



toronto
ZOO

MASTER PLAN

ZOO BOARD PRESENTATION:
FEBRUARY 14, 2022

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Your Toronto Zoo is a place of special significance and importance to many individuals, but more importantly, to many diverse communities. The Zoo is actively working to strengthen existing relationships, and to foster deeper, even more meaningful relationships, that help strengthen the Zoo's connection to the land, as well as to its community and to the people who call this traditional territory home.

We acknowledge the land that Your Toronto Zoo is on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Williams Treaty signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

While acknowledging the land we are on is an important step in the process, Your Toronto Zoo understands the importance of going beyond this, and actively working to involve First Nations communities in a dialogue and action about sharing and taking care of Mother Earth and all our relations, together. The Zoo has been engaging in these conversations for many years, and has worked with Elders, knowledge keepers and other community members to develop programs and resources that strengthen the Zoo's connection to First Nations communities, while also helping to make the Zoo a more accessible and welcoming space for them.

In engaging in these important conversations that lead to actions on the Zoo site and beyond, Your Zoo is recognizing the important people who have stewarded this territory, as well as the importance of being able to learn from these communities, and share these learnings with the broader Zoo and conservation communities. Your Zoo will continue to build on its existing relationships with First Nations communities, and is always trying to find new ways to share resources with communities. This commitment goes beyond the creation of programs and resources, however, and extends to the creation of dedicated spaces on Zoo land that help to meet the needs of these communities as well.

Image credit: City of Toronto





WHO WE ARE



WHO WE ARE

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In 2020, Toronto Zoo Staff and Volunteers worked together to collectively develop a renewed mission and vision for Your Zoo going forward. The mission - “Our Toronto Zoo - Connecting people, animals and conservation science to fight extinction”- and the vision of “A world where wildlife and wild spaces thrive” are articulated in the document “Our Toronto Zoo/2020 Strategic Plan”. This document also establishes five Strategic Priorities: Save Wildlife, Ignite the Passion, Create Wow, Our Community + Our Zoo, and Revolutionize Zoo Technology. The Master Plan uses this document to guide its development such that the Master Plan, and eventually the site, will be a living reflection of the aspirations set out in the Strategic Plan.



Save Wildlife

Providing state-of-the-art facilities for conservation research and science, paired with spaces that effectively showcase this work, and important conservation messages, to guests and our global audience.



Ignite the Passion

Developing spaces, infrastructure, and buildings that facilitate the work of staff onsite, while also renewing their passion by creating an incredible working environment, and communicating the amazing work and knowledge of staff and volunteers to guests.



Create Wow

Building on the awe-inspiring experiences that already exist onsite, and re-imagining how animal habitats, connecting spaces, pavilions, and arrival spaces for entering Your Zoo can all feed into a memorable, fun, and breath-taking experience.



Our Community + Our Zoo

Reconnecting Your Zoo to the many communities of which it is an integral part, through intentional spaces and experiences that reflect the needs of Your Zoo as well as its local, regional and global communities and partners.



Revolutionize Zoo Technology

Reimagining the place of technology at Your Zoo as interwoven with daily operations and experience to enhance both, adding layers of innovation, interaction, excitement, and information to site visits as well as experiences beyond the site.

WHO WE ARE

1TZ'S 4 CARES

In the 2020 Strategic Plan, Your Toronto Zoo adopted an internal branding of “One Toronto Zoo [1TZ]” based on the four “cares” that act as the guiding foundation for all of Your Zoo’s work as well as workplace culture. These four cares define the stakeholders - both animal and human - who are being designed for through the Master Plan, as it is these four groups that together make up the heart of Your Zoo today and in the future. These four cares are developed around Your Zoo’s commitment as an organization to better understand the threats to wildlife and develop sustainable solutions for people and nature around the globe.



Our animals

Continually enhancing animal welfare onsite through animal habitat restructuring, expansion, and connection, paired with new technology, as well as new opportunities for modified routines that enhance enrichment and choice.



Our team

Developing spaces and buildings on Your Zoo site to make Your Zoo a place that not only facilitates the work of its team of staff and volunteers, but gives back to our team as well. By creating spaces that serve our team, Your Zoo is ensuring that barriers are removed, and that the site is inviting to all as a place to work and play, and a place that the team of staff and volunteers is excited to come to everyday they work.



Our guests

Enhancing existing spaces and pavilions onsite, as well as adding new ones that make for an inspiring, memorable and fun experience that leaves guests filled with excitement, wonder and an eagerness to return. Prioritizing inclusion to make Your Toronto Zoo the most accessible zoo in the world allowing guests of all abilities to enjoy the site and experiences.



Our community

As an anchor institution in the east end of Canada's most diverse city, Your Zoo is committed to creating spaces that enable us to become more of a welcoming hub for our diverse community, and developing spaces that are able to serve both Your Zoo and its broader network of neighbours and partners to engage in Conservation Action.



THE PROCESS



THE PROCESS

WHY A NEW MASTER PLAN?

Your Toronto Zoo is stepping into a moment of great change. Always looking forward, Your Zoo is taking on necessary site improvements to meet accessibility requirements by 2025. Additionally, Your Zoo faces many challenges including periodic flooding and aging buildings and infrastructure, as well as further challenges brought on by COVID 19. The series of required modifications to resolve these challenges act as a springboard for renewing the site as a whole. The redevelopment provides the perfect opportunity to re-envision the layout of Your Zoo to better reflect its recently renewed Strategic Plan, and to ensure that the site reflects Your Zoo's high-level ambitions, as well as better facilitating its progressive mission.

Your Toronto Zoo is poised to take on great challenges as well as great opportunities, with the ambition to engage its staff and volunteers, partners, guests and community in the co-creation of a strong vision for the future development of the Zoo. This will be a vision that transcends the evolution of Your Zoo over the next fifteen years, and positions it to be resilient and agile going into the future, while continuing to be a place of Conservation Science Research, forward-thinking animal welfare, and incredible and memorable experiences. There is a constant need to reinvent and remain current and forward-looking, both to reflect the vision and mandate of Your Zoo, as well as the shifting roles of Your Zoo in the greater wildlife conservation community, the city and the region as a whole.



The Master Plan is being undertaken to develop a clear road-map to achieve greatness, and resilience, together.

THE PROCESS

A LIVING DOCUMENT CRAFTED TOGETHER

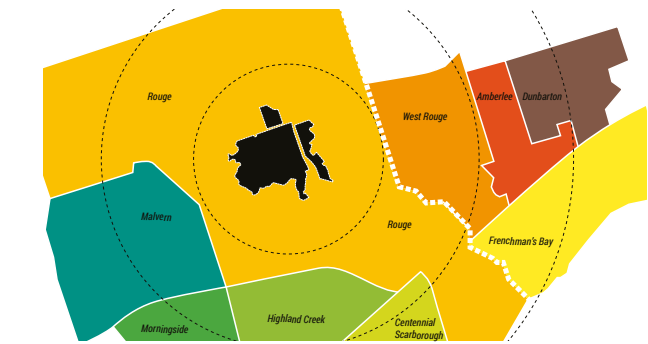
The work of creating a new Master Plan is a task that has involved many conversations with a diverse range of contributors. Your feedback has been invaluable in ensuring that Your Zoo reflects your aspirations for our collective site, in an aim to establish Your Zoo as a place that is even bolder, more diverse, and more equitable. Thanks to these many conversations Your Zoo will reflect not only the high ambitions that it sets for itself, but will also foster partnerships with organizations and individuals passionate about animal welfare, community engagement, conservation, and sustainability in the face of climate change. Together, we are creating a Zoo that is expanding its role, forging innovative, new partnerships, and inviting more of the community in, while also giving more back. Thank you to the incredible contributors who have taken time to add your voices to this collaborative process.



THE PROCESS

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ZOO'S NEIGHBOURS AND COMMUNITY

Your Toronto Zoo sits in close proximity to neighbourhoods that collectively are very diverse in terms of age as well as income. The Master Plan builds on this diversity by creating a plethora of offerings and spaces that cater to these different groups, to best serve the community.



Population

Population per neighbourhood.

Children 0-14 Years

Six neighbourhoods have higher percentages of children than the average.

Youth 12-24 Years

With the exception of two neighbourhoods, most have similar populations of youth, around 15%.

Working Age 25-54 Years

All neighbourhoods are below the Toronto average for populations in the working age bracket.

Seniors 55+ Years

Three neighbourhoods have much higher percentages of their population over 55.

Median Household Income

Three neighbourhoods have lower household incomes than the Toronto average and three have significantly higher.

Source: Statistics Canada 2016, Census of Population

