

## **427.8 Reid Park Zoo African Expansion Phase II**

**Location:** Reid Park Zoo, 3400 E. Zoo Court, Tucson, AZ 85716

**Scope:** In accordance with the Zoo's Master Plan, this project includes new exhibits and public spaces to maximize the use of the former elephant enclosure. The project addresses priorities identified in a survey of visitors, including climate-controlled indoor space, interactive exhibits, a diverse array of animal species and play areas for children.

African Safari Lodge - An "African Safari Lodge" would serve as a rest-and-play space for visitors during regular Zoo hours with views of giraffe, rhinoceros and other hoofed mammals. The climate controlled facility would also serve as a venue for public programs as well as rentals for private events including weddings, parties, corporate retreats and other functions.

Interactive underwater viewing exhibits – These exhibits will incorporate up close, underwater viewing of several semi-aquatic African species such as pygmy hippos, crocodiles, otters and fish. Selection of this smaller species of hippo allows the Zoo to participate in a nationwide conservation program for this endangered species.

**Benefits:** Reid Park Zoo is the largest attended gated tourist attraction in southern Arizona with over 560,000 visitors annually. This exhibit will enhance the visitor experience, providing additional up-close interaction with a variety of African animals, encouraging a connection with wildlife and creating educational experiences for adults and children. Incorporated in this project and the projects leading up to this (including a wildlife carousel and party areas) are opportunities for revenue enhancements to support the operating and maintenance costs of this project.

**Total Cost Estimate:** \$18,282,225

**Bond Funding Estimate:** \$8,000,000

**Other Funding Estimate:** Reid Park Zoological Society is committed to raising the remaining \$10,282,225 in funding for this exhibit. This funding will be secured through a combination of major gifts, a public campaign, grants and other fundraising activities. Reid Park Zoological Society has a proven fundraising track record and a financial plan to be able to fund multi-year pledges.

**Total Cost Estimate by Major Task:** \$3,244,725 for planning and design and \$15,037,500 for construction.

**Implementation Periods:** 4, 5

**Project Schedule by Major Task:** Planning and design at 12 months, construction at 24 months.

**Project Manager:** City of Tucson (Project requested by City of Tucson and Reid Park Zoological Society)

**Operator:** City of Tucson

**Future Operating and Maintenance Costs:** The City of Tucson will be responsible for future operating and maintenance costs with financial support from Reid Park Zoological Society. These costs are broadly estimated at \$300,000 annually. Revenue projections for carousel rides and

rental of the African Safari Lodge, show these revenues will be sufficient to cover these costs. These are in addition to the potential for increased admission revenue, and concession and gift shop revenues with increased visitors. All revenue raised by Reid Park Zoological Society is used for the support of Reid Park Zoo.

**Regional Benefits:** Reid Park Zoo is a unique and highly popular regional facility that attracts residents and visitors alike. Ongoing enhancements to the Zoo experience will bring additional visitors to this regional facility which already attracts over 560,000 guests annually. Visitors include residents from throughout Pima County as well as from throughout the United States and Mexico. In addition to the local construction jobs and long term technical Zoo staff positions supported by this improvement, increasing visitor stay time and extending after-hours use of the Zoo will positively influence local economic development.