

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING THE  
OREGON ZOO 2024 CAMPUS PLAN

) RESOLUTION NO. 24- 5431  
)  
) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Marissa  
) Madrigal, with the concurrence of Council  
) President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, beginning in fall 2022, staff from the Oregon Zoo and Capital Asset Management began work on a new draft Oregon Zoo Campus Plan (the “Campus Plan”), focusing on improvements to areas of the zoo not improved by the 2008 Oregon Zoo Bond, Measure 26-96; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council recognized the need for further renewal, upgrades and improvements at the Oregon Zoo, the Portland metropolitan area’s most-visited ticketed attraction, to advance regional goals for racial equity, accessibility, climate resilience and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, staff engaged a diverse range of community organizations and leaders, Zoo guests and members, staff, the Oregon Zoo Foundation and other stakeholders to understand current needs and conditions at the zoo, thus informing and guiding the development of the new draft Campus Plan; and

WHEREAS, staff considered and applied the most modern standards for animal care and habitat design to the development of the draft Campus Plan; and

WHEREAS, the draft Campus Plan sought to emphasize the highest standards of animal health and well-being across the zoo; improve zoo experiences and accessibility for all visitors regardless of age, ability or background; and advance ambitious goals for energy and water conservation; and

WHEREAS, the draft Campus Plan incorporates and will significantly advance Metro’s Strategic Plan to Advance Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and will be governed by and implement its Equity in Contracting, Construction Career Pathways, Construction Clean Air and Sustainable Buildings and Sites policies, and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2023, the Metro Council accepted the draft Campus Plan concepts via Resolution No. 23-5357 (“For the Purpose of Accepting the Draft Oregon Zoo Campus Plan Concepts”), directing Oregon Zoo staff to submit relevant portions of the draft Campus Plan concepts for permitting review by the City of Portland, and to seek renewal of the Oregon Zoo’s 10-year Conditional Use Master Plan Permit based on them, and directing staff to explore potential capital finance options to advance the Campus Plan; and

WHEREAS, via Resolution No. 24-5375 (“For the Purpose of Submitting to the Metro Area Voters A \$380 Million General Obligation Oregon Zoo Bond Measure to Protect Animal Health, Provide Conservation Education and Increase Sustainability, and Setting Forth the Official Intent of the Metro Council to Reimburse Certain Expenditures Out of the Proceeds of General Obligation Bonds Upon Issuance”), the Metro Council referred the 2024 Oregon Zoo Bond, Measure 26-244 to the voters of the Metro Region for the May 2024 general election; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2024, the voters of the Metro Region passed the 2024 Oregon Zoo Bond, Measure 26-244; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2024, the City of Portland hearing officer decision was issued approving the Oregon Zoo’s renewal of its 10-year Conditional Use Master Plan Permit; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council directed that, following the renewal of a Conditional Use Permit from the City of Portland, the updated Campus Plan, with any City of Portland-required modifications, would be brought to the Metro Council for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the zoo has now completed the 2024 Oregon Zoo Campus Plan, providing a 20-year plan for future bond funded and non-bond funded development at the Oregon Zoo, and presents the 2024 Oregon Zoo Campus Plan to the Metro Council for approval; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby:

Accepts and approves the Oregon Zoo Campus Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A to the Staff Report.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 26th day of September 2024.



---

Lynn Peterson, Metro Council President

Approved as to Form:



---

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-5431, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING THE OREGON ZOO 2024 CAMPUS PLAN

---

Date: September 16, 2024

Department: Oregon Zoo

Council Meeting Date: September 26, 2024

Prepared by: Kristin Solomon

kristin.solomon@oregonmetro.gov

Presenters:

Heidi Rahn (she/her)

Oregon Zoo Director

Utpal Passi

Length: 15 minutes

---

### ISSUE STATEMENT

The Metro Council is asked to consider accepting the final Oregon Zoo 2024 Campus Plan. If approved, the plan would support the implementation of a new phase of capital investments to protect animal health and well-being, provide conservation education, increase sustainability and improve accessibility at the zoo.

### ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt Resolution No. 24-5431, for the Purpose of Accepting the Oregon Zoo 2024 Campus Plan.

### IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

- Advance the Oregon Zoo's mission of connecting our community to the wonder of wildlife to create a better future for all.
- Support animal health and well-being, conservation education for youth and families, energy and water conservation, accessibility for all ages and abilities, and climate resilience at the zoo.
- Maintain accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. First accredited in 1974, the Oregon Zoo is one of only two zoos in the country to be continuously accredited for 50 years.

### POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Does the recommended Oregon Zoo Campus Plan and proposed implementation plan serve the needs of the zoo's animals, visitors and facilities; fulfill Council direction and policy; and reflect community and stakeholder input?

## **POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER**

- Adopt the Resolution.
- Request changes to the plan prior to adoption.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following more than a year of engagement and preparation, staff recommend that Council adopt Resolution No. 24-5431 Accepting the Oregon Zoo 2024 Campus Plan.

## **STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

The Oregon Zoo is a source of pride for the greater Portland region, advancing conservation education and species recovery locally as well as around the globe. The zoo is committed to continually improving animal well-being, guest and staff experiences, education, accessibility, climate resilience and conservation across its 64-acre campus in Washington Park.

In fall 2022, staff from the Oregon Zoo and Capital Asset Management began work on a new Oregon Zoo Campus Plan to replace the Zoo's 2011 Comprehensive Capital Master Plan that guided implementation of the 2008 bond measure. The new plan focuses on areas of the campus that were not targeted for substantial investment from the 2008 bond. These include the zoo's oldest existing habitats and buildings, as well as outdated educational exhibits and not fully accessible pathways and facilities.

The 2024 Oregon Zoo Campus Plan follows on the successes of the 2008 bond to begin a new phase of capital improvements at the zoo. This phase would implement a substantial portion of the Campus Plan, advancing the Metro Council's goals for animal health, climate, conservation education and economic vitality in one of the region's most beloved community institutions.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT**

Development of the Campus Plan included in-person engagement sessions with historically marginalized communities, including but not limited to representatives of the following organizations:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| - Adelante Mujeres                             | - Centro Cultural               |
| - Autism Empowerment                           | - People of Color Outdoors      |
| - Boys & Girls Club of the Portland Metro Area | - Rosewood Initiative           |
| - Center for African Immigrants and Refugees   | - Self-Enhancement Inc.         |
|  | - Youth Empowerment Project PNW |

Staff also engaged with youth participating in the Zoo Apprenticeship Program; the zoo's Community Advocacy Council, composed of young professionals of color; zoo volunteers and members; staff and board of the Oregon Zoo Foundation; and zoo staff.

Zoo staff heard broad community support for the goals of the draft plan, particularly goals to improve accessibility, wayfinding and other visitor facilities at the zoo, and to update or replace outdated animal habitats. Zoo staff were also supportive of proposed improvements to behind-the-scenes care-staff facilities, guest amenities, storage areas and service access.

Through fall 2023 and into the winter, staff and partners at the Oregon Zoo Foundation have continued to engage a broad range of stakeholders, neighbors and community leaders to share the mission of the Oregon Zoo and how it is expressed through the new Campus Plan and the 2024 bond measure.

### **LEGAL ANTECEDENTS**

If accepted, the 2024 Campus Plan will update the 2011 Comprehensive Capital Master Plan, which was approved by the Metro Council through Resolution No. 11-4304.

The 2023 draft Oregon Zoo Campus Plan Concepts, approved by the Metro Council through Resolution No. 23-5357, directed the zoo to seek and obtain a renewed 10-year Conditional Use Master Plan permit from the City of Portland and explore financing options, which led to the adoption of Metro Council Resolution No. 24-5375, referring the 2024 Oregon Zoo Bond Measure 26-244 to region's voters in May 2024.

The new Campus Plan's finalization and implementation will also advance several other pre-existing Metro Council policies, including but not limited to:

- Construction Career Pathways Framework
- Regional Workforce Equity Agreement
- Subcontractor Equity Program
- Sustainable Sites and Buildings Policy
- Clean Air Construction Policy
- Percent for Art Policy

### **ANTICIPATED EFFECTS**

Work to prepare for implementation of the Campus Plan and ballot measure commitments will continue following Council adoption of the resolution. A team will be developed to implement the Campus Plan, project budgets will be approved via the Capital Improvement Plan process, Metro Council will appoint a Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee, and Metro Council policies will be advanced.

## **BACKGROUND**

Council discussed the draft Campus Plan at work sessions on May 16 and September 5, 2023; the latter included a tour of many of the Plan's proposed focus areas. On October 26, 2023, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 23-5357, accepting the draft Campus Plan's concepts, with emphases on animal care and well-being, sustainability and conservation, and visitor education and accessibility. The resolution directed staff to begin the work of permitting review with the City of Portland to renew the zoo's Comprehensive Use Master Plan, and to continue refining the Campus Plan for final adoption in 2024.

Additionally, Council's adoption of Resolution No. 23-5357 directed staff to prepare capital financing and business planning options for Council's consideration. The Council advanced the zoo's proposed capital project prioritization and financing approach, including the potential of a Phase 2 bond measure, at a work session on November 21, 2023. At a work session on January 9, 2024, the Metro Council discussed proposed priorities for a next phase of bond-funded investments and provided direction to proceed with the preparation of bond measure referral for the Council's consideration.

On February 2, Council approved Resolution No. 24-5375, which referred the Oregon Zoo Phase 2 bond measure to the May ballot. The measure was passed on May 21<sup>st</sup>. On June 28, 2024, City of Portland hearing officer decision was issued approving the Oregon Zoo's renewal of its 10-year Conditional Use Master Plan Permit.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Resolution No. 24-5431
- Exhibit A