



OAKLAND ZOO IN KNOWLAND PARK

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE 1998 APPROVED MASTER PLAN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Oakland Zoo in Knowland Park is located in east Oakland, east of Interstate 580 and adjacent to Anthony Chabot Regional Park. Knowland Park contains a total of approximately 490 acres, of which approximately 93 acres comprise the arboretum, zoo, and related support facilities and approximately 62 acres were approved by the City Council in 1998 for development of the Oakland Zoo's California 1820 exhibit. The remaining 335 acres contain upper and lower Knowland Park. Upper Knowland Park contains approximately 278 acres of open space, vegetation, public trails, and fire roads. Lower Knowland Park contains approximately 57 acres of open space, vegetation, park entrance area and roads. The General Plan land use designation for the zoo is Urban Open Space, and the zoo is zoned Open Space-Special Use. **Table 1** presents a breakdown of acreage by use area.

TABLE 1: KNOWLAND PARK ACREAGE BY AREA

Area	Number of Acres	Zoning
Upper Knowland Park	278 ¹	Open Space-Resource Conservation Area)
Approved California 1820 Exhibit	62 ²	Open Space-Special Use
Arboretum, Zoo, and Related Support Facilities	93 ³	Opens Space-Special Use
Lower Knowland Park	57 ⁴	Open Space-Resource Conservation Area
Total	490	

¹ Zoo-City Management Agreement, May 2005. This agreement identifies 340 acres in the upper area of Knowland Park. Subtracting the approved 62 acres for the California 1820 exhibit leaves a balance of 278 acres.

² The project conditions of approval did not identify a total acreage for the California 1820 exhibit. This figure was calculated based on the Final Revised Plan.

³ Of the 93 acres, the Zoo is 37. Oakland Zoo In Knowland Park Master Plan Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study, 1998.

⁴ Zoo-City Management Agreement, May 2005. This agreement identifies 150 acres in the lower area of Knowland Park. Subtracting the arboretum, zoo, and related support facilities leaves a balance of 57 acres.

The Oakland Zoo is applying for approval of an amendment to the approved Oakland Zoo in Knowland Park Master Plan that would refine and make certain changes to the site plan for the approved California 1820 exhibit, now identified as the California Exhibit. The Master Plan amendment also proposes to relocate the activities that currently take place at the existing Veterinary Medical Hospital within the zoo area to a new Veterinary Medical Hospital facility that would be located within the previously approved California 1820 exhibit area.



The Master Plan amendment proposes the following changes to the approved 1998 Master Plan:

- 1) Replacement of the approved loop road and shuttle bus system with an electric aerial gondola people-moving system;
- 2) Relocation of the approved California Interpretive Center within the California Exhibit area to a site approximately 300 feet northwest of the previously approved location, and redesign of the center;
- 3) Reconfiguration of the previously approved animal exhibits as part of the animal exhibit area of the California Exhibit;
- 4) Elimination of previously approved off-site breeding activity, with incorporation of this area into the California Exhibit;
- 5) Replacement of the existing Veterinary Medical Hospital with the construction of a proposed new Veterinary Medical Hospital located on a portion of the previously approved California 1820 exhibit area;
- 6) Addition of an overnight camping area;
- 7) Modifications to the final proposed location of the previously approved perimeter fence, according to the City of Oakland 1998 approval resolution;
- 8) Improvement of the existing emergency vehicle access road off Snowdown Avenue in accordance with Oakland Fire Department standards;
- 9) Provision of a public walking path to provide access between existing fire roads and the two knolls on the east side of the California Exhibit;
- 10) Elimination of the previously approved pedestrian hiking trail connecting the Arboretum meadow with Upper Knowland Park; and
- 11) Improvements to the existing zoo service road in accordance with current Oakland Fire Department standards.

Other key aspects of the originally approved California 1820 exhibit would remain. Exhibits of animals native to California such as tule elk, grizzly bear, bison, eagle, black bear, mountain lion, jaguar, wolf, and California water fowl would be incorporated into the California Exhibit.

As shown in **Table 2**, the proposed Master Plan amendment would reduce the area of the approved expansion by approximately 5.28 acres, from approximately 61.54 acres to approximately 56.26 acres. The project drawings include a comparison of the site plans for the approved Master Plan and the proposed Master Plan amendment.

Project construction would occur in five phases over a total of approximately 42 months. Phase 1 would last a total of approximately twelve months and would include construction of the Veterinary Medical Hospital, perimeter fence and service road. Phase 2 would last a total of approximately twelve months and would include construction of the gondola people-moving system (including the portion of the California Interpretive Center building that would house the gondola terminal), overnight camping area,



grizzly bear exhibit, bison/tule elk feeding station, Small Exhibit Activity Zone and site utilities and paths. Phase 3 would last a total of approximately twelve months and would include construction of the wolf exhibit, eagle exhibit and viewing structures, black bear and mountain lion exhibits, interpretive kiosk and site utilities and paths. Phase 4 would last a total of approximately eight months and would include construction of the remainder of the California Interpretive Center building along with the jaguar exhibit, condor exhibit and site utilities and paths. Phase 5 would last a total of approximately eight months and would include construction of the amphitheater and beaver/water fowl aviary.

TABLE 2: ACREAGE OF 1998 APPROVAL VS. PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Approved 1998 Master Plan (California 1820 Exhibit)	Number of Acres	Proposed Master Plan Amendment (California Exhibit and Veterinary Medical Hospital)	Number of Acres
Animal Exhibits (Canyon, River, Woodland, and Grizzly Bear Exhibits)	16.23	Animal Exhibits	18.07
Existing Bison/Tule Elk Exhibit	14.44	Existing Bison/Tule Elk Exhibit	14.44
California Interpretive Center	0.23	California Interpretive Center	0.36
Off-Site Breeding Activity	0.54	(Off-site breeding activity eliminated; area incorporated into animal exhibits – see above.)	0
Paving of Existing Service Road	1.35	Improvements to Existing Service Road	3.25
Loop Road and Shuttle Bus System	5.70	Gondola People-Moving System	0.02
---		Veterinary Medical Hospital ¹	1.00
---		Public Access Path	0.26
---		Overnight Camping Area and Path	0.72
Other (includes undeveloped area, pedestrian hiking trail, emergency vehicle access road)	23.05	Other (includes undeveloped area, emergency vehicle access road.)	18.14
Total	61.54	Total	56.26
		Change	-5.28

¹ The proposed Veterinary Medical Hospital site is located outside of the proposed California Exhibit area but is included in the previously approved California 1820 exhibit area.