

A close-up photograph of two orangutans in profile, facing each other and kissing. The background is a soft, out-of-focus natural setting. The image is framed by a decorative border consisting of a light green wavy shape at the top and bottom, with a teal wavy shape in between.

ENDOWMENT

## Securing Tomorrow's Zoo by Growing Today's Endowment

The Lowry Park Zoo Endowment Foundation exists to ensure continued excellence in conservation and education programs, and to provide engaging and meaningful recreational experiences with wildlife for all. Essential for the long-term success of the Zoo, gifts given here will impact today's operations, as well as tomorrow's endeavors. A strong and growing endowment is vital to our mission, vision, and goals.



LOWRY PARK ZOO  
**NEW HORIZONS**



Established in 1986, the Lowry Park Zoo Endowment Foundation helps to ensure a promising future for Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo. Gifts made here are held in managed investments to produce income and increase principal. Income annually generated by invested funds supports institutional priorities of the Lowry Park Zoological Society, its programs in education, recreation, conservation, and research, and its operation of Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo.

Contributing to one of the Zoo's endowment funds is an exceptional expression of community leadership because it reaffirms your personal commitment to a particular aspect of the education, recreation, conservation, or research work of Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo by allowing specific guidelines for your awarded funds. It is also an excellent way to mark achievements or honor the memory of loved ones.

Named funds within the Lowry Park Zoo Endowment Foundation currently include:

- The Mason M. and Charles P. Lykes Florida Wildlife Center Fund (est. 1993)
- The Sumter & Ivilyn Lowry Charitable Fund (est. 1994)
- The Jacarlene Foundation Education Programs Fund (est. 1995)
- The Lowry Family Quality Standards and Improvements Fund (est. 1998)
- The President's Fund (est. 2003)
- The Ann L. Murphey Endowment Fund (est. 2005)
- The Sheldon Luskin Family Fund of the Lowry Park Zoo Endowment Foundation (est. 2009)

With your support, we can become a world leader in connecting people to the Living Earth—making a difference in the conservation of threatened and endangered species in Florida and across the globe, growing educational resources, and making essential improvements to operations and facilities to provide excellent animal care and memorable experiences for zoo guests.

The following are potential endowable positions and programs that will play integral roles in helping Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo leave a meaningful legacy for future generations.

- Director of Animal Conservation
- Senior Veterinarian
- Veterinarian
- Director of Genetic Studies – Center for Genetic Studies
- Director of Primate Conservation – Primate Conservation Center
- Director of Manatee Science – Center for Manatee Studies
- Director of Aviary Collections – Avian Studies
- Veterinarian Technician – Asia
- Veterinarian Technician – Mammals
- Veterinarian Technician – Herpetology



FLORIDA WILDLIFE CENTER



# Preserving The Natural Heritage We Share

In 2004, the State of Florida declared Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo a state center for Florida species conservation and biodiversity, including captive breeding, animal husbandry, conservation education, veterinary care, and rescue, rehabilitation, research, and release of Florida's endangered and threatened wildlife species, including Florida manatees, Florida panthers, Red wolves, Key deer, Key Largo wood rat, and Whooping cranes. Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is committed to caring for Florida wildlife.

## LOWRY PARK ZOO NEW HORIZONS



The Florida Wildlife Center is dedicated to conserving our natural heritage by showcasing the most comprehensive collection anywhere of Florida's endangered species.

### Inspiring People to Treasure the Natural World

More than one million guests visit Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo annually. In order to keep pace with visitation we need to make major facility and structural improvements, like replacing the wooden boardwalk, in this important area of the Zoo.

Renovation plans include new, naturalistic exhibits that showcase Florida's precious native species and provide Zoo guests with up-close, eye-to-eye experiences. By engaging guests in unique experiences, we help to connect people emotionally to conservation issues. When we engage their hearts guests are then more likely to participate actively in the protection of native species and their habitats. With new facilities and exhibits in this area, we expect that the Zoo will continue to gain international recognition for its conservation and education endeavors with Florida native species and animals around the globe.



LATIN AMERICA

# Welcoming Our Neighbors from the South



The animal collection philosophy at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo supports having species native to Florida as well as species from climates similar to our own – mainly Africa, Asia, and Australia to date. South of the United States lie Central and South America and the Caribbean which span the greatest latitudinal range of any region in the world. This area is home to a tremendous diversity of wildlife and ecosystems. Representing species from here will broaden the horizons of the Zoo's exemplary animal collection and wild places it showcases.



## LOWRY PARK ZOO NEW HORIZONS



Some of the most magnificent creatures in the world are found in Central and South America and the Caribbean, many of which are becoming increasingly rare in their native lands. The Zoo's future collection plans include the addition of: giant anteaters, giant river otters, jaguars, macaws and others.

### Extraordinary animals with cultural relevance

When people visit zoos like ours it can prompt them to conservation action and allow guests to see themselves as part of the solution. The animal collection philosophy also supports being relevant to all guests. The addition of animals from Latin America is an effective way to make connections to a growing Hispanic community while maintaining importance and relevance to all.



A photograph of a large aquarium tank with a manatee swimming in the center. In the foreground, the silhouettes of six children are visible, looking at the manatee and touching the glass. The scene is lit with a teal and orange color scheme.

# For the Love of Manatees

The Manatee and Aquatic Center is the only one of its kind in the world. It expands the traditional boundaries of a zoo by linking *ex-situ* conservation (conservation work accomplished away from an animal's natural habitat) with *in-situ* efforts (where an animal population naturally occurs). In partnership with state and federal organizations, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo works to rescue, rehabilitate, research, and return Florida's endangered manatees to the wild.

LOWRY PARK ZOO  
**NEW HORIZONS**



The Manatee and Aquatic Center at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, which includes a manatee hospital, was the first to be designed and built specifically for critical care and treatment of sick, injured, or orphaned wild manatees. It is the only non-profit hospital in the world specifically dedicated to manatee rehabilitation.

### Critical Care Is Critically Needed

The need for these facilities grows more critical every year. Colder winter weather and increased boater traffic mean that our maximum patient load is reached more often. Current facilities also need updating to ensure success of this important program in the future. Since the hospital opening in 1991, about 10 percent of Florida's manatees have received care at the Zoo (almost 300 manatees to date).

Currently the Zoo spends as much on manatee programs as it does on all other animals combined— approximately \$1 million each year. The investment benefits not only

the individual manatees brought in for care, but also Zoo guests by providing unique observation opportunities of daily activities in the hospital area. By witnessing firsthand how some manatees arrive at the Zoo, guests realize the importance of manatee conservation and its statewide relevance. This program also draws media attention from across the country and around the world. The United Kingdom, Germany, France and Japan are among the nations whose broadcasting companies have visited to feature the work accomplished at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo.



A young child with light brown hair, wearing a blue jacket with a circular logo on the sleeve, is kneeling in a grassy area. The child is holding a piece of grass in their hands, offering it to a large tortoise. The tortoise is facing the child, and its head is extended towards the grass. The background is slightly blurred, showing more grass and a hint of a blue object. The scene is set outdoors in a natural environment.

## Nurturing the Love of the Natural World

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is home to the Florida Environmental Education Center (also known as The Zoo School). It is the first accredited school in the United States run by a zoo. The Zoo School offers year-round early childhood education and preschool for children ages one through five, along with a wide variety of camps, classes, and programs for all ages—including adults. Unique experiences at the zoo encourage intellectual curiosity, develop vital skills, and promote a lifetime of learning.

## LOWRY PARK ZOO NEW HORIZONS



The unique curriculum at the Florida Environmental Education Center, affectionately nicknamed the Zoo School, is designed to encourage enthusiasm for the natural world, and to instill a sense of respect for wild animals and wild places. It provides quality experiences and programs for people of all ages, from tots to adults, which are based on the needs of our community. Exceeding the expectations of individuals, families, schools, and organizations has helped secure Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo as the "#1 Zoo in the USA," by both *Parents and Child* magazines.

### 10 Years of Educational Excellence

With a strong foundation in place, facility improvements will enable educators to serve more children, teachers, and parents more effectively. Students here develop the fundamentals of a life-long passion for the natural world and environmental sciences. With updates, the Zoo School will continue to grow and lead the nation in successful educational programming.

Funding from New Horizons will help to support:

- Additional classroom space
- Improved school-bus access
- Guest services area for field trips and large groups
- Educational tools and technology
- Security





## Back from the Brink

With the understanding that many of the world's animal species are either endangered or threatened, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo focuses efforts on wildlife conservation locally and globally. Many animals of Africa face intense poaching, disease, predation, and dramatic loss of habitat. The Zoo is committed to creating exhibits that will promote survival.

## LOWRY PARK ZOO NEW HORIZONS



As a leader in the protection of endangered and threatened species from around the world, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo takes conservation actions like habitat preservation, breeding, public education, field conservation, and supportive research seriously.

### Supporting Survival

Already home to a troop of chimpanzees, when the new center for great apes is created, the Zoo will become one of the few in the United States with a spacious, naturalistic outdoor habitat for Western Lowland Gorilla and Bonobos, too. Our guests will be able to engage with these animals, experience the way apes live in their natural habitats, and discover reasons for their universal appeal and what is needed for their survival.

Living collections of animals in zoos help to secure the long-term survival of species in natural ecosystems and habitats through ex situ management, fundraising, awareness and advocacy. With this in mind, Zoo guests are surveyed monthly and results consistently indicate:

- Zoo guests rank primates as their favorite animal to visit in the Zoo
- Zoo guests request great apes and lions be added to the animal collection

### Show Your Pride

The addition of a pride of lions will fully round out the story of the Safari Africa experience. The top of the African food chain, lions are now mainly found in protected reserves; their conservation status—vulnerable. With such new exhibits, the Zoo will be able to continue to further its conservation and education endeavors, and reach more people in meaningful ways to effect change in the wild.



# Meeting Our Expanding Needs



Our commitment to the welfare and care of the animals at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is second to none. It is a key part of what ensures our accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). To support that commitment, the Zoo is developing a new animal care and conservation complex.

AZA accreditation means Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo has met and exceeded mandatory, rigorous, professional standards for animal welfare and management, veterinary care, behavioral enrichment, nutrition and staff training. AZA's standards exceed currently established local, state and federal guidelines and are constantly evolving and being raised. Fewer than 10% of the approximately 2,400 animal exhibitors licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture are AZA accredited.

ACCREDITED BY THE  
**ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS**

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo has more than doubled its size since opening more than 20 years ago. But the veterinary hospital remains the same facility it was when it was constructed.

### The facility our animals and community deserve

Without a new veterinary center we will be unable to support any future growth of the animal collection. With it, we will be recognized as a preeminent comprehensive veterinary medicine facility. In fact, a day will come when visiting scientists will come to Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo on an "in residence" basis to study animals in an environment that can't be replicated elsewhere in the world.

To meet the challenge of maintaining the health of the animals in our care, the planned new veterinary hospital and conservation center includes:

- 12,000 square feet of surgery, lab, and indoor and outdoor holding spaces
- State-of-the-art medical equipment, furniture and fixtures
- Pharmacy and radiology centers
- Conference and staff resource rooms that are potentially revenue generating
- Viewing windows for Zoo guests to see animal care professionals in action
- Gold LEED certification standards—for green buildings

### Welcoming new specimens into the United States

The Zoo's planned quarantine center is designed to be superior to existing facilities of its kind. As one of only six designated Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) centers, we will be able to accept directly potentially thousands of animals every year into the U.S. necessary for population management. The quarantine center will provide:

- Greater personal care to each animal
- More spacious accommodations while in quarantine
- Increased opportunities for observation of the animals

Establishing this facility will position the Zoo as a leader in sustainability of animal collections. The needs of animals that stay here will be better met. And, as an AZA accredited organization, we will be able to collaborate and support other zoos and aquaria that are also to committed species conservation.

