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MISSION

To inspire an appreciation of the natural world through conservation, education, research and recreation.

VISION

To be respected internationally and treasured locally for leadership in animal exhibition, conservation practices, and education opportunities.

Dear Zoo Friends,

We have just concluded celebrating Blank Park Zoo's 50th year and there are many things of which we are proud. The Zoo had an audience of over 475,000, educated almost 57,500 lowa children, and our educators traveled over 70,000 miles to over 80 counties and visited 234 libraries. We were thrilled to watch Tumani, our baby eastern black rhino, grow from a birth weight of 80 pounds to over 1,100 pounds by year-end. Her engaging personality made her a visitor hit and she has become an ambassador for helping people understand the desperate need to save her species from extinction. In November, for the first time in the history of Blank Park Zoo, our female lioness, Neema, gave birth to three healthy cubs. Stay tuned for more additions at the Zoo!

This year we also opened the Sukup Large Mammal Breeding Center and the Margo and Don Blumenthal Giraffe Pavilion. The Sukup Breeding center provides us the space to breed the addax antelope, a species that is virtually extinct in the wild, and the slender horn and nyala antelope, both with fewer than one thousand left in the wild. The survival plan is to grow our numbers and, with three other zoos, reintroduce these animals to a protected preserve in Africa. The Blumenthal Pavilion will allow us to grow our giraffe herd and provide indoor viewing of giraffe year-round. It has indoor feeding and conservation messaging.

The Zoo's master plan, completed in 1984, had an African loop trail. We have completed that loop with a connecting pathway as part of the Zoo's 50th Anniversary. It lets visitors walk around the entire giraffe exhibit and be immersed in a 360-degree African savanna.

There was an extensive remodel of our administration building to better serve our guests and improve employee wor k space.

The National Geographic's statement, "As the wild shrinks, zoos are looked at as modern day arks, the last refuge against the rising tide of extinction," is more relevant than ever. Wildlife, from the elephant and black rhino to the reefs of the oceans, and pollinators like the monarch butterfly and honeybee, are being driven toward extinction by poaching, habitat loss, climate change and pollution. Blank Park Zoo's most important mission is to help reverse this march toward extinction through education, volunteerism, involvement, and animal reintroduction to the wild. The Zoo's goal is to be a nationally known resource for restoring the natural world.

As we look to the next half century, the acronym, SAFE, will be the most important tenet of our mission statement: Saving Animals From Extinction. Our legacy will depend on how we as a Zoo and as a community contribute to saving wildlife, restoring our

environment, and reversing climate change.

All of our successes have been made possible by the support and dedication of our donors, volunteers, corporate partners, and staff. We hope you will join us during our next 50 years as we continue to accomplish our goals.

Thank you for supporting Iowa's only Zoo.

Med Outral

Mark Vukovich

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HONORS & AWARDS

Blank Park Zoo was honored to be awarded "Top Visitor Attraction" by the Catch Des Moines Visitor Choice Awards for 2017. Greater Des Moines restaurants, attractions, and hotels were voted on by the public.



ROAR AWARD

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF REMARKABLE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Blank Park Zoo presented the "Roar" Volunteer Award to recognize community partners for their volunteering efforts. This award was given to volunteer groups who contribute through strength in numbers and dedication of time and energy to our mission. This year's ROAR award was The VET team from Central College, Pella, lowa. The VET team consists of 38 students who have volunteered over 448 hours of service to the

Zoo since 2012. The purpose of the VET group is to teach students about the Zoo's mission and animal enrichment. The VET group has helped make Bowling Pins for the rhinos, butterflies, various bird feeder toys, a life-sized zebra, and educated visitors about the importance of enrichment items for animals.



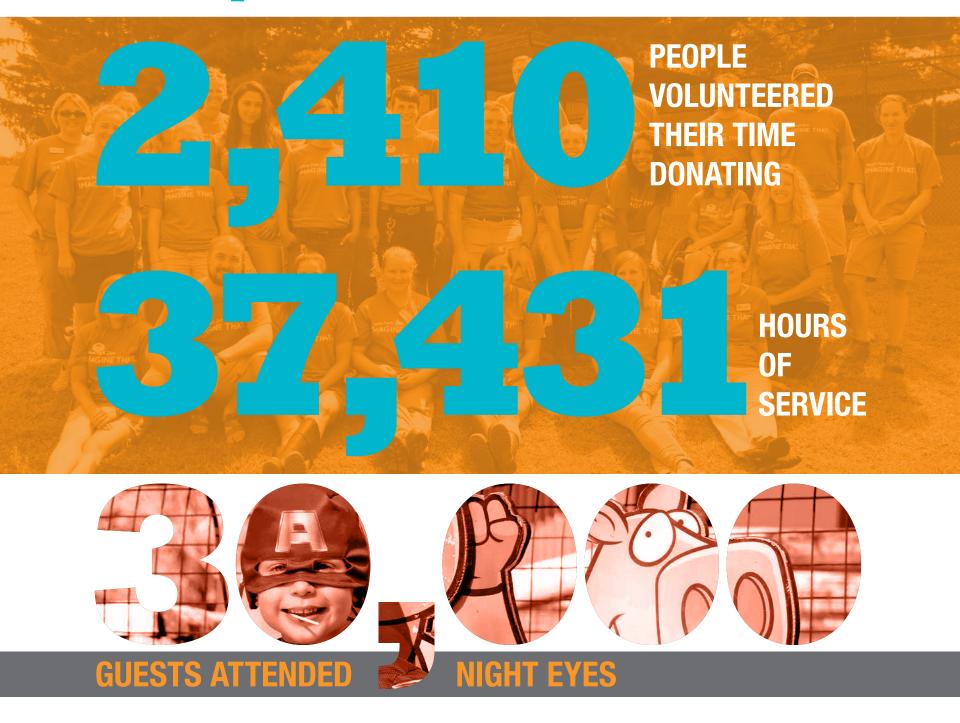
GOVERNORS VOLUNTEER AWARD

The Governor's Volunteer Awards is a program that provides all Iowa non-profit, charitable, and government organizations with a non-competitive way to honor local volunteers with a prestigious state-level recognition award. This fall five Blank Park Zoo volunteers received a Governor's Volunteer Award from Governor Kim Reynolds and Lieutenant Governor Gregg.

Pam Dye, Beth Hammond, Shandy Mikkelsen, and Sarah Kuhlman (not pictured), were honored with an individual award and Jean Anne DeBiaggio was honored with the 20 years of service award.



Why the Zoo Matters:





180 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS 2968 CHILDREN, AGE 1-4 YEARS, WERE HOSTED AT THE ZOO FOR 2968 AND A SPECIAL ADULT.



THE ZOO 53 SUMMER SAFARI CAMP 984 STUDENTS AGE HOSTED PROGRAMS FOR OVER 3 YEARS – 7TH GRADE

Significant Happenings



ANIMAL CARE

Over the past year, the Zoo was proud to welcome the following new friends to the family: New species (never exhibited at Blank Park Zoo): Tawny Frogmouths, Slender Horned Gazelle, Nyala

2017 BIRTHS, HATCHINGS, AND ACQUISITIONS

Welcome to Blank Park Zoo (2017 births, hatching and acquisitions from other zoos): One East African Grey Crowned Crane, one White Pekin Duck, two Tawny Frogmouths, one Bleeding Heart Dove, two Chestnut Teals, three Addax, three Slender Horned Gazelle, two Giraffe, five Nigerian Dwarf Goats, three Nyala, five Lions (two lioness, three cubs), two Virginia Opossum, one Red Panda, one North American Porcupine, one Striped Skunk, two Lesser Tenrec, four Bennett's Wallabies, one Northern Blue Tongued Skink, two

Chilean Flamingos chicks, one Magellan Penguin, two Bactrian Camel, two Eland, one Japanese Macaque, over 126 Marine fish and invertebrates

PARTNERSHIPS AND SSP

The Zoo has over 1,300 animals in its collection, representing over 194 different species.

Through partnerships at home and abroad, the Zoo works to advance the protection of wildlife species and habitats at-risk. This includes participating in the Species Survival Plan (SSP), a cooperative breeding program for rare and endangered animals.

Blank Park Zoo currently participates in 44 SSP's and ten are for endangered species. Animals at Blank Park Zoo that are part of an SSP program include:

Addax Antelope Grey Crowned Crane Slender Horned Gazelle

Amur Tiger Panamanian Snow Leopard

Eastern Black Rhinoceros Golden Frog White-Handed Gibbon

Golden Headed Tamarin Ring-Tailed Lemur

CHANGE

2017 has been a big year of change for Blank Park Zoo. In order to encompass all that the Zoo has been doing, the Zoo added a research component to their mission. Blank Park Zoo works tirelessly to conserve animal populations in the wild and in human care; and in order to do so, strongly believes that research is a big component of understanding species and what efforts can be made to conserve them. In addition, the Zoo changed the money it donates to conservation from a portion of every dollar spent at the Zoo, to a percentage of the entire Zoo's budget. This will allow Blank Park Zoo to continue to be a leader in the Zoo field and in continuing its efforts to conserve endangered, threatened, or near-threatened populations.



308 ADOPTS, RAISED \$37,563

25,712
PEOPLE
FED PARAKEETS

28,893
PIECES OF

LETTUCE WERE FED TO GIRAFFE IN JUNE, JULY, & AUG

129,963 TRAIN RIDES

Conservation



YOUR ZOO VISIT IS SAVING WILDLIFE!

With your support, Blank Park Zoo is saving wildlife. A portion of all revenue at the Zoo is used to save animals in the WILD. So, next time you visit for a fun day out with your family, think about the following projects that you are contributing to:

SAVING FROM EXTINCTION!

We care for many endangered species at Blank Park Zoo including Addax (less than 100 left), Amur Tigers (540 left in the wild), and Eastern Black Rhinos (800 left in the wild). Through cooperative breeding programs between zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aguariums (AZA), we are increasing these populations to hedge against extinction. One of our most recent examples, of course, is Tumani, our baby black rhino.

RELEASING ANIMALS BACK INTO THE WILD

Breeding and releasing animals is an important role that Zoos can play in conservation. We've hatched and released 36 Trumpeter Swans, contributing to a great conservation success: the recovery of Trumpeter Swans in the Midwest.

PROVIDING A SAFE HAVEN

Blank Park Zoo is home to four rescued seals and sea lions as well as two rescued bald eagles. These animals were deemed non-releasable for various health reasons and are now cared for by our expert animal care and veterinary staff.

SAVING IOWA'S ANIMALS

We've helped to trans-locate 450 Greater Prairie Chickens back to appropriate habitats in Iowa. Our pollinator conservation project, Plant.Grow. Fly., has registered over 1,000 butterfly gardens and our UpCycle program removes 10 tons of invasive plant material from local parks each year!

SUPPORTING THE WILD

We fund Giraffe Conservation Foundation, International Rhino Foundation, Snow Leopard Trust, and more. These projects implement a holistic view of conservation: considering the

health of individual animals, animal populations, the environment, and the local people. Accredited zoos in the U.S. give almost \$200 million annually to protect wildlife.

ZOO STAFF WORKING IN THE WILD

Some may say Blank Park Zoo is a small zoo, but we have a remarkable staff including experts in veterinary medicine, animal husbandry, animal health and welfare, conservation, research, and more. Each year, we send our staff to assist in the field. Recently, we've worked with giraffe in Namibia, chimpanzees and rhinos in Uganda, and seals and sea lions in California.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES IT **ALL POSSIBLE!**

Each time you visit Blank Park Zoo, you are making a difference for wildlife around the world and right here in lowa. We couldn't do it without you!



Worldwide conservation partners working together with Blank Park Zoo to provide habitat and protection for endangered animals across the globe.



International Rhino Foundation

Giraffe Conservation 4 Namibia, 3 Ug

Prairies for Agriculture

Tiger Conservation Campaign

AZA Saving Animals from Extinction \$5.000 4 Na

Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust

Health in Harmony \$3,000

Hornbill Research Foundation

Plant.Grow.Flv. \$3.000

Conservation Fusion \$3.00

Snow Leopard Trust \$3,000

Trumpeter Swan Restoration

\$2.500 **1** lov **Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary \$2.500**

Bald Eagle Protection \$1,500

National Wildlife Federation \$1,000 **②** Washington D.



MONARCH FESTIVAL

Blank Park Zoo held its third annual Monarch Festival in September, giving this icon of the prairie a proper send-off on its amazing migration to Mexico. 2,400 people attended the festival, two Plant.Grow.Fly. partners offered crafts and activities and almost 200 children marched in the Bug Parade; taking a symbolic migration through the Zool

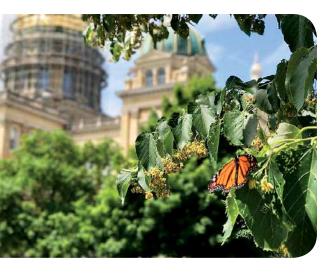


ART FOR THE WILD

On February 23, 2017, Blank Park Zoo hosted special guest, Jack Hanna, at the annual Art for the Wild gala. Guests enjoyed an evening celebrating local artists, food, silent and live auctions, and the message of conservation. Jack Hanna thrilled the audience with tales of his adventures while also touching on the importance of zoos.

A former director of the Columbus Zoo in Columbus, Ohio (now Director Emeritus of Columbus Zoo), Jack Hanna has spent his life serving animals, traveling the world, and working with leaders to transform the Columbus Zoo and spread the message of conservation.

The evening wrapped up with videos of Jack's adventures and each guest taking a piece of donated artwork home with them. All proceeds raised go directly to conservation efforts and partners of Blank Park Zoo.



PLANT.GROW.FLY.

PGF is designed to encourage the community to take action to conserve native pollinators (like butterflies and bees) by inspiring the planting of butterfly gardens throughout the Midwest and beyond. To date, over 1,000 gardens have been registered with the project! lowa is an important breeding ground for a very special pollinator, the monarch butterfly.



259 BUTTERFLY GARDENS PLANTED AND REGISTERED WITH PLANT.GROW.FLY.

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH CONSERVATION PROGRAMMING

UPCYCLE

Trees Forever, the City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and Blank Park Zoo have collaborated since 2014 to present a solution to the invasive plant problem in the Des Moines-area woodlands. In 2017, 51 volunteers, provided 102 hours of service and worked together to remove invasive species from Grey's Lake. Invasive plants, like Honeysuckle, are provided to Zoo animals for browse.

The City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation sees 'upcycling' the plant waste as a win-win solution.



IN THE WILD

In February 2017, Blank Park Zoo sent large mammal supervisor, Lou Keeley, to volunteer at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary in Uganda. Due to civil unrest and poaching, rhinos have not inhabited the country since the 1980s. Managed by Rhino Fund Uganda, the sanctuary breeds white rhinos to be relocated within Uganda's national parks. Lou helped monitor rhino behavior, delivered school supplies, and even went on a night antipoaching foot patrol. Blank Park Zoo is proud to help save rhinos in the wild!

In June of 2017, Blank Park Zoo sent small mammal keeper, Kyle O'Dea to Madagascar. "Traveling to Madagascar to help the Madagascar Biodiversity Project was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I was able to see amazing wildlife, including five different species of lemurs. I followed lemur research and reforestation teams and saw the amazing work they are doing in the field. The last half of my trip consisted of two expeditions to capture lemurs for DNA sampling, and to see if lemurs lived in the Tapia forest. This whirlwind of a trip would not have been possible without the amazing support of the Blank Park Zoo."



Education



The Zoo is committed to providing engaging educational programming for all, from children to adults and teachers to students. The Zoo is committed to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education throughout the state. While many students lose interest in science around fourth grade, they maintain a natural fascination with animals. From babies to adults, animals have the ability to fascinate and captivate people. The Zoo uses this affinity for the natural world to teach basic science concepts and critical thinking skills. Giving students an opportunity to actively engage in science education builds that foundation for future exploration in the subject.

2016 - 2017 EDUCATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Zoo traveled over 70,400 miles educating lowans about the environment and animals.

984 students participated in Summer Safari Camps.

for 33,436 participants at libraries, day cares, community churches, and senior centers.

School programs to 145 classrooms reached 5,129 students across the state. In addition, the Zoo conducted 8 teacher workshops for 252 teachers, impacting about 12,600 students.

631 programs were conducted around the state

During the 2016-2017 school year, 27,268 participants attended a field trip at the Zoo.

1,744 children between the ages of six months — four years old participated in early childhood programs.

The total number of programs conducted was 1,281 reaching 58,450 people.

38 After School programs impacted 568 students in underserved schools.





Supporting the Zoo Mission through



ZOO BREW

TOTAL ATTENDANCE FOR 2017: 23,432

The camels aren't (the only) ones celebrating hump day at Blank Park Zoo! Every Wednesday in the summer, the Zoo comes to life after hours for those 21 and over. This popular fundraising event features a variety of live music, summer brews all while enjoying the animals! When you buy a brew, you support the Zoo!

NIGHT EYES

TOTAL ATTENDANCE FOR 2017: 30,529

Lights, Costumes, Treats! Night Eyes welcomes you to the sweetest Halloween tradition in Central lowa! This merry not scary trick-or-treating event invites guests to enjoy live entertainment, sweet treats, train rides and story book characters!

SANTA AT THE ZOO

TOTAL ATTENDANCE FOR 2017: 2,409

Bring the whole family to Blank Park Zoo to enjoy a day of holiday cheer. After snapping a photo with Santa, writing a letter to the North Pole, and enjoying a warm cup of hot cocoa, explore the wonders of the Zoo, both indoors and outdoors! Bring along your scarf and hat and wish all of our animal friends a happy holiday!



EGGSTRAVAGANZA

TOTAL ATTENDANCE FOR 2017: 3,807

Ready to hop around the Zoo this spring? Eggstravaganza is a family event where little bunnies can participate in a golden egg hunt, crafts, and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny!

DREAMNIGHT

TOTAL ATTENDANCE FOR 2017: 2,466

Blank Park Zoo is honored to participate in Dreamnight, an event hosted throughout the world. Dreamnight gives kids with special healthcare needs and their families the opportunity to feel like VIP guests! The night is cost free for guests where they can enjoy dinner, meet their favorite characters, and of course learn all about our animal friends!





Supporting the Zoo Mission through



Blank Park Zoo volunteers give their time and talents for many reasons, but primarily among them are a love for the institution and respect for its mission. We at Blank Park Zoo treasure our volunteers for their above and beyond commitment and service.

NUMBERS

2017 was a great year to volunteer at the Zoo, over 2,400 people volunteered their time at the Zoo donating 37,000+ hours of service.

GOOD EGG AWARD

Every year the Zoo honors a volunteer with our Volunteer of the Year recognition, the "Good Egg Award." This year's Good Egg Award was presented to Becky Parrish for her service. Becky began volunteering for the Zoo's Conservation Committee in January 2010. During this time Becky has volunteered over 556 hours in a variety of areas. Becky enjoys volunteering for the following opportunities: Special Events including Zoo Brew & Zoobilation, as an Exhibit Guide volunteer and trainer, Plant.Grow.Fly. & Art for the Wild conservation programs, and with the Large Mammal animal care team. Becky is always willing to help wherever needed with a smile!

ADOPT-A-GARDEN

The Adopt-a-Garden program was started in 2012 to give volunteers with a "green thumb" the opportunity to beautify the Zoo! Volunteers adopt a garden spot and are then given information about color schemes and acceptable plants. Volunteers design, plant, and maintain their gardens throughout the year. All Adopt-a-Garden areas are marked with a yellow sign indicating who their gardeners are. During 2016, 23 volunteers worked on 15 gardens around the Zoo!

WILD AT HEART AWARD

The WILD AT HEART Award is given to a volunteer who has made a commitment to assist the keepers with the rewarding and dirty job of assisting keepers in daily functions such as cleaning stalls, hosing mats, disinfecting, and preparing diets.

This year's Wild at Heart Award was presented to Bobby Schaer. Bobby is a part of the Zoo Crew program and started volunteering for the Zoo in 2015. During his time here Bobby has provided the Zoo with over 452 hours of service. Bobby has also volunteered in a variety of areas around the Zoo, but enjoys volunteering with the animal care teams at the Zoo the most.



TOP CORPORATE AND HOUR VOLUNTEERS

During 2017 Blank Park Zoo hosted 103 volunteer groups, who participated in service project days. All together 940 group volunteers provided the Zoo with over 3,385 hours of service! These groups worked on the following projects around the Zoo: painting & staining, special event setup, candy goodie bag prep for Eggstravaganza, event & education program craft preparation, Night Eyes display creation and setup, and special projects for animal care areas.

We thank the following groups for their hard work and support:

Ankeny Parks & Recreation

ARAG

Barley's Angels

DMACC

Des Moines Public

Schools

Drake University

DSM Christian School

Des Moines Police Department

EMC

Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute

IMT

ITA Group

John Deere

Lincoln High School

Mittera

MSUM

STLF

Nationwide

Orchard Place

Prairie Ridge Church

US Air Force

US Bank

VOYA

Walnut Creek Church

Wells Fargo

Western Illinois

University

YMCA South Side

Support

HOW TO SUPPORT THE ZOO

IMAGINE THAT. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Zoo received over 1,114 gifts, totaling \$2,767,272.72. The Zoo's membership continues to flourish with nearly 12,500 households.

ZOO MEMBERSHIP

There are many ways to IMAGINE THAT. But the best way is as a member! Blank Park Zoo members reside in 94 of Iowa's 99 counties.

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BECOME A MEMBER

Our annual Zoo pass allows members to come and go as often as they like. Members receive exclusive discounts including free or discounted admission to special events, conservation and education programs, member-only events, and discounts on rentals and birthday parties.

ADOPT AN ANIMAL

This is a fun and unique way to support the Zoo's conservation efforts and create a special bond with one of your favorite Zoo animals. As part of the adoption program you will receive a certificate of adoption, special photo and fact sheet about your animal, and your name displayed by the animal exhibit for a whole year.

HOST AN EVENT

The Zoo offers a natural serene escape for special gatherings, and is a great place for private and corporate outings, special occasion celebrations, and weddings. Our staff will assist you in making your day, dinner, meeting, or outing spectacular and memorable.

VOLUNTEER

Your time and talents are valuable! Volunteers are essential to the operation of Blank Park Zoo. Volunteers support special events, animal care, education, and service projects.

ATTEND A FUNDRAISER

Proceeds from Zoo events support animal care, education programs, and conservation efforts. From Zoo Brew, Night Eyes, to Zoobilation, we are certain to have an event you will love.

SUPPORT THE ZOO TODAY!

By participating as a corporate sponsor, naming the Zoo in your estate or making an immediate impact to animal care, education, and conservation through a gift to the Annual Fund, you can make a difference. Your charitable gift helps Blank Park Zoo care for more than 2,400 animals, offer education programs to more than 120,000 people, and take part in conservation efforts worldwide.



Donors

Looking back at 2017, Blank Park Zoo is proud of what has been accomplished and is excited for the year ahead. We are thrilled with the impact our partnerships have made on the Zoo, as well as the community, the state of lowa and across the globe.

We thank our exceptional donors and supporters for their time and investment in our mission. It is because of YOU that we are able to offer quality educational programming, exceptional Zoo experiences, life-saving efforts in the wild and provide state of the art care for our animals. Thank you for supporting our mission.



MEDIA SPONSORS

We appreciate the irreplaceable contribution our media partners provide through promotional support. They help make Night Eyes sweet, help sell out our weekly party known as Zoo Brew and encourage our guests to help save wildlife during Animal Days.

NIGHT EYES

KCCI

Des Moines Radio Group

ZOO BREW

KCWI / Local 5

Cumulus Media

ANIMAL DAYS

KDSM

OTHER EVENTS & PROMOTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

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\$50,000 AND ABOVE

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\$500 — \$999

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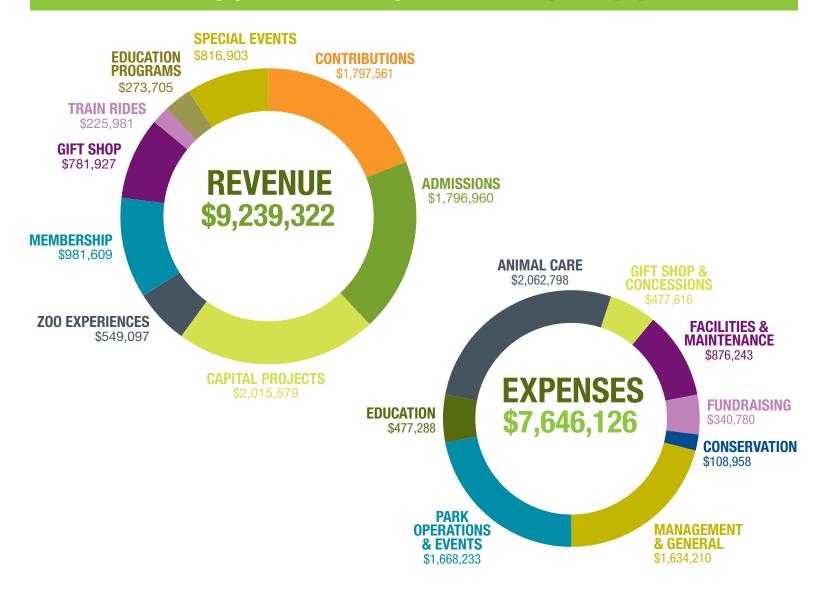
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