



celebrating
25

YEARS OF COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION

NASHVILLE
ZOO

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

INSIDE

- 3** ZOO LEADERSHIP
- 5** MEMORABLE MOMENTS
- 9** CONSERVATION
- 13** CELEBRATING COMMUNITY
- 15** CALL OF THE WILD
- 16** SUNSET SAFARI
- 19** THE NUMBERS
- 20** CROFT SOCIETY
- 21** IN GRATITUDE
- 25** GROW WILD



Galapagos Tortoise

The Galapagos tortoise is the world's largest tortoise and can only be found in the Galapagos Islands west of South America. Their life span is largely unknown, but one individual was recorded as living 177 years in human care.

Conservation Status: VULNERABLE

LC NT VU EN CR EW EX

Dear Friends,

Looking back on 2022 and Nashville Zoo’s 25th year at Grassmere, there is so much to celebrate – building impactful conservation and community initiatives, bringing back old favorites and sharing the magic of Nashville Zoo with more people than ever before – and all of it was made possible thanks to your support.

Between the much-anticipated return of DinoTrek and Zoolumination, the reopening of the Jungle Gym, and the addition of new attractions and events, it is no surprise that more than 1.3 million people visited Nashville Zoo in 2022 (a new annual attendance record). Several notable animal births also made headlines this year, including a spotted fanaloka which was one of the first of its species to be born in the United States.

The Middle Tennessee community has become an integral part of our success over the last 25 years, and we are honored to give back to our neighbors through unique events and initiatives. In 2022, we added a Hispanic Heritage Festival to our event line-up and expanded our reduced-cost membership program for low-income families. We are excited to continue to look for ways to celebrate the diversity of Nashville and engage all of our neighbors in the work we do.

As always, we spent much of 2022 building new features and renovating old favorites. We finished the renovations of the Jungle Gym and Tiger Crossroads’ bridge and opened the 4D Adventure Theater and Promise Park. We also began construction on a parking garage that will increase our parking capacity by 62%, a multispecies Leopard Forest exhibit and a new Komodo dragon habitat. We are grateful for your patience as we continue to build a world-class zoo for Middle Tennessee and hope you agree the end result will be worth the disruption.

Thank you for all you do to amplify the work we do at Nashville Zoo. We are proud of what we’ve accomplished so far and are excited to see what the next quarter-century brings, as we continue to work together to save species and impact our community. Thank you for your continued belief in and support of Nashville Zoo.

Gratefully,

Ed Goodrich
Nashville Zoo Board Chairman

Rick Schwartz
Nashville Zoo President and CEO



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Anne Parsons served as an Advisory Director for Nashville Zoo from 2018 until her passing in 2022. She was also heavily involved at the Grassmere property in its earlier days, serving on the Board of Grassmere Wildlife Park.

She was instrumental in H.G. Hill Realty Company’s decision to support both the Cassowary Exhibit and Tiger Crossroads, with one of our tigers being named in remembrance of her sister Frances.

Anne loved bringing friends to the Zoo and proudly showing off these exhibits. We are honored that H.G. Hill Realty chose to pay tribute to Anne with a donation naming our newest tiger in her memory, thus celebrating the lives of Frances and Anne together.



2022

memorable moments

2022 was packed with new animal friends, fun features, immersive events and impactful initiatives - all thanks to the generosity of our supporters!



Return of DinoTrek

After an eight-year hiatus, DinoTrek made a roaring return with 218,770 visitors enjoying giant life-size animatronic dinosaurs along a hidden path.



Jungle Gym & Promise Park

After a lengthy construction process, the Jungle Gym reopened in March with the addition of Thisbe and Noah's Promise Park, a new area that allows kids with all abilities and disabilities to play side-by-side.



AZA Award, Morton Family Cabin

The Morton Family Exhibit was awarded Top Honors for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Angela Peterson Excellence in Diversity Award, as well as five additional awards from notable history organizations.

Night Visions

Nighttime came to life from April to July at Night Visions. The captivating show of stunning projections set to music illuminated the Zoo's scenery in a kaleidoscope of color and whimsical imagery.

WeGo Partnership Rolls Out

We rolled out a new partnership with WeGo Public Transit and unveiled a wild bus wrap in June. The collaboration was part of an initiative that offered discounted admission to some of Nashville's hottest attractions.



Zoolumination

Zoolumination, presented by Asurion, returned from November 18 to February 4 and welcomed more than 150,000 guests into a world of dazzling scenes made of 1,000+ custom-made silk lanterns.

Smashville Got Wild (Again)

The Nashville Predators' 2023 calendar went on sale in November and featured dozens of your favorite Zoo animals, including Pekka the Nigerian dwarf goat who was named in February for retired Nashville Predators' goalie Pekka Rinne.



Record Year

Despite returning to a timed ticketing system in September, attendance for the year was at an all-time high of 1,322,324. Membership also hit a record in 2022 with 42,756 households. April was the highest overall attendance month in Zoo history!



Southern White Rhinoceros

Native to southern Africa, southern white rhinos can be identified by their “square lip” which enables them to graze on 120+ lbs of grasses per day. Rhinos are being poached at an alarming rate because of the perceived value of their horns.

Conservation Status: NEAR THREATENED

LC NT VU EN CR EW EX

CONSERVATION

Over the past 25 years, Nashville Zoo has become a recognized leader in the conservation of many species due to our commitment to global and local conservation through research, habitat protection, breeding programs and education initiatives. We are proud to report that in 2022, we strengthened partnerships and worked to save species and protect habitats near and far.

Around the World

Each year, Nashville Zoo provides resources, financial support and expertise to conservation organizations around the world. We are honored to provide longterm support and partner with these organizations (and many more) to impact the conservation of species in their native habitats.

This year, 4,600+ Puerto Rican crested toads were hatched at Nashville Zoo and then sent to their native home to be released in protected streams. The Zoo's efforts with this species have resulted in the release of more than 25,000 tadpoles in the past ten years.

In July, a carnivore keeper spent a month at Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) in Somaliland, providing medical supplies and helping to rehabilitate 38 cheetahs battling multiple illnesses. We've supported CCF's work to help save and protect this vulnerable species since 2014.

In September, two staff members traveled to Rainforest Awareness Rescue and Education Center (RAREC) in Peru to provide medical supplies to aid in the care of the Amazonian wildlife they rescue and rehabilitate. We've provided RAREC with significant financial support since 2015 to address infrastructure improvements and support their operations.

Funding Forever

In support of the Zoo's conservation goals, more than \$700,000 was given to conservation efforts around the globe in 2022. Significant donations were made to these organizations and projects:

- Action Indonesia – Supporting babirusa conservation
- Asa Wright Nature Center – Supporting wildlife conservation in Trinidad
- Asian Hornbill SAFE Program
- Association for the Conservation of Amazonian Biodiversity – Supporting Amazonian manatee conservation
- Cheetah Conservation Fund
- Clouded Leopard Consortium
- Conservation Centers for Species Survival
- Duke Lemur Center
- Fundación ProAves – Supporting blue-billed curassow conservation
- Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education (GRACE) Center
- Instituto de Conservação de Animais Silvestres – Supporting giant anteater conservation
- Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas – Supporting tapir conservation
- International Crane Foundation
- International Rhino Foundation
- Komodo Dragon Species Survival Plan® Conservation Fund
- Minnesota Zoo Foundation's Tiger Conservation Campaign
- Point Defiance Zoo's conservation work with clouded leopards
- Proyecto Titi – Supporting cotton-top tamarin conservation
- Rainforest Awareness Rescue Education Center
- Red Panda Network
- Sia – Supporting eagle conservation
- Society of Conservation Biology
- Somali Giraffe Project
- Southeastern Bat Diversity Network
- VulPro – Supporting vulture conservation in South Africa

Karl and I chose to support Nashville Zoo's partnership with the Cheetah Conservation Fund because we are deeply passionate about the environment. This project had two great outcomes. First, the rescued cheetahs received expert care from a Nashville Zoo keeper. Second and more importantly, that keeper grew her skills and knowledge of wildlife conservation. She will be able to use this experience to protect and advocate for wildlife and wild places for the rest of her career.

- Anne Davis

CONSERVATION

In Our Backyard

Throughout 2022, staff members partnered with agencies and organizations to bolster local populations of several threatened species that directly impact Middle Tennessee ecosystems



Eastern Hellbenders

We teamed up again this summer with our local partners to release 34 Eastern hellbenders into Middle Tennessee streams after being raised at the Zoo as part of a headstart program. We've been working to save this state-endangered species for nearly two decades.

Welcome to the Family

Nashville Zoo participates in 55 Species Survival Plans®, Association of Zoos and Aquariums programs to maintain healthy and self-sustaining populations in human care.

In 2022, we celebrated several notable births, including our first Mexican spider monkey, spotted fanaloka and king vulture, as well as continued success with bontebok, cotton-top tamarin, clouded leopard and eland.



Migratory Birds

2022 was the first full year of operation for our Motus Tower, which is part of the world's largest collaborative automated radio telemetry project. The tower detected 66 migratory birds over the course of the year. In November, we hosted the annual Loggerhead Shrike Working Group meeting, a group of professionals from across the continent working to ensure the long-term survival of the loggerhead shrike.



We welcomed nine new species to Nashville Zoo in 2022, including ring-tailed voutsira, yellow-throated marten and bearded emperor tamarin. By the end of 2022, Nashville Zoo was home to 3,192 individual animals representing 359 species.



Honeybees

In May, we opened our new apiary and observation beehive at the Grassmere Historic Farm. Guests can now see honeybees at work up close while learning about the importance of pollinators in the ecosystem and what they can do at home to help bees.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

After 25 years at Grassmere, we are more intertwined with the Nashville and Middle Tennessee community than ever before. We are dedicated to serving our neighbors through community-focused initiatives and appreciate those who help further the Zoo's mission by utilizing their time and talents to help us make a broader impact in our community.



We reduced barriers to learning about wildlife through reduced fees for Title 1 schools, military members, foster families and families receiving assistance from programs like SNAP and WIC, as well as offering a paid internship program.

1,880 families took advantage of the SNAP/WIC discounted membership program



We celebrated diversity by opening Thisbe and Noah's Promise Park, hosting a Hispanic Heritage Festival with Conexión Américas and holding a Chinese New Year celebration during Zoolumination.



7,357 guests attended the Hispanic Heritage Festival in September

We contributed to the work of our community by hosting drives that yielded enough blood to save 276 lives, 21,000 pounds of shelf-stable food, and 1,600 children's toys.



I love our Nashville Zoo! It provides an educational experience and is always an adventure to explore. The Nashville Zoo is a unique resource in our community. Not only is it educational and experiential, it's also very dedicated to community outreach. We have programs for youth, summer camps, and specialists who bring the animals to local schools and to Vanderbilt children's hospital. Recently, our zoo hosted children in foster care through Tennessee Kids Belong to a special day at the Zoo. Their foster parents and families were also able to attend and have been offered discounted memberships. I'm thankful and proud to be able to support our Nashville Zoo!

– Kelly Crockett

We extended our reach in wild new ways, including the Zoopalooza series on WKRN News 2 and the Howdy Cloudy IPA collaboration with Tailgate Brewery.



We multiplied our impact by utilizing 260 volunteers and docents to directly engage 141,479 guests in conversations about animals and conservation at the Zoo.

CALL OF THE WILD

We were excited to once again host our Call of the Wild event on Thursday, April 14.

This exclusive dinner featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Laurie Marker, Executive Director of Cheetah Conservation Fund.

Co-chaired by Kelly Crockett and Barbara Hagood, this event was the most successful Call of the Wild yet with more than 130 guests attending and over \$245,000 raised.



SUNSET SAFARI

After taking a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Sunset Safari returned on Saturday, September 17.

This unique social event features food and drinks from your favorite Nashville eateries, plus live entertainment and special animal hosts.

Co-chaired by Clara Belden, Sally Coble and Allie Hall, this was the most successful Sunset Safari to date with more than \$350,000 raised to support Zoo operations.





Red River Hog

Red river hogs live in groups of up to 20, usually consisting of one adult male, several females and their piglets. They use their shovel-like snouts to dig up roots or bulbs to eat, though they will eat almost anything they find!

Conservation Status: **LEAST CONCERN**

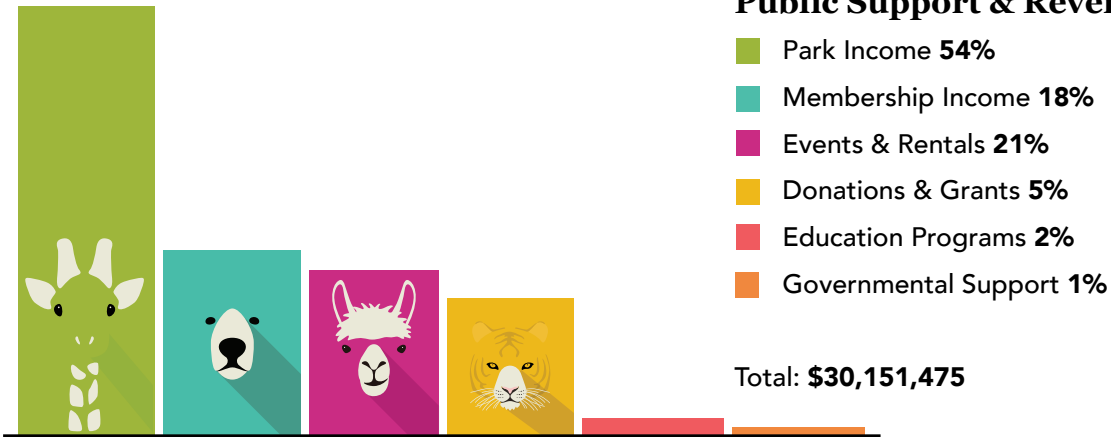
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THE NUMBERS

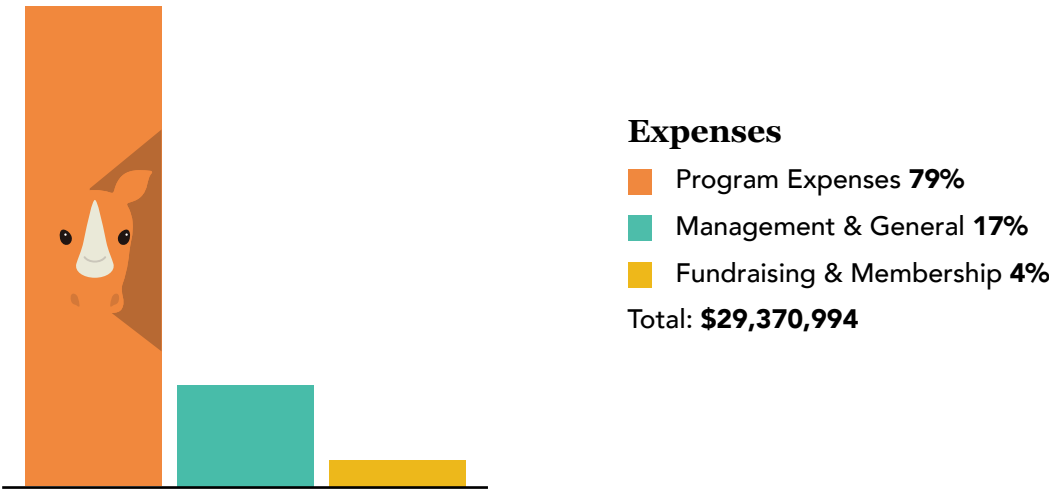
We are grateful for the support of guests, individual donors, corporations and foundations who have contributed to the success of the Zoo over the past year. 2022's all-time record attendance is directly reflected in the increased park income, membership income, and events and rentals revenue noted below. As a not-for-profit organization, we manage our resources prudently while continuing to grow our impact on both the community and the conservation of species near and far.

We are proud to report that once again we received a perfect score in 2022 from Charity Navigator's annual assessment of nonprofits. A perfect score shows that we are executing our mission in a fiscally responsible manner while providing our stakeholders with the highest level of accountability and transparency.

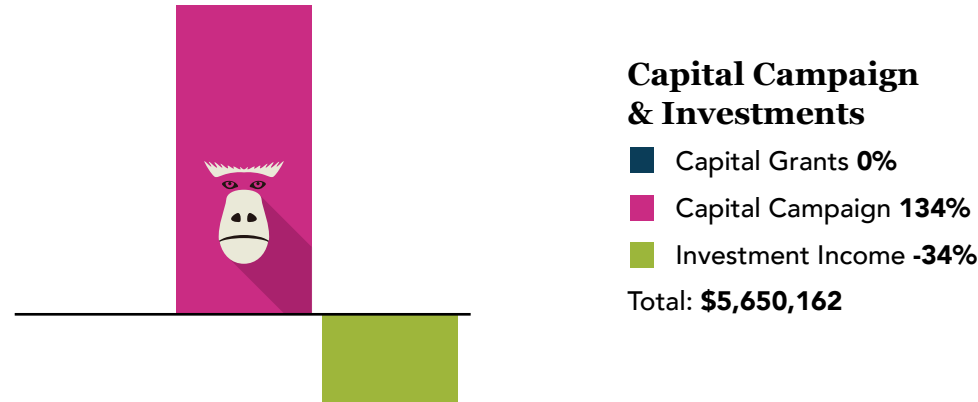
Public Support & Revenue



Expenses



Capital Campaign & Investments



We made the decision to include the Zoo in our estate plans because we feel it's important not only to support the current institution, but also to help sustain it in the future. We want to do our part to ensure Nashville Zoo continues to serve our community and endangered animals in the world, for generations to come

- Barbara and Greg Hagood

croft society

The Croft Society is a planned giving recognition group for individuals who include the Zoo in their estate plans, enabling the Zoo to thrive for generations to come.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Judy Alexander | Nancy and Ed Goodrich | Heather and Rick Schwartz |
| Eliot Armistead* | Landis Gullett* | Kerrie and Billie Shelton |
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* Indicates donors who are deceased

with appreciation

Thank you to the following donors who contributed \$1,000 or more in 2022 toward the Zoo’s operating and conservation funds.

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- Claws, Paws and Jaws Society is our most dedicated group of supporters, contributing \$1,500+ annually towards Zoo operations.
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- Kay and Craig Gabbert
- Joyce and Michael Gant
- Stacy and Matthew Gardner

Call of the Wild Dinner Attendees contributed \$1,000+ toward the success of the event, which helps fund Zoo operations.


















































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

Sunset Safari Benefactors contributed \$1,000+ toward the success of the event, which helps fund Zoo operations.

Donors to Nashville Zoo’s Wild Works Global Conservation program support research, habitat protection, breeding programs and education initiatives both at the Zoo and around the globe.

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GROWING WILD

Several new species will be debuting at Nashville Zoo in the next two years, as our Grow Wild Capital Campaign continues to progress. A koi pond at the Jungle Gym and a Komodo dragon habitat are both anticipated to open this spring. In addition to its signature species, the Komodo dragon exhibit will also feature crocodile monitors and red-crowned cranes. In 2024, we plan to open the Leopard Forest, with three separate habitats for Amur leopards, colobus monkeys, and De Brazza’s monkeys.

CAMPAIGN COMMITMENTS

\$10,000,000+	\$200,000 - \$499,999	
The Frist Foundation	Anonymous	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County	Janie and Brandon Busbee	Scott and Lyn Sohr
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Thisbe and Noah	Cynthia and David Arnholt	\$20,000 - \$49,999
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Together with her husband Rodes, Patricia Hart has supported Nashville Zoo’s development since its move to Grassmere more than 25 years ago.

They sponsored one of the Zoo’s first animal exhibits, Critter Encounters, then went on to make generous contributions to the elephant and giraffe savannas, the rhino exhibit, and most recently the Leopard Forest.

As inaugural members of the Grassmere Gold Circle, Patricia and Rodes joined a select group of Zoo benefactors who have contributed more than \$1 million dollars in support of the Zoo and its mission. We are forever grateful for her kindness and the lasting impact she has had on our community.

We are thankful to the many donors who have already supported the Grow Wild campaign. If you are interested in learning how you can become involved in the growth of Nashville Zoo, please contact growwild@nashvillezoo.org.



NASHVILLE ZOO

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