor experience at the same time.
- 3 Animal spaces include multi-species yards or yards that multiple species rotate through individually at different times of the day or the year.
- 4 Behind-the-scenes areas and night quarters are designed to meet specific animal needs throughout their entire lives, from birth to advanced age and from daily enrichment to access for on-site veterinary care.



By replacing 1966-era roundhouses and fully utilizing available acreage, the Plan dramatically transforms the spaces and facilities devoted to animal care.

Building a sustainable Zoo

UPDATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND PRACTICES

To fight climate change and ensure that future generations of Angelenos are able to embrace the Zoo as a valuable part of their daily lives, the Zoo will commit to wiser use of water and energy resources and will reduce waste, consistent with the City’s Green New Deal. This means the Zoo will update its facilities and utilities in a way that minimizes its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and ensures its operation and maintenance practices are sustainable, too.

To do this, the Zoo will convert its landscape irrigation to recycled water and its exhibits’ use of water to recycled, treated and recirculated. The Zoo will also implement landscape care practices that result in an increase in the amount of native plants campus-wide and establish landscape and building design guidelines that 1) maximize the reuse of green materials, and 2) reduce its carbon footprint by using renewable energy sources, such as by installing solar power generation in the parking lot and on rooftops, and reducing heat by planting more trees and installing cooler walkway materials.

As the Zoo upgrades its facilities to be more accessible and welcoming to people of all abilities, it will ensure those improvements simultaneously achieve sustainability outcomes, such as changing the grading levels of pathways and ensuring stormwater runoff from those pathways is directed to new subterranean cisterns for storage and reuse.

Top: Solar panels are integral to the parking lot, Zoo Entry, and throughout the campus.

Bottom: Located in drainage zones, five subsurface cisterns will capture storm water throughout the Zoo campus



Phasing implementation

The phasing schedule — six phases spread out over 20 years — takes numerous factors into consideration, including economic projections, minimal disruption to Zoo operations, and balancing investment, community benefit, and increased attendance.

PHASE 1: CALIFORNIA, ZOO ENTRY COMPLEX, CIRCULATION & PARKING

PHASE 2: ASIA, TREETOPS, NATURE PLAY & RAINFOREST

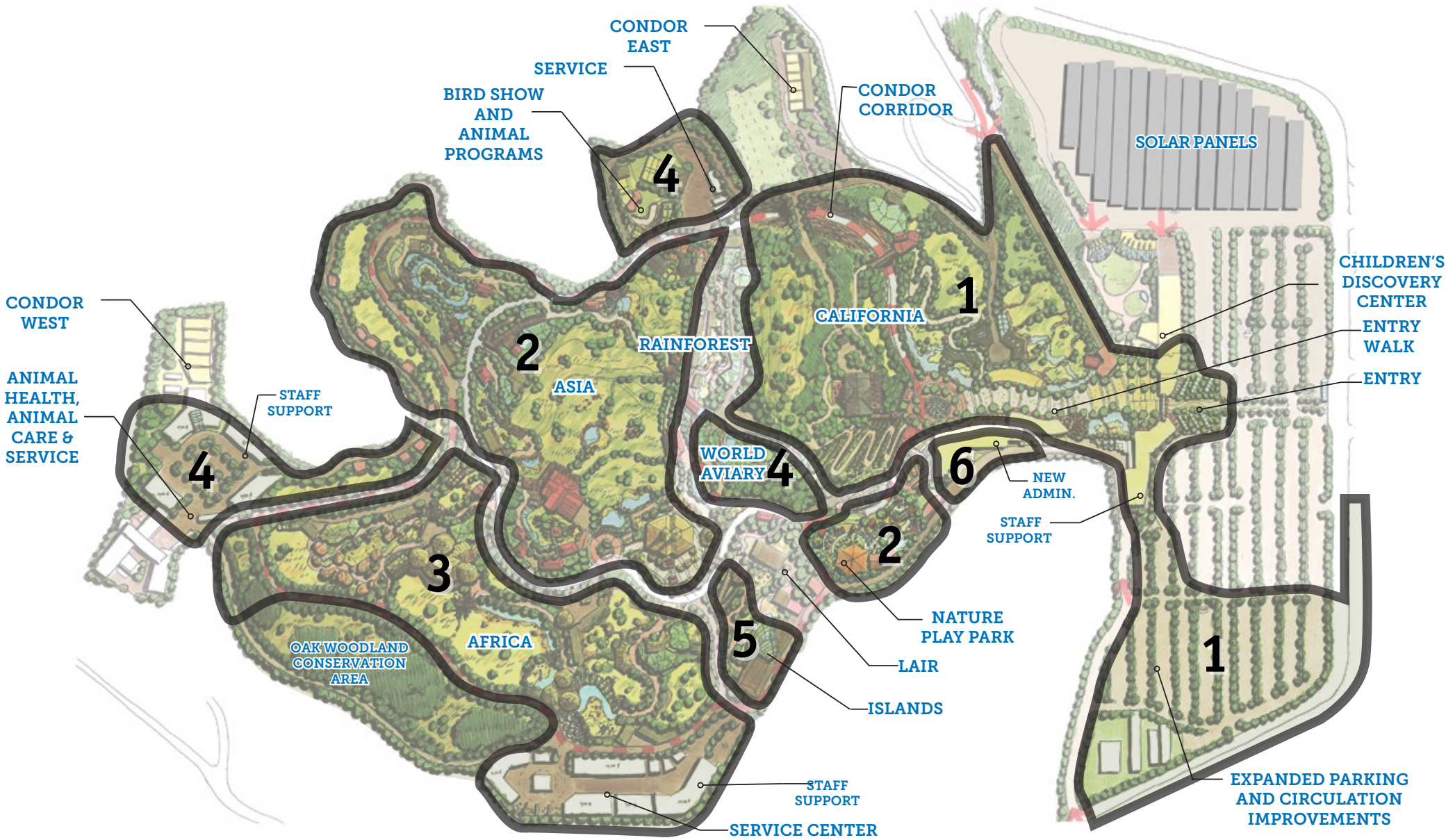
PHASE 3: AFRICA, SERVICE CENTER

PHASE 4: BIRD SHOW, ANIMAL PROGRAMS, WORLD AVIARY, ANIMAL HEALTH & SERVICE CENTER

PHASE 5: ISLANDS

PHASE 6: ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

For the first time in the history of the Zoo, this Plan addresses the entire campus and each of the 2,100 animals in our care.



Zoo Entry, California, and Enhancements to Access

PHASE 1



Welcome to your Los Angeles Zoo

Phase 1 of the Los Angeles Zoo’s Plan prioritizes animal welfare, equitable access, conservation, and immersion in nature. Expansive habitats will create homes for both Zoo animals and local wildlife. The new Entry complex and circulation loop keep families and groups together on an accessible path. *California* will immerse visitors in native California landscapes. Zoo conservation projects will stretch their legs with new spaces for California condors and peninsular pronghorn. And all guests will have safer access to the Zoo through enhancements to traffic circulation.

Zoo Entry

A GATEWAY TO A WORLD OF NATURE, FOR EVERYONE

- 1 **Equitable Access** is prioritized with amenities such as stroller and wheelchair rental, as well as membership services, now located at the front entrance.
- 2 It's impossible to miss the solar panels on rooftops throughout the *Zoo Entry* complex, a sign of the Zoo's commitment to environmental **sustainability** and reduced consumption.
- 3 A gently sloping and accessible walkway replaces the previous entry's steps, so families stay together and everyone shares the same **experience**. At 80 feet wide, the entry promenade doubles its former width, creating a pleasant atmosphere, even on high-capacity days, and native trees line the pathway for **sustainably**-produced shade.
- 4 Iconic California species, including sea lions and grizzly bears, are welcoming ambassadors that start visitors' animal **experiences** right away.
- 5 Underfoot and hidden from view, a new utility backbone replaces deteriorating and undersized 50-year-old infrastructure. Upgrades to the entire campus flow through the *Zoo Entry*, improving **operational** capacity for everything from sewer and storm drains to the electric grid.



The five-percent grade entry walk replaces the front stairs and ramps, so that all guests approach their day at the Zoo together.

California

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO NATURE

- 1 **California's visitor experience** prioritizes naturalistic settings, so that animals and people alike are immersed in the wilderness. A winding path leads guests through native habitats, creating a sensation that is more like a nature walk than a typical zoo outing.
- 2 **Animal care** is prioritized in *California's* habitat design. 74% of *California's* 21 acres are designated for animals and their welfare. Animals have expansive new living areas, with more space and enrichment opportunities than previously possible. The needs of large species are accommodated with features such as pools, natural terrain, and specialized night quarters.
- 3 Local **conservation** is at the heart of the Zoo's mission, and *California* expands the Zoo's capacity to save numerous species from extinction. In the 2010's only 26 free-ranging Peninsular pronghorn remained in the wild, and a new habitat expands the Zoo's successful conservation breeding program capabilities with large grazing fields and custom-built housing.
- 4 The Zoo's longest-running **conservation** project, the California Condor Recovery Program, is showcased in a dedicated habitat and redesigned California Condor Rescue Zone play space. Only 22 California condors survived in 1982. Through the efforts of the Zoo and its partners, these animals exist today and can be seen in *California* landscapes including Big Sur, Pinnacles National Park, and now, for the first time in public view, at the Los Angeles Zoo.

- 5 Improvements to the landscape, replacing concrete and non-native plants with high-quality native habitat, will benefit local wildlife from migrating songbirds to insect-eating bats.
- 6 Visitors continuing along *California's* meandering path ultimately reach the California Overlook. This understated structure will blend into the native landscape while creating space to cool off and relax. New classrooms and open spaces will give local students a chance to learn in nature.
- 7 The best views in the Zoo will be **equitably accessible** for all visitors. Guests can choose to use the native plant-lined ADA accessible pathway, a funicular, or the winding path through *California* to reach the top of the hill. After they descend, the rest of the Zoo is reachable via Condor Corridor or the tram, so everyone can pick the best path for their needs.

Just steps from the entrance, all of California is within reach. Guests will explore the diversity of terrain and wildlife of this great state, while the Zoo's local conservation work will expand and have a showcase for the first time.



An Illustrated View of Alternative 1.5: California Area



- THE ZOO, TRANSFORMED**
- 1. Entry Plaza
 - 2. Entry Walk
 - 3. California Condor Exhibit
 - 4. Entry Garden and Park
 - 5. California Conservation Education Room
 - 6. Griffith Park
 - 7. California Overlook
 - 8. Condor Corridor
 - 9. Grizzly
 - 10. Berrendo (Peninsular Pronghorn)
 - 11. ADA Accessible Walkway
 - 12. Griffith Park Condor Trail
 - 13. Existing Zoo Administration Building
 - 14. Closed Toyon Canyon Landfill
 - 15. Big Horn Sheep
 - 16. Wilson & Harding Golf Courses
 - 17. Burbank
 - 18. Glendale
 - 19. L.A. Zoo / LADWP Solar Carport and Resiliency Project
 - 20. Condors East

Some elements may only be visible in the view looking east (see page 30).

The view of California, looking west



The view of California, looking west

Phase 1 Focus: Creating Native Habitat



GROWING LOCAL HABITAT

While 14 acres of the *California* area are considered “underdeveloped,” they are far from pristine habitat and have been disturbed for past uses such as construction and storage.

Phase 1 will create more native habitat than previously existed in this part of the Zoo through its large, contiguous animal spaces and prioritization of a California native plant palette.

Native birds, pollinators, reptiles, and small mammals will have access to improved California native habitat with these improvements. The public, too, will be able to view vistas of Griffith Park and the surrounding urban landscape from within the Zoo for the first time.

The view of California, looking east. Legend on page 29.

Phase 1 Focus: Conservation



Left: Young California condors at the Zoo’s condor conservation facilities. The Zoo saved condors from extinction and will have room to tell that story, and inspire the next generation of conservationists, for the first time.

Right: Peninsular pronghorn will have larger habitats, giving Zoo staff more options for managing large herds that support our conservation partners.



MORE ROOM FOR OUR MISSION

The Los Angeles Zoo’s mission is to save wildlife, enrich our communities, and create connections to nature. Today, just 1.7 acres in the *California* area footprint are used for animals and their welfare. The Alternative 1.5 Plan increases this to 15.6 acres, or 74% of the total space in *California*. This added space will let the Zoo’s mission-based priorities work in conjunction with each other, rather than be in competition. More space for breeding programs, such as for our peninsular pronghorn or southern mountain yellow-legged frog recovery programs, will also create more space for guests to experience animals in their natural settings. More California native habitat in Zoo animal spaces helps local wildlife conservation efforts at our home in Griffith Park. And more Angelenos engaged in conservation improves our collective future.

Phase 1 Focus: Access



ACCESS FOR ALL

A primary focus of Phase 1 is to improve access into and throughout the Zoo. Re-routing Crystal Spring Drive and other roadway improvements will separate vehicle and pedestrian traffic and a create safer place for everyone, including students from the North Hollywood High School Zoo Magnet Center, who must cross the busy street multiple times a day throughout the year. Inside the Zoo, a new graded path at the entrance and the Condor Corridor loop will combine to ensure the entire Zoo is accessible for people of all mobilities.



Upper Left: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sets standards for accessible design. Slopes should be less than 5% grade, and Condor Corridor provides an ADA accessible loop around the entire Zoo for the first time.

Upper Right: Re-routing Crystal Springs Drive and other roadway improvements create safer separation between pedestrians and vehicles.

Bottom: The Zoo Entrance becomes a shade-filled ADA-accessible ramp, removing the separate stairs and ramp of today.



Asia, Rainforest, and Nature Play Park

PHASE 2



Space to roam, play, and explore

Phase 2 of the Plan updates the heart of the Zoo. In the enlarged *Asia*, the Zoo’s world-class elephant habitat is joined by new facilities to care for tigers, gibbons, and more. Rhinos have expanded habitats, growing the Zoo’s legacy of ground-breaking rhinoceros care and conservation. Meaningful connections to nature — the heart of our conservation mission — are best forged during childhood. The new *Nature Play Park* will give young conservationists inclusive access to natural areas while in the presence of supportive family members: key ingredients to developing this lifelong bond. Additions to the Zoo’s excellent *Rainforest of the Americas* round out this phase’s improvements.

Asia

THE HEART OF THE ZOO

- 1 The existing *Elephants of Asia* exhibit is expanded to be even bigger, covering 6.8 acres and allowing for awe-inspiring connections between elephants and guests.
- 2 Visitors exploring *Asia's* lush trails **experience** incredible biodiversity. New species, more visible animals, and natural habitats are transformative to this part of the Zoo's original 1966 campus.
- 3 Repeat visitors will never have the same experience twice thanks to the Zoo's commitment to creating large, enriched, and flexible **animal care** spaces. In *Asia*, an area might be used by multiple species simultaneously or by different species throughout the day — just as in the wild.
- 4 The expansive habitats that ring *Asia's* center are home to the Zoo's resident Indian rhinos. The Zoo's long legacy of working with this species and its **conservation** is a tradition that *Asia* proudly continues.

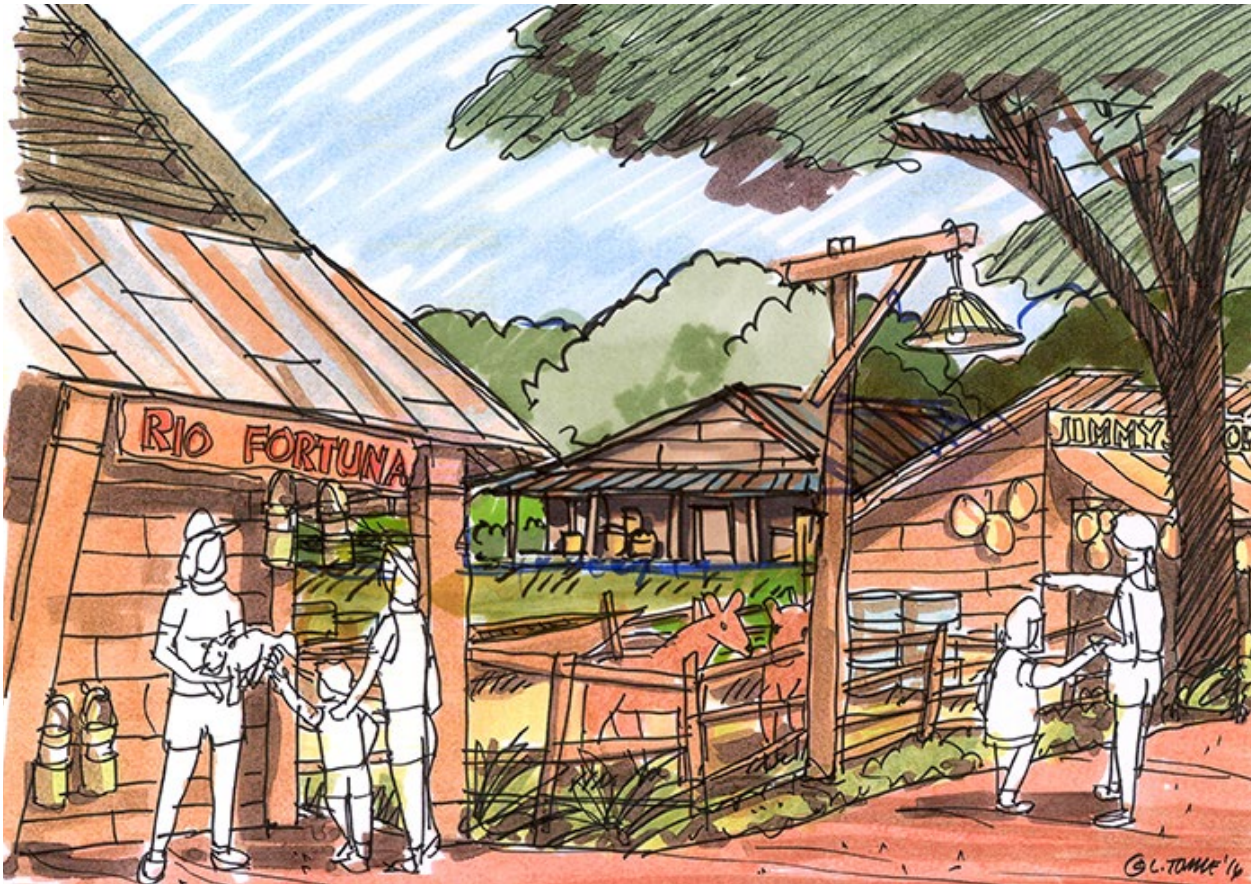


With expanded animal care spaces, new paths and circulation, and a refurbished Treetops of Asia, Asia becomes the heart of the Zoo.

Rainforest

A HOME FOR EVERY LIVING THING

- 1 Guests exploring *Rainforest of the Americas* (completed in 2014) discover that rainforests are some of the most biodiverse and densely populated plant and animal homes anywhere on Earth. Previously, poor wayfinding limited the number of visitors that experienced the important story that *Rainforest of the Americas* tells. New circulation improvements address this problem, allowing visitors to find and navigate this area more easily.
- 2 The advancements in **animal care** that enabled unprecedented success in raising giant river otters — the charismatic stars of *Rainforest of the Americas* — continue in *Rainforest*, with expanded habitats for anteaters, spider monkeys, and more.
- 3 At the heart of the adjoining *Rainforest* and *Rainforest of the Americas*, visitors find an interpretive center. Part outdoor classroom, this interpretive center tells **conservation** education stories, and teaches about sustainability.
- 4 The roadway between *Asia* and *Rainforest*, previously used as a guest path, is now service-only for both areas, increasing **operational efficiencies** and improving the visitor experience.



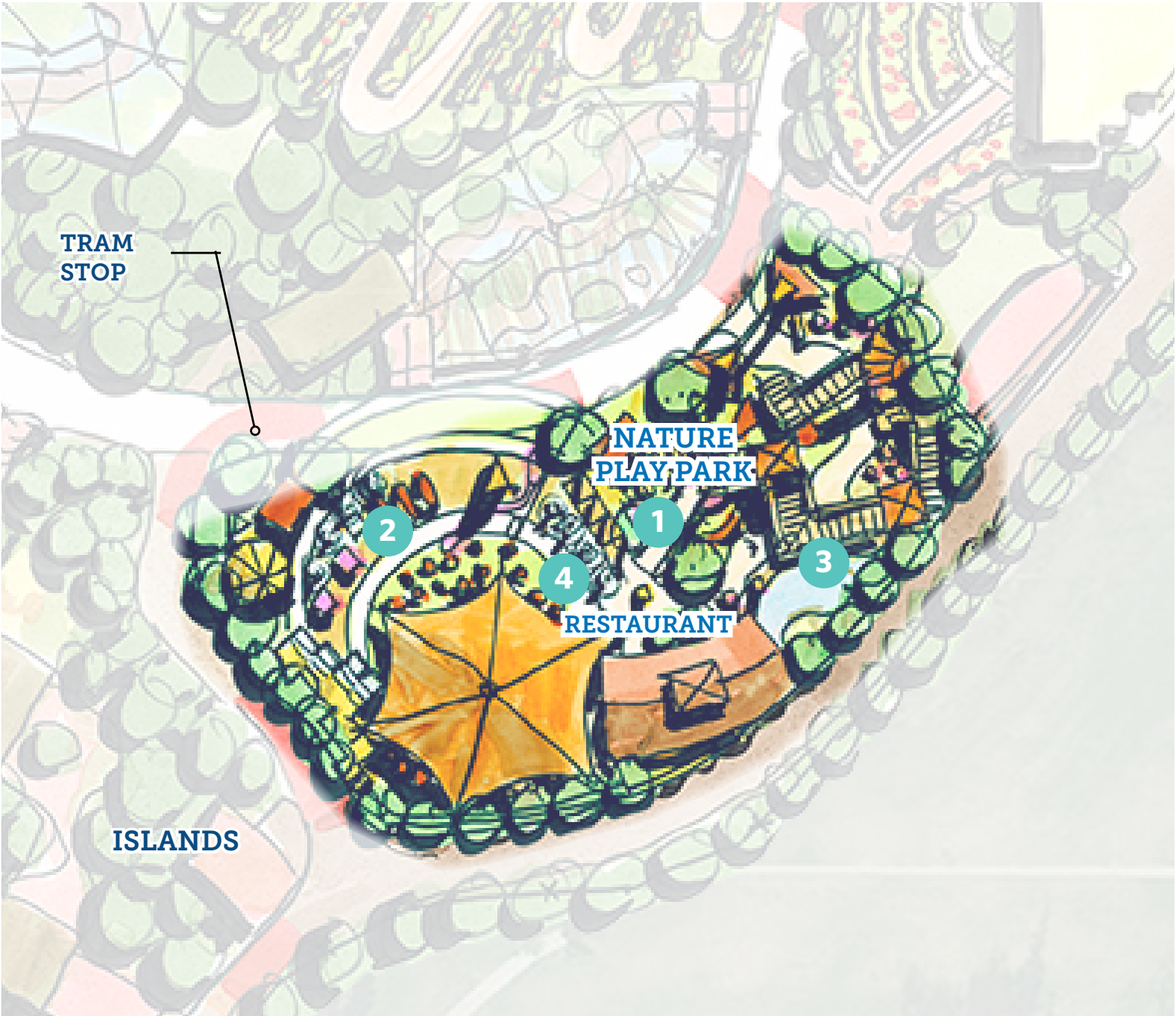
A new interpretive center offers opportunities for animal interactions and conservation education.



Nature Play Park

NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATIONISTS

- 1 At three times the original play park’s size, the *Nature Play Park* significantly expands one of the most popular areas in the Zoo. For frequent visitors, its reason enough to return time and again.
- 2 Integration with animal habitats takes the **visitor experience** to the next level. Reggie and Tina the alligators, two of the Zoo’s most famous residents, are the *Nature Play Park*’s stars.
- 3 Naturalistic play structures, balancing activities, and **accessible** structures designed for all abilities create graduated challenges for children as they grow, so that the young — and the young at heart — always have something new to try.
- 4 Dirt and water play encourage families to get as messy as they wish, forging future **conservationists** every time a child feels the cool rush of a stream, discovers a natural treasure for the first time, or creates a lovingly crafted mud pie.



Children of all ages will be able to experience the joy of play in nature.

Phase 2 Focus: More Land for Elephants



ELEPHANT-SIZED SPACE

Elephants of Asia, built in 2010, provides 3.5 acres of connected space for the Zoo’s elephant herd. The amount of space and enrichment it provides is world-class, but the Zoo wanted to do even more -- and so did many of the community members who commented during the Plan’s creation.

The entire *Asia* area will substantially expand, making room for *Elephants of Asia* to provide an additional 3.3 acres of space for the Zoo’s elephants, almost doubling the usable land to 6.8 acres in total.

The new *Elephants of Asia* will maximize area for elephant space while providing expansive and immersive views of the animals and their habitat for guests.

Africa and Service Center

PHASE 3



Multi-species, changing habitat

Phase 3 will complete the Zoo’s near term transformation. Largely untouched by the previous Master Plan, the 50-year-old spaces within the *Africa* area will be transformed with natural environments and open vistas dotted with rocky outcroppings. Visitors will explore multiple ecoregions, from the African forest to savanna, populated with ever-changing animals and mixed-species groupings. Meanwhile, updates to the Zoo’s behind-the-scenes service center will ensure the operational capacity necessary to save wildlife and enrich our communities for years to come.

Africa

DESTINATION AFRICA — A DYNAMIC, ALWAYS EVOLVING EXPERIENCE

- 1

Visitors entering into *Africa* encounter compelling stories of **conservationists** doing the on-the-ground work of saving species such as gorillas, lemurs, and okapi in the continent's challenging and fragile forests.
- 2

Turning a corner and coming face-to-face with an unexpected animal can be an exciting encounter. Discovering a 4,000 pound behemoth tiptoeing through its watery home elevates exciting to unforgettable. Underwater viewing of hippos will make this **experience** possible daily for all Angelenos.
- 3

No two days — or even hours — are exactly alike at watering holes in the savanna. Likewise, *Africa's* innovative design means that different animals are visible in different parts of the savanna throughout the day, while landscapes change with the seasons. This dynamic environment enriches **animal care** and is a reason for visitors to come back again and again.
- 4

The Africa Vista offers 360° views and a place to relax before your next adventure; giraffe feedings and animal close-ups make every visit memorable; and food service and an inviting veranda offer respite and rejuvenation.
- 5

The tram is separated from pedestrian traffic for **operational efficiency**, but the stunning views and exclusive animal encounters that it affords passengers make it a can't-miss experience.
- 6

Previously undeveloped acreage within the Zoo, the *Oak Woodland Conservation Area* is home to more than 100 native oak and black walnut trees. This land will be newly preserved and restored, creating habitat for local wildlife and a natural backdrop to exhibits in the valley below.



The transformed Africa area nearly doubles the existing space for animals compared to today, from 6.4 to 12.3 acres.



ANIMAL CARE



CONSERVATION



VISITOR EXPERIENCE



EQUITABLE ACCESS



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



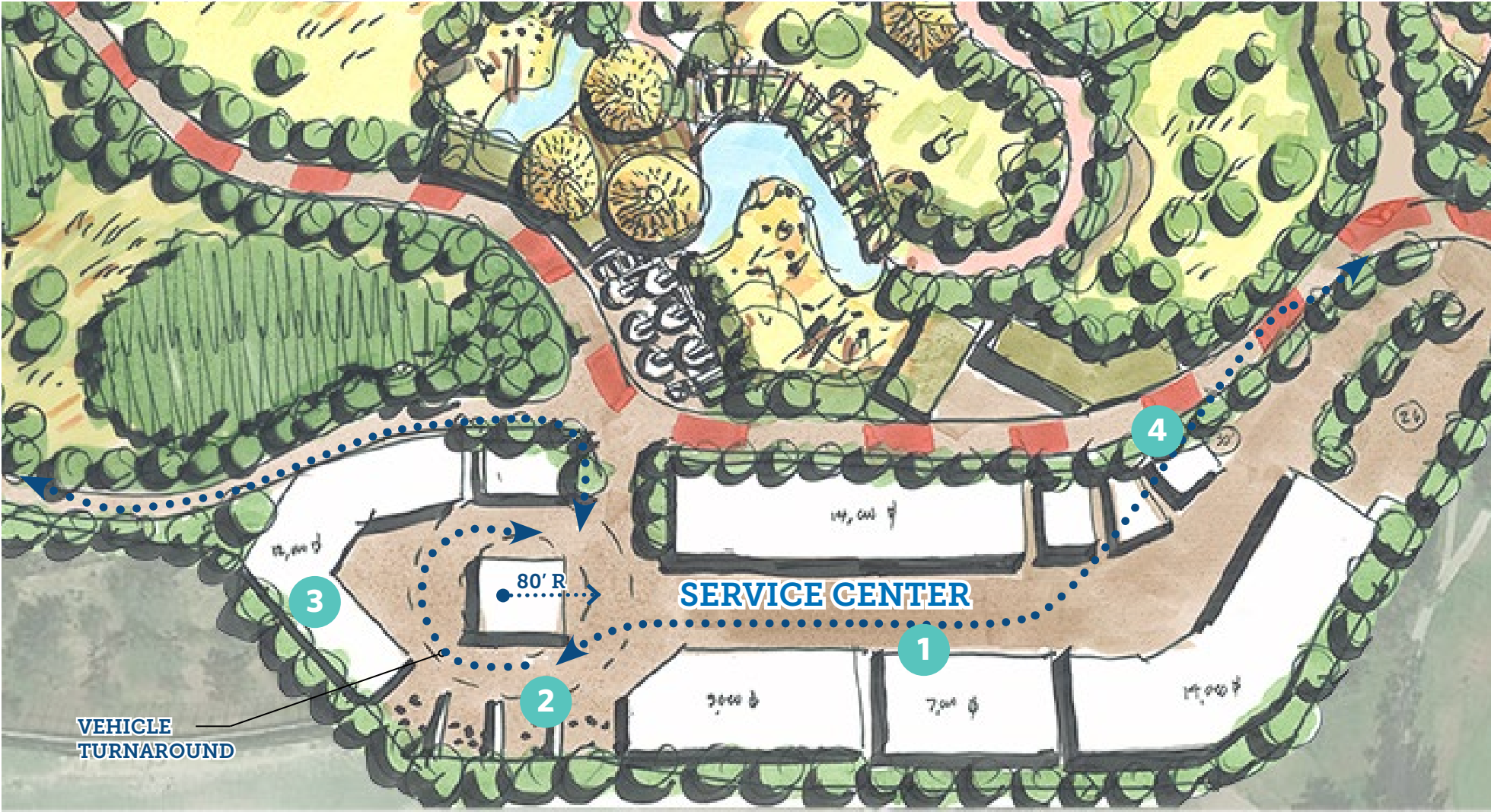
OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Service Center and Circulation

OPTIMIZING SERVICE AREAS AND CIRCULATION

The Plan provides needed space for service areas, and, for the first time, dedicated service roads and turnarounds for delivery trucks. Dedicated staff parking saves valuable employee time and maximizes guest parking spaces, all to better support the Zoo’s mission.

- 1 A new service center increases capacity of the work space seven-fold, from 8,000 square feet to 56,000 square feet, creating space to build, run, and enhance the Zoo’s **operations** in ways never before possible.
- 2 Service areas are consolidated and separated from animal care and visitor areas, keeping noise and construction away from animals and guests.
- 3 A large 160-foot-diameter turnaround (one of two, the other in the new Animal Service area) allows larger trucks to serve the Zoo, making deliveries and returning down the service road, increasing **operational efficiencies**.
- 4 56 additional parking spaces allow staff to park close to their work area and relieve pressure in guest lots on peak days.



Consolidated maintenance operations in a dedicated service area enhances operational excellence and efficiency.

Phase 3 Focus: Restoring Native Oak Woodland



BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY

Six acres of undeveloped hillside border the *Africa* planning area. A backdrop to *Africa*’s multi-species savanna, this Coast Live Oak Woodland contains over 100 California live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and approximately 22 Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*).

The 2018 Vision Plan called for this land to be largely kept intact, with various African hoof-stock grazing among the trees and light terracing where needed for animal safety and stability. Public feedback was clear, though, that this land should be preserved to its fullest extent. The Zoo not only agreed, but is taking that idea even further.

Instead of preserving the land untouched with its mix of native and non-native plants, the Zoo will restore the Coast Live Oak Woodland to be healthier, more productive habitat for Griffith Park’s native wildlife. Following best environmental practices, this space will be a model for what can be done to restore and protect our collective heritage. While adjacent to Phase 3’s *Africa*, this work will begin as soon as the Plan is approved.

The Coast Live Oak Woodland has both native trees and non-native grasses.

Phase 3 Focus: Multi-species, Changing Habitats



EMBRACING CHANGE

Imagine drinking your morning coffee at the Africa Vista, overlooking a large savanna with zebra, giraffe, and more gathered around a watering hole. The view is so stunning and serene that you decide to return for lunch, but when you do, a herd of African painted dogs is now visible, eagerly sniffing as they explore the grasslands. You remember that when you were last here a few months prior, the grass itself was much shorter, but has now grown to be feet high in places, transforming the savanna into a sea of gold.

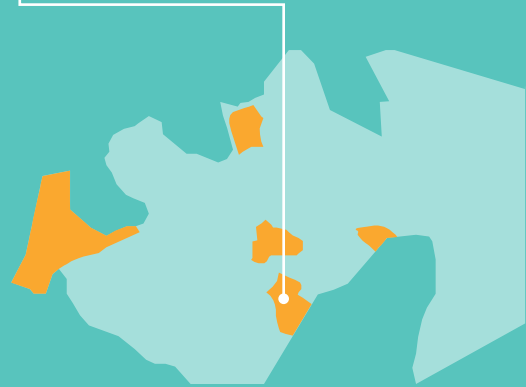
The habitats of *Africa* will contain the Zoo's most innovative multi-species, changing exhibits. Building on best practices to ensure excellent welfare, animals may mingle or move throughout the course of a day. The land may also transform throughout the seasons, offering enriching change to the animals who live there and a reason for guests to come back again and again.

The multi-species Africa savanna, looking towards restored Coast Live Oak Woodland

Future Phases

PHASES

4-6



Finishing Touches

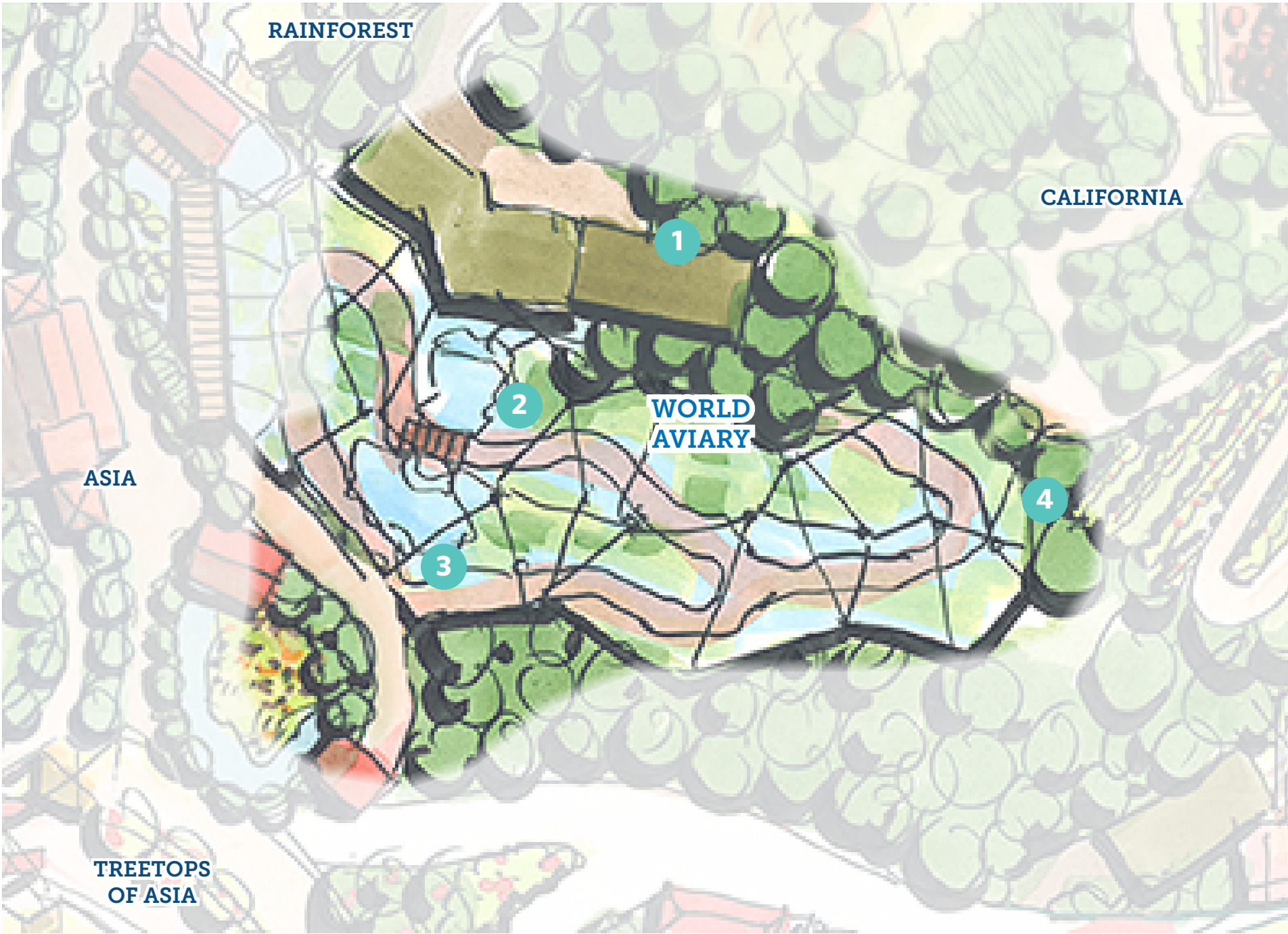
Future phases will complete the Zoo’s transformation, with each square foot updated to be modern, accessible, and sustainable. Whether behind-the-scenes at the Bird Show and adjacent service areas, within the Zoo’s Animal Health Center complex and administrative buildings, or among the Zoo’s popular Australian residents, the Zoo will be poised to have each of its 133 acres working towards our mission to save wildlife, enrich our communities, and create connections to nature.

World Aviary

WINGED AND WONDERFUL

- 1 The Zoo’s dedicated breeding facilities have played a critical part in saving California condors from extinction. The *World Aviary* builds on the Zoo’s successes, from hatching blue-throated macaws to raising gray-crowned cranes, in a new **conservation** center that is open to visitors.
- 2 At 70,000 square feet, the *World Aviary* is one of the largest and most immersive aviaries in the United States. Incorporating waterfalls, pools, and birds from around the world, the *World Aviary* is truly a can’t-miss destination.
- 3 Improvements from the previous-generation aviary mean each level of the *World Aviary* is accessible to everyone. All visitors are able to get a bird’s-eye view of this unforgettable Zoo **experience**.
- 4 While the previous aviary was a hidden gem, circulation improvements with multiple entry and exit points from *Asia*, *Rainforest*, and *California* now make the *World Aviary* front-and-center.

Integrating water features, lush plantings, and improved breeding facilities, the World Aviary complex brings together dozens of bird species from around the world.



Islands

MAKING NEW CONNECTIONS

- 1 A path from Treetops of Asia links two previously disconnected areas (*Asia* and *Islands*), improving **visitor experience** and flow.
- 2 Visitors can take a direct path from the *L.A.I.R.* to *Islands*, cutting down on travel time and confusion as they explore this popular section of the Zoo.
- 3 The **animal care** needs of Australia's unique and wonderful fauna create unique opportunities for visitor interactions, from wandering among wallabies to up-close encounters with emu.
- 4 Los Angeles' Mediterranean climate makes it one of the few places in the world suitable for growing the native plants that Australia's animals need to thrive. Visitors will encounter the Zoo's commitment to meeting these unique **animal care** needs each time the dinosaur-like cassowary emerges from the shadows of a Victorian box tree or a koala quietly munches on eucalyptus leaves.
- 5 The Zoo's **sustainability** efforts in *Islands* noticeably include both reduction and reuse. The updated Australia House repurposes existing structures while adding solar panels and updating to LEED Silver standards or better.



In addition to advancing animal care for dozens of rare and endangered species, Islands also improves direct accessibility to more areas of the Zoo.

Bird Show and Animal Programs

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

- 1 Behind the scenes, new facilities are custom built to meet the specialized **animal care** needs of the ambassador animals who regularly participate in outreach and public engagement.
- 2 New shade structures provide respite for guests enjoying the updated bird show. **Visitor experience** and comfort have been prioritized in the amphitheater’s upgrades and enhancements.
- 3 Repurposed service space better meets the Zoo’s **operational** needs and eliminates distracting views into work areas.

With improved shade over the amphitheater and additional behind-the-scenes support spaces, this area showcases the Zoo’s commitment to deepening personal connections to nature and wildlife.



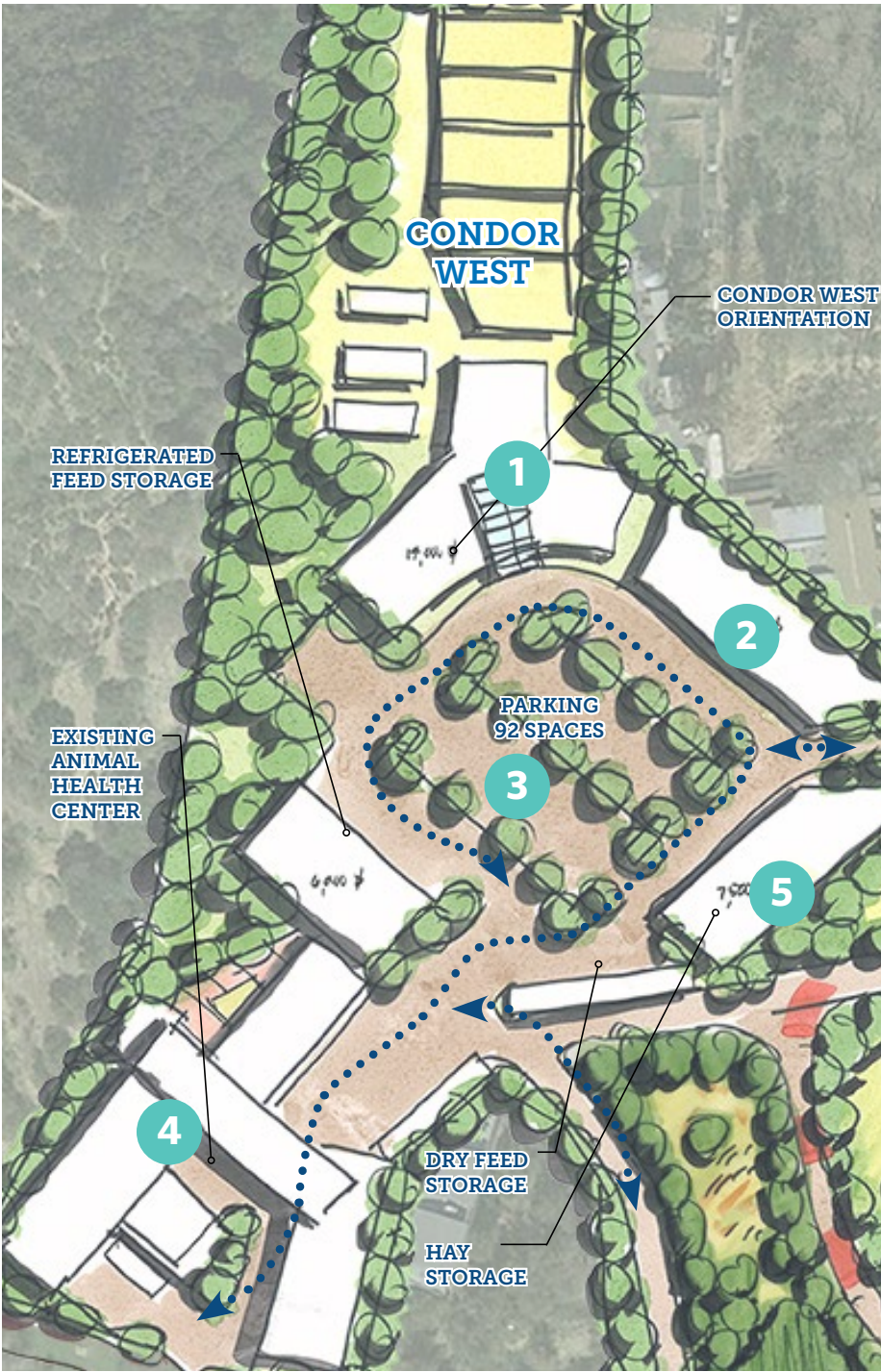
Animal Health and Service Center & Administration

CONSOLIDATING ANIMAL CARE OPERATIONS

Animal care operations are consolidated under one roof for the first time in the Zoo's history, improving operational efficiency and excellence. Also for the first time, the California condor facility (Condor West) will be enhanced for behind-the-scenes viewing, so that visitors will have the opportunity to observe firsthand the Zoo's critical role in rescuing these amazing birds from extinction.

- 1 California condor facility improvements enhance the program's **conservation** capabilities and upgrade the program's "temporary" trailers, which have been in use since the 1980s.
- 2 The area continues to house the Zoo's important reptile breeding facility, critical for **animal care** at the Los Angeles Zoo and contributing to the greater body of knowledge in the zoo community. With the increased capacity of this area, additional similar programs can grow and thrive here.

- 3 The Zoo previously lacked an area for large trucks to turn around, so delivery trucks had to navigate the entire perimeter road, which was shared by visitors. The animal service center now is accessed via a dedicated service road and has one of two new turnarounds for trucks, saving time and making deliveries and **operations** more efficient and safe.
- 4 The animal care facilities complement and expand upon the recently built animal health center, ensuring the quality of **animal care** at the Zoo continues to evolve with advances in the field.
- 5 Feed storage is expanded, allowing for full beds of hay and bulk quantities of both dry and refrigerated foods to be delivered and stored. Larger deliveries reduce frequency and costs, as well as improve **operations**.
- 6 The Zoo's Administration buildings will be updated in Phase 6, ensuring the entire campus has **sustainable** infrastructure.



Top Right: The Zoo's Administration buildings will be constructed with sustainability as a top priority.

Left: Consolidating the Animal Health and Service Center increases operational efficiency and animal welfare in equal measure.



05 | CHANGES FROM 2018 TO 2022

We've been listening

“In Los Angeles, sustainability is a core value that guides all of our work, because our survival depends on it.”

— MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI,
“L.A.’S GREEN NEW DEAL”

“The L.A. Zoo sees nearly two million annual visitors from all ages, languages and backgrounds — they all should know that L.A. is for Everyone.”

— CAPRI MADDOX, L.A. CIVIL RIGHTS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The COVID-19 pandemic, renewed calls for social justice action, and the increasing impact of climate change all have contributed to a different set of needs today than in 2018 when the Vision Plan was created. The Zoo has responded, adding a new division of Equity Programs, creating its first ever Conservation Strategic Plan, and conducting hundreds of conversations with dozens of interested parties.



Left: Impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic were felt by Zoo staff, guests, and animals.

Above: Representatives from the Mayor’s office met with Zoo staff in December 2021, surveying the California area.

Changes from the 2018 Vision Plan to the 2022 California Focused Conservation Alternative

"All of us bring light to exciting solutions never tried before

For it is our hope that implores us, at our uncompromising core,

To keep rising up for an earth more than worth fighting for."

— AMANDA GORMAN, FIRST YOUTH POET LAUREATE OF LOS ANGELES, "EARTHRISE"

RESTORE COAST LIVE OAK WOODLAND

The Zoo will restore six acres of undeveloped hillside to be healthier, more productive habitat for Griffith Park's native wildlife. The 2018 Plan included this space in the *Africa* area, but the 2022 Plan calls for it to be managed separately. A backdrop to *Africa*'s multi-species savanna, this Coast Live Oak Woodland contains over 100 California live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and approximately 22 Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*).



95% of the protected trees in the Zoo's undeveloped land are within the six acre Coast Live Oak Woodland restoration zone.

REPLACE PARKING GARAGE WITH SOLAR PANELS

The Zoo has removed the proposed parking garage originally planned for the final phase of the 2018 Vision Plan. In its place is a joint Zoo-LADWP project to add a solar panel carport to the north parking lot. The 3.5+ megawatt system will be the largest in City history. Additionally, the proposed aerial tram from the *California* to *Africa* areas has been removed from the Plan.



The solar panel carport will include up to 100 make-ready EV charging ports and up to 25 DC fast chargers.

INCREASE EMPHASIS ON CALIFORNIA BIODIVERSITY

The *California* and *Entry* projects are moved to Phase 1 to have the biggest impact for guests and more quickly transform the underdeveloped shrubland of that section into productive native California habitat. The ADA accessible ramp from the Entry Plaza to the top of the hill at the California Overlook has its plant palette changed from vineyards to a native Californian focus. The Zoo's California-based conservation projects will be given more space, more quickly with these updates.



In 2020, Zoo herpetology staff released a total of 1,600 Zoo-bred southern mountain yellow-legged frog tadpoles into native mountain streams where the species had gone locally extinct.

RENEW COMMITMENT TO EQUITABLE ACCESS

The 2022 Plan adds the guiding principle "Equitable Access" to make explicit our commitment to this value. We've kept Condor Corridor (renamed from Condor Canyon) to ensure an ADA accessible loop around the entire Zoo, and moved the construction of a new entry ramp to better welcome all visitors into Phase 1. We've committed to build restrooms that are inclusive and to create spaces that meet the varying sensory needs of our communities throughout the 133 acre campus.



The Zoo's partnership with KultureCity helps guests with sensory needs have the tools necessary for a successful visit.

The Vision Plan’s updated Environmental Impact Report identifies the 2022 Plan (“Alternative 1.5: The California Focused Conservation Alternative”) as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

Changes from the 2018 Vision Plan to the 2022 California Focused Conservation Alternative

MORE ROOM FOR ELEPHANTS

Elephants of Asia, built in 2010, currently provides 3.5 acres of connected space for the Zoo’s elephant herd. After feedback during the initial Environmental Impact Report process, *Asia* was redesigned to create even more room for elephants, almost doubling the usable space to 6.8 acres in total. *Asia* itself grows to 20 acres in total, ensuring room for other visitor favorites such as tigers and rhinos.



The Zoo’s herd of Asian elephants will have more space in the updated Plan.

MAKE PLAY MORE ACCESSIBLE

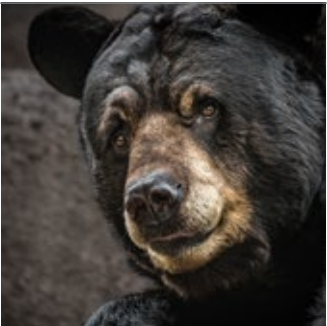
The *Nature Play Park* is moved from the current play park location at the top of the Zoo to just outside California, near the front entrance. Designed as an accessible play-based experience for people of all abilities, its new location will now allow even more families to enjoy this space together.



The Zoo’s current play park is one of its most popular destinations for children and families.

CHANGE PHASING TO INCREASE IMPACT

Throughout the design process, community feedback was clear that the Zoo needed more animal experiences near the front entrance. *California* and the *Entry* area are moved to Phase 1 to address this concern as well as increase conservation impact and native California habitat early in the project. *Asia* and the *Nature Play Park* move up to Phase 2, and the entire plan shrinks from eight phases down to just six.



Bears return to the Zoo sooner with the reconfigured phasing schedule as a part of Phase 1’s California.

COMMIT TO MULTI-MODAL ACCESS SOLUTIONS

In addition to removing the parking garage from the Plan’s late phases, the Zoo is committing to work with City and regional partners to increase multi-modal access to the Zoo. The Zoo is currently served by a single bus route to Griffith Park. Future Zoo visitors should have the option to bike, ride, or access the Zoo in whatever way best suits their needs, with systems that aim to reduce traffic and minimize vehicle miles traveled.



Biking is just one of the ways future visitors will reach the Zoo and Griffith Park.

A photograph of two mountain goats in a rocky, natural environment. The goat on the left is a darker brown color and is leaning its head towards the goat on the right. The goat on the right is a lighter tan color and has small, dark horns. They appear to be in a social interaction, possibly grooming or sniffing each other. The background is a blurred, rocky landscape.

06 | ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Los Angeles Zoo Alternative 1.5 Plan (2022) Acknowledgments



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- Denise M. Verret (she/her), Chief Executive Officer & Zoo Director
- Mei Kwan, Deputy Director
- Carol Armstrong, Director of Sustainability & Capital Programs
- Dan Keeffe (he/him), Director of Learning & Engagement
- Jess Kohring (she/her), Director of Equity Programs
- Carl Myers, Director of Communications
- Dr. Jake Owens, Director of Conservation
- Darryl Pon, Manager of Planning & Development Programs
- Beth Schaefer, Director of Animal Programs

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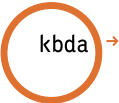


TDCL VISION PLAN (2018) TEAM

- Torre Design Consortium, Inc. – Architect, Landscape Architect, Zoo Vision Plan Leader
- AECOM – Economics
- PCA Global Life – Life Support Systems
- Building Solutions Group, Inc. – Mechanical and Electrical Engineer
- JCE Structural Engineering Group, Inc. – Structural Engineer
- Watearth, Inc. – Sustainable Water
- Circlepoint, Inc. – Outreach
- Psomas – Civil Engineer



California area illustrations by Studio-MLA



Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan (2018) written by Heather Lindquist, and designed and produced by KBDA.

A close-up photograph of a chimpanzee hugging a baby chimpanzee. The adult chimpanzee is on the left, with its arm around the baby. The baby chimpanzee is on the right, looking directly at the camera with a curious expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

MAKE THE VISION A REALITY

VISIT WWW.LAZOO.ORG/VISIONPLAN
AND LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP

