

North Carolina Zoo Update



Baboon Habitat: May '23 Ribbon- Cutting



Aviary 1982-2022



*Asking DNCR for \$1.5M for design
and demo from R&R ('22-'23)*

Asia ~\$80M total project budget

- Fully funded 10-acre expansion
- Includes a large pedestrian bridge
- 240-seat restaurant adjacent to Tigers
- View Pavilion building
- Four animal holding buildings
- Eight animal habitats
- A plaza and auxiliary buildings

Society has raised \$27,485,106 out of \$50M Capital Campaign
Timeline for opening 2026



Prairie Habitat/Bison Elk

Prairie Outpost

ASIA SITE

Rocky Coast
Complex



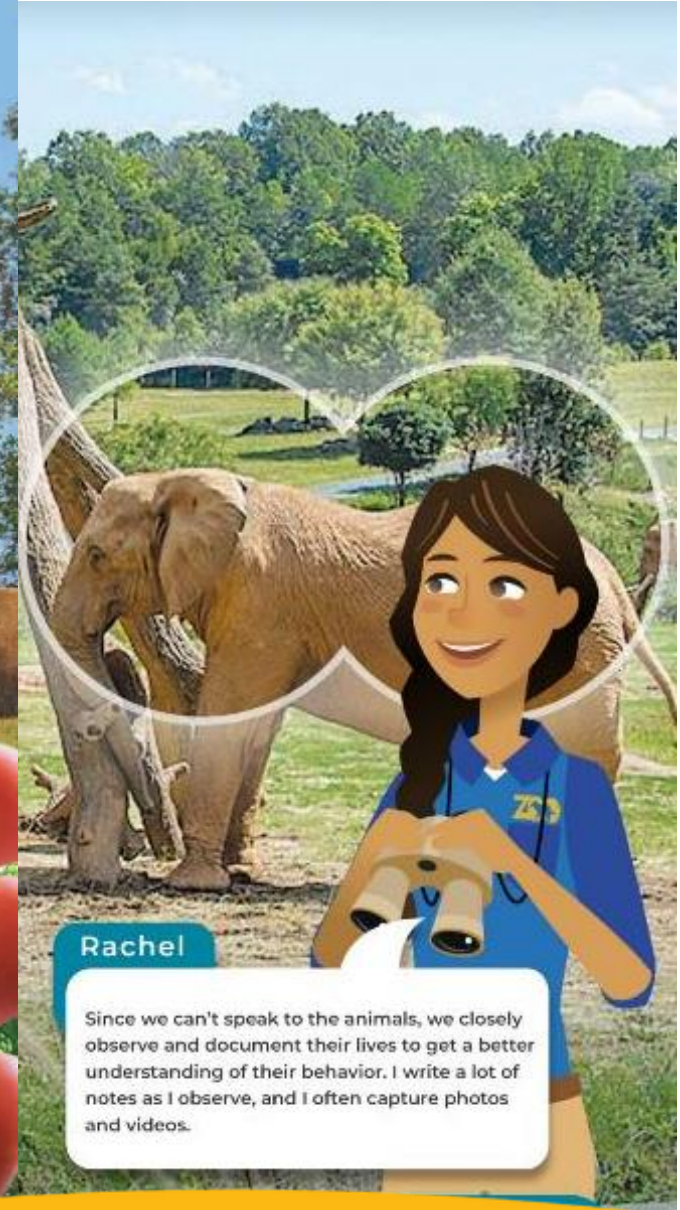
Gorilla Habitat Renovation

- All male troop now
- \$280k project – fully funded
- January 2023 start time
- Raising height of habitat walls an additional four feet
- Installing an enrichment climber for the gorillas



New Zoo App

- \$1 million grant from NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation.
- Focus on STEM education.
- Available in English and Spanish.
- Four main components:
 - K-12 educational activities.
 - STEM career quests (games).
 - Audio description tours.
 - Virtual tour guides.



Rachel

Since we can't speak to the animals, we closely observe and document their lives to get a better understanding of their behavior. I write a lot of notes as I observe, and I often capture photos and videos.

Penguins Coming!

- Need to completely renovate current seal pool
- Cheaper to rebuild than renovate, so...
- Changing species from seals to Humbolt penguins
- Include a contact/experience area
- Timeline TBD



Wildlife Conservation and Sustainability

- The Zoo won the 2021 award for Sustainability, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).
- Our Vulture Conservation project won the AZA International Conservation Award in 2022.
- The UNITE program is one of three finalists for the WAZA International Conservation Award.
- Dr. Corinne Kendall is a finalist for the Indianapolis Prize for Emerging Conservationists.

**ASSOCIATION
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World Association of Zoos
and Aquariums | **WAZA**
United for Conservation

Future Needs and Costs *(it's never-ending)*

- Parkwide Transportation Plan for parking/entrances \$2.9M Funded
- Four New Trams \$2.1M Funded
- Parkwide HVAC Replacement \$900,000 (partially funded)

- Widen Guest Paths- \$2,500,000
- Infrastructure Upgrades, esp. in Africa- \$2,000,000
- Parkwide Restroom Renovations Phase 1- \$2.5M (\$10M Project)
- Parkwide Roof Repairs- \$375,000
- Parkwide Exterior Habitat Repair- \$650,000
- Fiber Line Improvements- \$1,000,000
- Desert Repair- \$1,700,000
- More Staff!

2023-2026

2023: Baboon opens May; Dog Show Memorial Day—Labor Day

2024: New Carousel; 50th Anniversary

2025: Chinese Lanterns (currently planning winter 24-25 and 25-26)

2026: Asia Opens!

Soon afterwards: Australia

Timeline TBD:

Kids' Animal Contact area

Penguins

Glamping at the Zoo

New Aviary

Economic Impact and Attendance

2011	694,907	\$150M Impact
2019	917,309	\$180M Impact
2026	1,500,000	\$300M Impact

Fiscal Year 2021-2022 attendance:
1,008,295



*The North Carolina Zoo protects
wildlife and wild places and inspires people
to join us in conserving the natural world.*

North
Carolina .org

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in Asheboro*