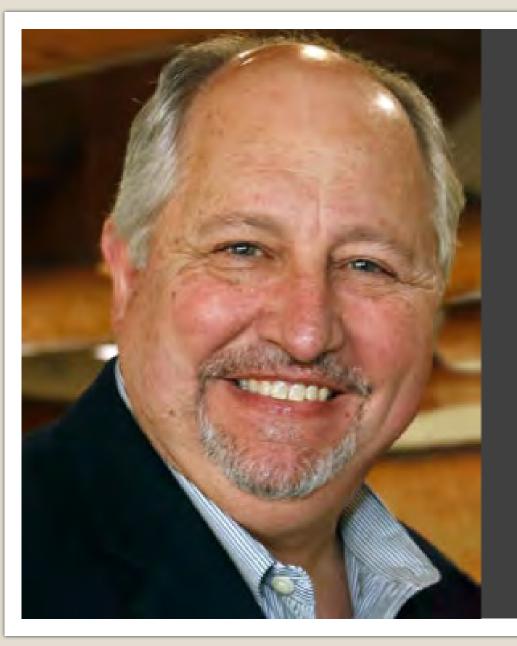


# Dallas Zoo Park Board Update

Thursday, May 4, 2023

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# GREGG HUDSON

Dawn Moore Dallas Zoo Board Chair

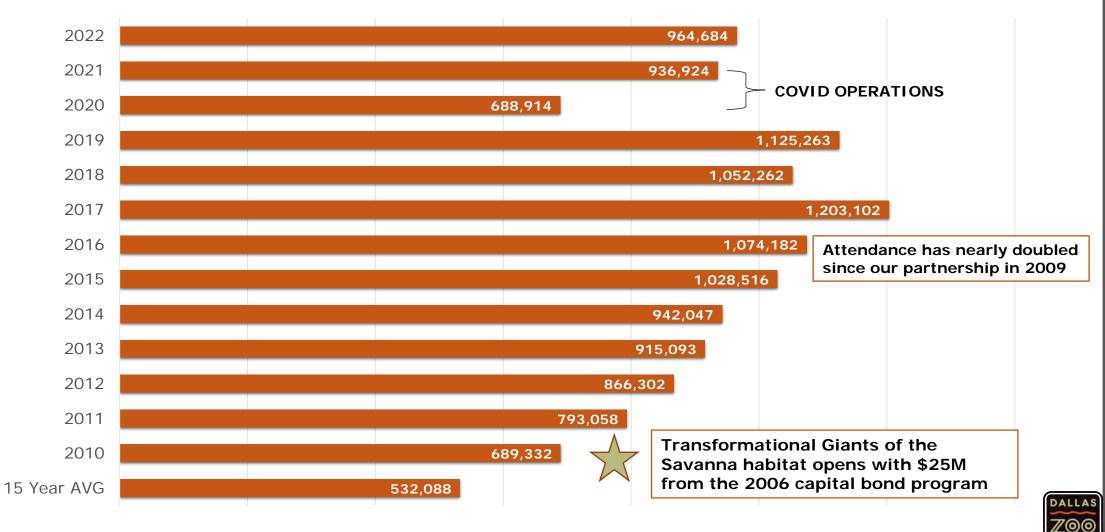


### **ABOUT THE DALLAS ZOO**

- The oldest and largest Texas zoo with 2,000 animals across 106 acres
- 1M guests per year average
- 100,000 schoolchildren per year
- \$245M+ City economic impact
- More than 400 full-time and seasonal staff employed
- More than \$45 million privately raised for capital improvements since 2009
- Conservation efforts in 32 countries with 15+ Texas-based projects
- Accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)



#### A core asset of Dallas and a major attraction



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#### >70 days (annually), with discounted pricing...

# Admissions: Accessibility

Туре	Cost	When Offered		
Children 2 & under	Free	Everyday		
Penguin Days: 85K+ guests in 2022	\$8 / \$8	January & February		
Education Discount – student	\$6	Everyday		
Dollar Days: 14K+ guests in 2022	\$1 / \$1	2 days during the year		
Council District Days	Free	Varying days during the year		
Tiger Tuesdays: 18K+ guests in 2022	\$8 / \$8	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month		
Snap Card / EBT Program	\$8 / \$8	Everyday		
Teen All Access Pass: 3K+ guests in 2022	Free	June, July, & August		
Park Board Members	Free	500 tickets per Park Board Member to non-profits/education partners in each district		





## **DEIA** at the Dallas Zoo

#### Internally:

- Finalization of Dallas Zoo's 5-year Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Plan
- Creation of Dallas Zoo Board's Community Impact Committee
- Engagement of DEIA Consultants, in collection of baseline metrics and early-stage cultural development

#### **Continuous Zoo Community Impact Programs/Initiatives**

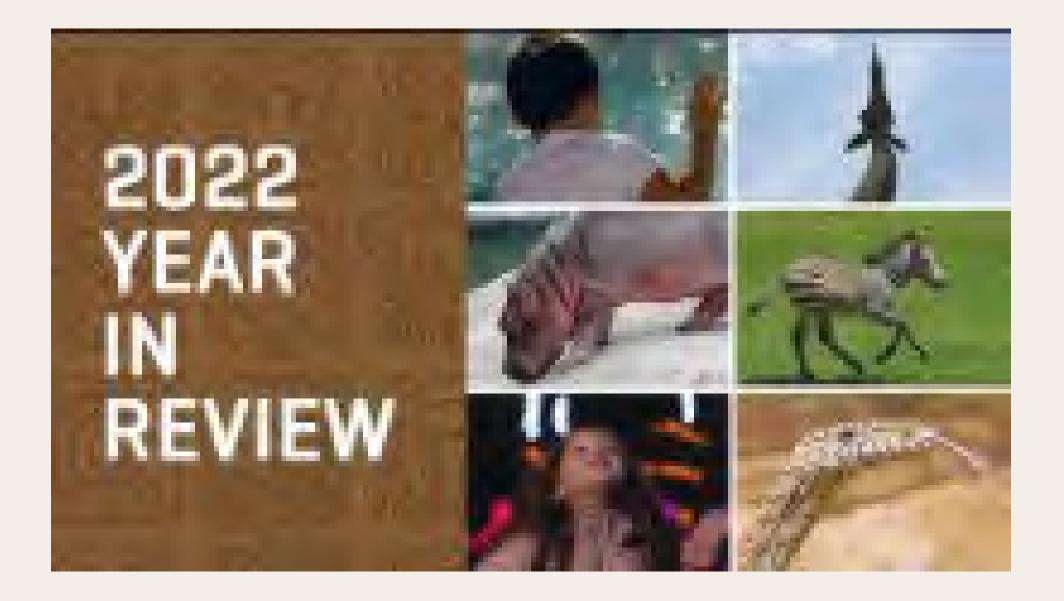
- District Days at the Dallas Zoo: *Returning this Fall!*
- Franklin D. Roosevelt & Bryan Adams High Schools: Partner School / DISD Industry Partner
- Animal Adventures Outreach: 20 schools / 20 libraries \$15k scholarships
- Take Action Weekends: *Oak Cliff Focus... 10-12 green spaces every year*
- Paul Quinn College Intern Partnership: 6 Interns
- Bishop Arts Theatre Jazz at the Zoo: *Community Arts Partnership*
- Spanish Language Signage: Herpetarium

#### Dallas Inclusion Statement

The Dallas Zoo welcomes and celebrates everyone. We are committed to employing and partnering with all people regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, ability, gender, or orientation. We recognize that to welcome all we must intentionally reduce barriers to engagement within our park and community.

As we work to build diverse teams and reinforce work environments rooted in inclusion and equity, we continue to apply a consistent diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) lens within our Zoo and Dallas Community.









# Dallas Zoo 2024 Bond Request

# **A Wildly Successful Partnership**





(	2006	Ç	2010	Ç	2017	Ç	2024
	Capital Bond Program <ul> <li>\$25M in capital bond funds allocated for the Dallas Zoo</li> </ul>		Award-winning Giants of the Savanna habitat opens • Doubled Zoo attendance • Tripled Zoo's economic impact for the City		Capital Bond Program \$3.5M in capital bond funds allocated for the Dallas Zoo		<b>Capital Bond Program</b> The largest capital campaign in the Zoo's history with transformational habitats activating 10-15 acres of unused Park land
	Public/private partnership formed with the City of Dallas and Dallas Zoo Management		Attendance hits 1 million for the first time in Zoo history!		Simmons Hippo Outpost Opens • \$17M in private philanthropy raised for this dynamic habitat		
	2009		2015		2017		



## MASTER PLAN: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE



## THE MASTER PLAN – est. \$250M+

Dynamic Habitat - Movement, Activity, Welfare

Animal Encounter Center

Arrival, Parking & Entry Culvert Remediation Is Key Engage with Cedar Creek Ecology Emphasize Zoo's Presence in the Community Define Arrival Plaza New Parking Garage and Pedestrian Link Transformative Landscape



**Transformative Landscape** 



First Encounter Link/Hub between Zoo North and South

- **Hub Guest Amenities**
- High Energy First Encounter
- Integrate Education and Secondary Entry





Wild Earth Discovery Center

Guest Circulation and Hubs - Centralized with Loops .

**Zoo North** 

Land Use - North Hill Expansion

Satellite Reptile Exhibits

- Address Guest Flow and Circulation
   Renovations of Cutting Edge Exhibits
- Base Camp West Service Enhancement GOTS Enhancement Safari Events



## THE CAMPAIGN: PHASE ONE



## PHASE ONE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PILLARS: \$100-125M

COMMUNITY



#### South Parking Garage (\$18-21M) -

• 580 new parking spaces serving the Zoo and Southern Gateway Park

#### Community Connectivity (\$3M) -

• Pedestrian connections from South Parking Garage to Zoo front gate and Giants of the Savanna, and access to Southern Gateway Park

#### Safety and Security (\$2M)

- Lighting upgrades campus-wide
- Marsalis bridge security screening
- Technology enhancements

### EDUCATION



#### Wild Earth Discovery Center (\$15-25M) –

- Permanent Indoor Classrooms: quadruples classroom space and inspiring campus for preschool, school children and families of all ages
- Outdoor Classroom: used on weekdays by preschool, open to public on weekends
- Auditorium: serves as an orientation site for 100,000 schoolchildren annually and plus lecture series and rentable event space options

### ANIMALS



#### Safari Trail (\$50-65M) –

 Activates 10-15 acres of inaccessible Park land, engaging visitors in a safari-like experience with nearly two dozen species, including rhino & cheetah

#### Elephant Great Room (\$5M) -

• A safe, temperature-controlled space for elephant families





#### SOUTH PARKING GARAGE (\$18-21M)

- Approximately 580 parking spaces
- \$15 million raised for funding combined with
   \$3.5M from the 2017 City bond program.
- New pedestrian connections for safe access to the Dallas Zoo and Southern Gateway Park
- Currently moving through the City permit process for construction early 2024





# **Security Enhancements**

- Over \$1M spent on security enhancements since January 2023
- More than 2 miles of enhanced perimeter fencing added
- Approximately 50 new security cameras installed campus-wide
- New 24/7 security company installed in April 2023
- Security assessment report being prioritized for PHASE 2 implementation







### WILD EARTH DISCOVERY CENTER (\$15-25M)

- The only full-time, nature-based preschool in North Texas
- Quadruples classroom space
- Multi-use auditorium
- Outdoor classroom
- Orientation space for field trips
- Removes disruption from front entrance
- Enhances secondary entrance for the Dallas Zoo





# WILD EARTH DISCOVERY CENTER (\$15-25M)



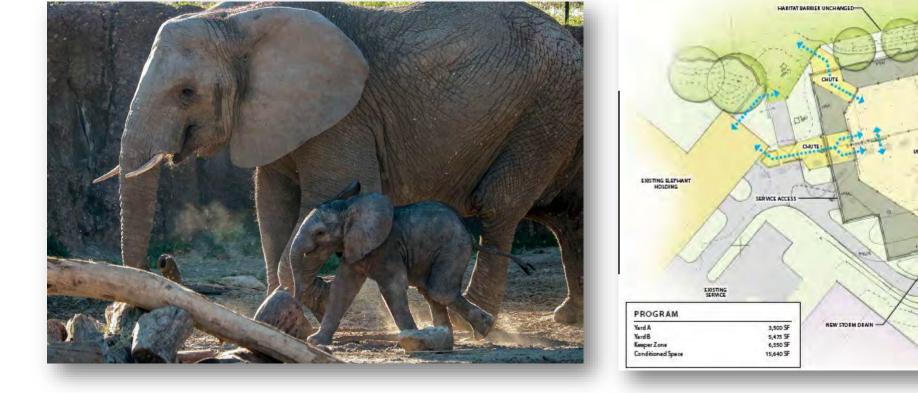
# WILD EARTH DISCOVERY CENTER (\$15-25M)

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# ELEPHANT GREAT ROOM (\$5M)





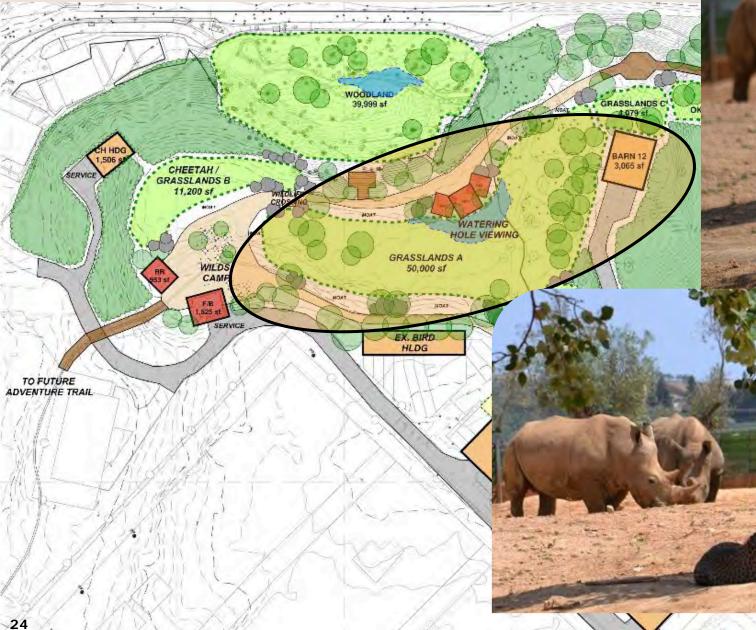


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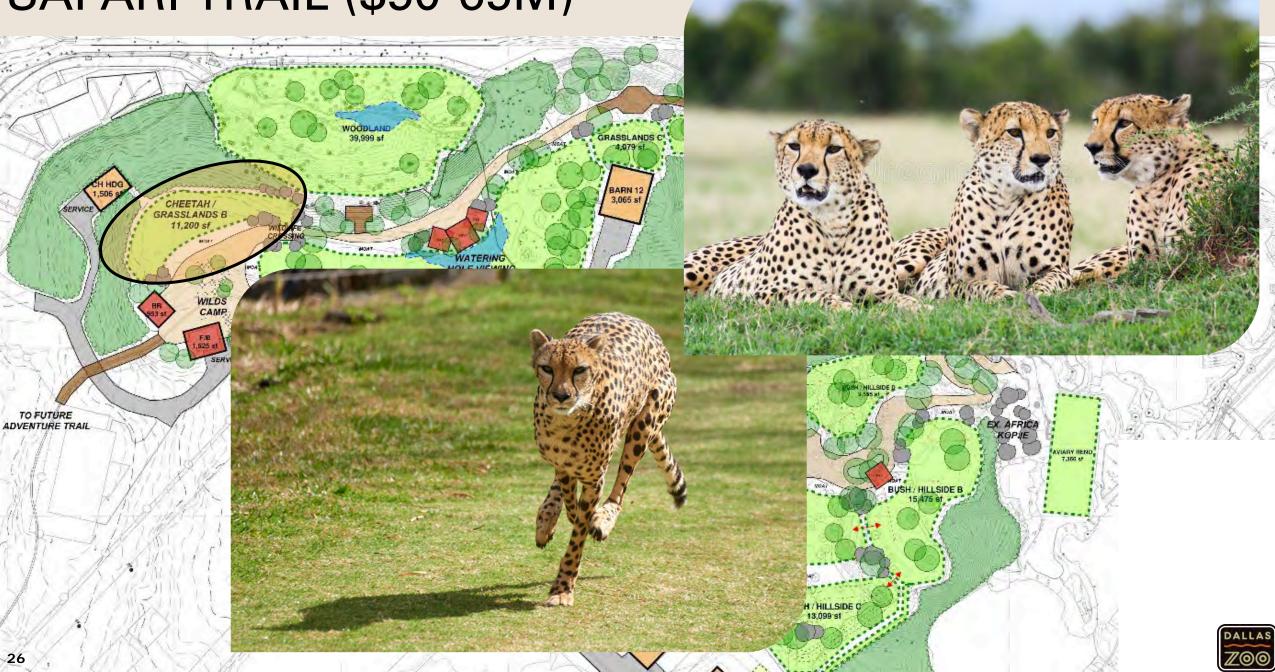


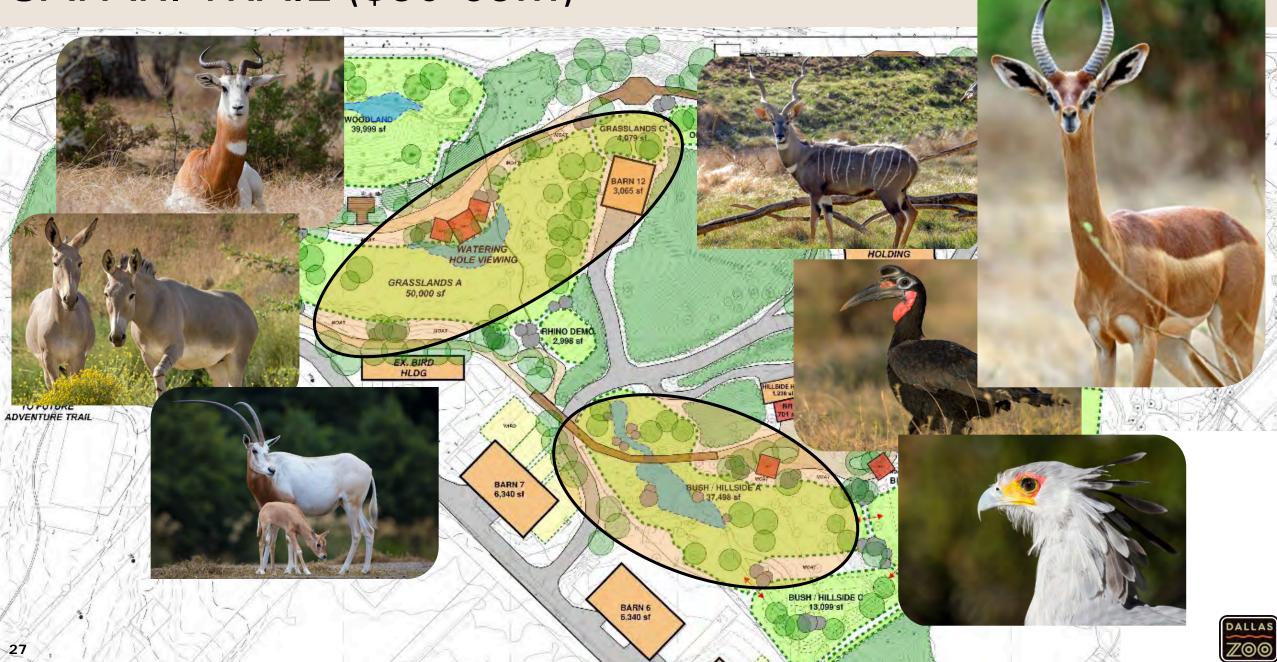


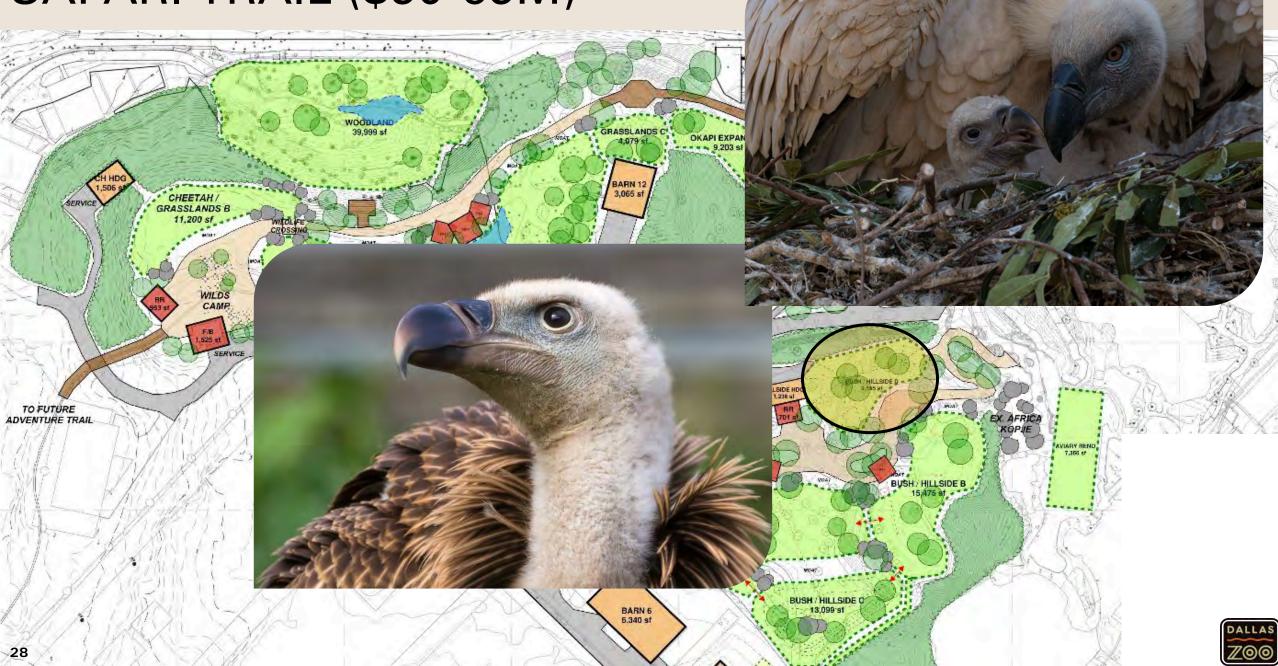












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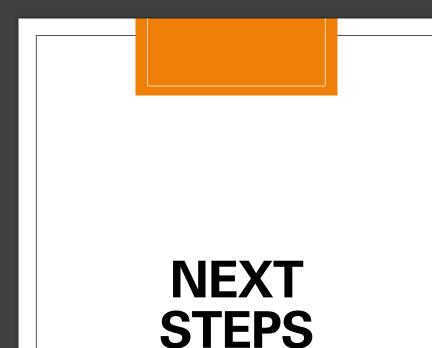
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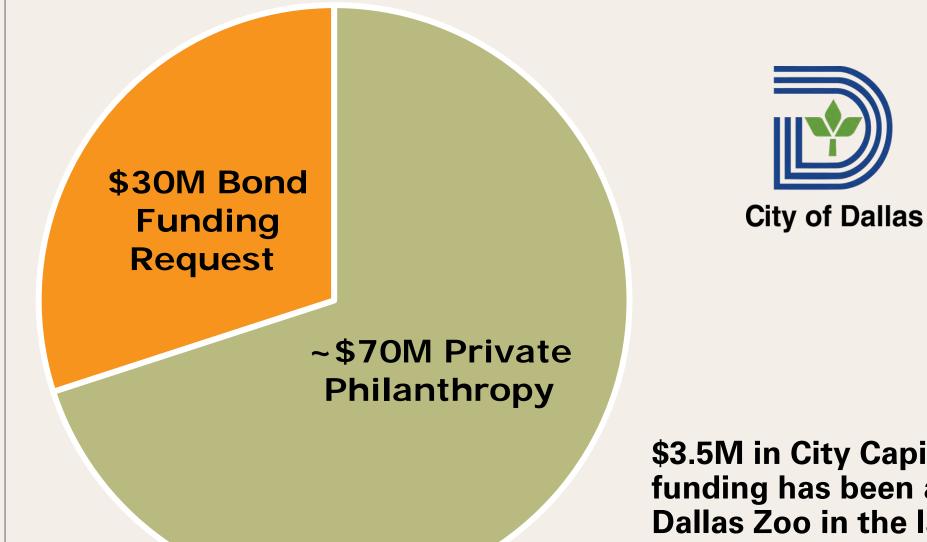
DALLAS













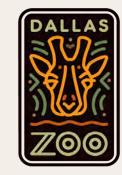
\$3.5M in City Capital Bond Program funding has been allocated for the Dallas Zoo in the last 17 years



### **2024 City Capital Bond Program**

- \$30 million bond request will help fund 50% of the new Safari Trail habitat as well as security enhancements throughout the Zoo
- 10-15 acres of inaccessible Park land activated for guests to experience two dozen animal species situated on a half-mile trail loop
- Features rhino and cheetah together, making the Dallas Zoo one of the only zoos in the world to combine these dynamic species in the same naturalistic habitat









## **Dallas Zoo Private Philanthropy**

- >2:1 funding match for City capital bond dollars
- \$20M currently committed to the campaign
- The largest capital campaign in the Dallas Zoo's 135-year history will also address Security, Parking, and Education programming needs
- The Dallas Zoo has been a responsible steward of City resources and continues to enhance a key anchor in Southern Dallas



