

BORN AT A CRUCIAL TIME IN HISTORY,
THIS IS THE GENERATION THAT CAN
PRESERVE OUR ONE AND ONLY PLANET.



VALLEY
ZOO
DEVELOPMENT
SOCIETY

HELP US INSPIRE THEM



BRIDGING WORLDS

Given the seemingly miraculous achievements in bringing species on the brink back to life, modern zoos are sometimes described using a biblical term, “the Ark” – ushering in exciting breakthroughs in genetics and breeding.

But there is another, perhaps even more fundamental, role that accredited zoos play that is best described by a more prosaic phrase, “the Bridge.”

Today accredited zoos and aquariums worldwide are living bridges between an increasingly urban society and natural habitats threatened by growing human encroachment.

Zoos and aquariums teach us about nature and help us envisage a future more sustainable and harmonious than our present, and their professional organizations serve to synergize their efforts and amplify their message.

It is through today’s zoos that future generations will come to a greater understanding of the human impact on the natural world and be motivated to preserve it and reverse the damage already done.

We at the Edmonton Valley Zoo take that responsibility seriously.

NURTURING AN ANCIENT BOND

For almost 60 years the Edmonton Valley Zoo has hosted generations of guests seeking to experience the unique bond between humans and the wild animals that we, as a species, have always enjoyed.

The Edmonton Valley Zoo has been a starting place on a journey of love, learning, care and respect for thousands seeking to experience the wonder of wildlife.

When you visit our zoo we hope you will have an encounter with our animals and our environment that, in some way, changes you – inspires you.

CARING IS SECOND NATURE HERE

The Edmonton Valley Zoo is both a physical space and a profound experience. It is designed for intimacy, exploration and discovery. For many, a lifetime of learning about animals and nature begins here.

Our Zoo is about bonding, learning, research, conservation and respect for the integrity of wildlife and wild places. Above all, it is a place that makes quality of life the number one priority for the animals we are privileged to care for.



A NEW SPECIES OF ZOO

The 'Storyland Valley Zoo' was leading edge in 1959. Times have changed. Today, now known as the Edmonton Valley Zoo, it has transformed from a 5-acre petting zoo featuring storybook characters to a 21st century centre of learning, research and conservation.

1959

- The 'Storyland Valley Zoo' opened on July 1, 1959 completing months of planning and construction aimed at making the zoo one of the best of its kind on the continent



City of Edmonton Archives

2000's

- The Zoo embarks on an ambitious plan to completely re-imagine its role, both as a member of the global zoological community and as an integral part of Edmonton's cultural landscape

2007

- The Makira Outpost opened and welcomed several different species of lemurs to the Zoo



Bill Cowen

2010 TO 2012

- A state-of-the-art Veterinary Hospital opens in 2010
- In 2012 Arctic Shores opened and became the largest pool for seals and sea lions in North America

2014

- A new Entry Plaza, interpretive path The Wander and new state-of-the-art education facility opened – increasing the Zoo's ability to deliver exceptional educational programming

2015

- Over 400,000 people visited the Zoo – an 80% increase in attendance from 2010
- More than 41,000 students participated in educational programming, up from 25,000 just two years prior

2017

- The next exciting phase will revitalize the original footprint of the 'Storyland Valley Zoo' and transform it into an interactive space featuring animal experiences in their most natural setting

WE'RE WILD ABOUT WHAT'S NEXT

As a friend and partner of the Edmonton Valley Zoo since 1988, the Valley Zoo Development Society is a registered charity and supports the Zoo in their education, conservation and sustainability efforts in our community. The Valley Zoo Development Society is proud to take a lead role in the Zoo's stunning and sustainable transformation.

Our next showcase project is a nine million dollar capital campaign in support of the next phase of the Zoo's revitalization:

NATURE'S WILD BACKYARD

NATURE'S WILD BACKYARD

Much has changed since 1959 and prevailing attitudes towards zoo and exhibit design are no exception. The Edmonton Valley Zoo has recalibrated its overall vision to align with these broader shifts in zoological culture and now aspires to be a global leader in conservation, education and environmental stewardship. The next phase of the Zoo's transformation, appropriately named Nature's Wild Backyard, will be one of the primary enablers of the Zoo's overall aspiration of positioning itself as a leader in these areas.

SMALL WONDERS

Children are fascinated by the natural world, especially by animals. By providing them with a fun setting in which they can learn about global biodiversity, we can create lifelong ambassadors for the long term health of all species on our planet.

The design for Nature's Wild Backyard is situated at the intersection of environmental stewardship and a child's thirst for knowledge and wonder. It will embrace interactive play and discovery, immersing kids in a unique environment which will allow them to experience the world in the same manner as the animals that inhabit it: Above, Between, On and Under.

Nature's Wild Backyard will take shape in three phases:

2016

Designs finalized and existing structures will be demolished

2017 TO 2018

Construction of Urban Farm and the Red Panda Exhibit

2019 TO 2021

Construction of the Above, Between and Under zones, and the Yard



RED PANDA EXHIBIT AND VIP COURTYARD

Timeframe: Completion in 2018

OVERVIEW:

The exhibit gives visitors a chance to get closer than ever to one of the Zoo's most popular animals and important species. The holding building offers privileged views into an on-exhibit winter den while also providing generous and more private quarters for the red pandas. The building also includes intimate interior and exterior spaces for VIP receptions and educational program talks.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- VIP Courtyard
- Red Panda platform climber

OUTCOMES:

Guests will learn about the Zoo's participation in the Species Survival Plan, and how Edmonton is a global leader in the Red Panda breeding program.



ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES IN THE URBAN FARM

Timeframe: Completion in 2018

OVERVIEW:

The goal of the Urban Farm is to personally engage guests in the world of a working farm. For the majority of urban children, a visit to our Zoo will be the only time they will ever have an experience on a farm.

The Farm will include indoor and outdoor spaces for cows, sheep, turkeys, chickens, ponies, pigs, goats, guinea pigs, rabbits and a barn cat. The interior of the barn will also feature a seasonal incubator, and parallel play opportunities. Outdoors, a contact yard will provide the opportunity for guests to interact with a variety of species. It will also feature a large garden where food will be grown for our animals. The green roof of the barn will be home to the Zoo's goats.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Straw bale stacking
- Egg incubator
- Enrichment garden
- Model milking cow
- Food choice challenge



City of Edmonton

Dean Treichel



OUTCOMES:

There is a vital connection between people and food sources that is particularly important today in our increasingly urban culture. The Urban Farm will work to revitalize this relationship and educate through interpretation and playful 'touch and feel' environments.

Visitors will take away a deeper and more intimate understanding of the relationship between agriculture and humans.



THE “ABOVE” ZONE – A BIRD’S EYE VIEW

Timeframe: Completion in 2021

OVERVIEW:

The Above Zone lifts visitors into the realm of one of the Edmonton Valley Zoo’s most prominent life forms – trees. An elevated boardwalk provides views into mesh enclosed aviaries featuring gibbons, tamarins, and a variety of birds. The wood cladding on the tower appears to dissolve as it rises, rendering the tower part of the canopy itself. A woven mesh bridge spans between the tower and the roof of the holding building, giving adventurous visitors an opportunity to ‘float’ amongst the treetops and meet eye to eye with a wide variety of species.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Suspension bridge
- Observation tower
- Monkey bars

OUTCOMES:

Children and other visitors will learn how animals adapt and thrive in a unique lofty environment.



IMMERSE YOURSELF IN TWO WORLDS IN THE “BETWEEN” ZONE

Timeframe: Completion in 2021

OVERVIEW:

The Between Zone celebrates the unique adaptations of animals who live both on land and in the water or in the water and in the sky: capybaras, agoutis, beavers and a variety of waterfowl. The central feature of this zone focuses on submerging visitors in aquatic environments.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Brazil nut cracker
- Climb-in beaver lodge
- Model duck nest with openable eggs

OUTCOMES:

Guests will learn how the zoo is using active wetlands as natural water filters and simple steps visitors can take to keep water clean. Learn how animals specialize in amazing ways to live in two very different environments.



EXPLORE THE DEPTHS OF THE “UNDER” ZONE

Timeframe: Completion in 2021

OVERVIEW:

The Under Zone focuses on the relationship between the animals that live below the earth and the predators that prowl above. The visitor experience will be shaped by a gradual descent into an underground space that offers eye to eye views with prairie dogs, burrowing owls, red foxes, naked mole rats, swift foxes and meerkats.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Soil profile/core sample
- Underground climbing structure
- Sand dig

OUTCOMES:

Here visitors will learn about the advantages and challenges of living below ground.



GET GROUNDED IN THE “ON” ZONE

Timeframe: Completion in 2021

OVERVIEW:

An exciting, hands-on adventure with the animals who live on ground level. Wallabies, emus and fallow deer roam these spaces. The deer and wallaby exhibits will have walk-through access for our guests, while the emu exhibit will feature parallel play opportunities that demonstrate the raw speed of these impressive birds.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Grass maze
- Sand pit wallaby jump

OUTCOMES:

Here, humans will see for themselves how other ground dwellers live off the land.



THE YARD

Timeframe: Completion in 2021

OVERVIEW:

The Yard is Nature's Wild Backyard central free play space. It's southern half is dedicated to unstructured free play and offers a space to stop and picnic or play tag. In the winter months, the lawn is converted to a backyard skating rink.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Water play area
- Warming shelters
- Endangered species carousel

OUTCOMES:

A diverse space available for year-round family bonding.



KEY PRINCIPLES OF NATURE'S WILD BACKYARD'S DESIGN:

- Creating and enhancing the neighbourhood and the city
- Sustainability
- Integration of public arts & culture
- Celebrating the winter city and Edmonton's climate
- The use of durable, permanent and timeless materials
- Exemplify neighbourliness: celebrate, engage and enhance the unique context of location
- Celebrate and respect heritage
- Enhance and preserve community connections



BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR

Completion of Nature's Wild Backyard will establish the Edmonton Valley Zoo as a worldwide leader in its field, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to animal welfare, education, conservation and environmental stewardship.



Bill Cowen

NATURAL GOALS

While positioning our Zoo as a worldwide leader in its field is a key goal of the revitalization, the Edmonton Valley Zoo is committed to making the City of Edmonton a better place for its visitors and its residents.

Nature's Wild Backyard is an important element of the City of Edmonton's ongoing commitment to building a better city. It facilitates and enhances the creation of a better city by:

- Reinvigorating a well-loved piece of Edmonton's cultural landscape, the project promises to connect future generations of Edmontonians to the diverse ecologies that surround us and in so doing promises to re-establish the Edmonton Valley Zoo and the City of Edmonton as leaders in conservation, education and environmental stewardship.
- Extending the seasonal programming capacity of the Zoo, Nature's Wild Backyard will enhance, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the opportunities for active and engaged public life in Edmonton. Specifically, it will celebrate Edmonton's character as a winter city and will focus on providing a variety of unique experiences that reveal the vibrancy possible in a cold climate.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN THIS EXCITING JOURNEY

Throughout Nature's Wild Backyard there will be many opportunities to celebrate and recognize philanthropic gifts from the community, individuals, businesses and foundations, including but not limited to naming opportunities and a charitable tax receipt.

CELEBRATING YOUR GIFT

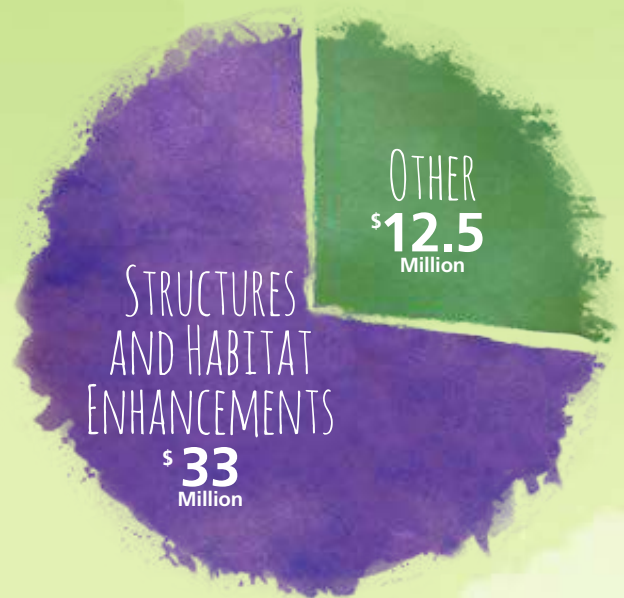
Support from the community is critical to us accomplishing these goals. Here are some of the ways you can support the revitalization:

Personal Commitment:	One-time gift or multi-year pledge; planned giving gifts (such as a bequest in a will or gifts of securities)
Corporate Commitment:	One-time gift or multi-year pledge
Community Investment:	Grants, Foundation support; third party fundraising; corporate social responsibility

COST TO BUILD NATURE'S WILD BACKYARD:

\$45.5 MILLION

- \$33 Million for Structures and Habitat Enhancements
- \$12.5 Million for Other (including but not limited to site grading, electrical, demolition, etc)
- Total of \$45.5 Million
- Total commitment from VZDS \$9 Million



The Edmonton Valley Zoo holds a special place in the hearts of generations of visitors. It is the ambition of this project to reignite this passion and to ensure that our Zoo becomes a place where lasting memories are forged for generations yet to come. Please join us in creating a new space that will inspire new ambassadors that care deeply about and are committed to preserving the natural world around us.

THE PLANET NEEDS YOU. THE ZOO NEEDS YOU.

The Edmonton Valley Zoo has exciting plans to become a force for shaping and changing attitudes about animals and the environment within Edmonton, the province of Alberta and around the globe. We cannot do it without you.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT:

- Issuing an environmental call-to-action is a vital mission of zoos today.
- Private citizens and businesses need to invest in our common future.
- Empathy and action are more likely to occur when children, and adults alike, have an interactive and exciting place to learn.
- It is possible to make a positive change on this planet.

THEN WE INVITE YOU TO:

- Help us create a vibrant new zoo with a powerful advocacy role for wildlife and wild spaces.
- Join us in building a re-energized zoo with improved habitats, better opportunities for guests to closely interact with animals, and state-of-the-art research and education facilities.
- Play a vital role in inspiring new generations of ambassadors who care about our planet.

*To pledge your gift and
help us build our zoo,
please contact the
Valley Zoo*

*Development Society:
donate@buildingourzoo.com*

**VALLEY
ZOO**
**DEVELOPMENT
SOCIETY™**

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