Dear friends and Zoo Atlanta family,

As we reflect on Zoo Atlanta’s accomplishments of 2018, one word comes to mind: transformative. In 2017, Zoo Atlanta broke ground on a project that will completely change the face of the Zoo, increase our commitment to species on the brink of extinction, and make Zoo Atlanta an event destination like no other. The new elephant environment in the all-new African Savanna, opening later in summer 2019, will more than triple the size of the elephants’ former habitat and features an array of special elements designed with elephant well-being in mind. The transformation will also introduce new habitats for giraffes, zebras, ostriches, warthogs and meerkats, as well as the debut of new southern white rhinos, a first for Zoo Atlanta, arriving later in 2019.

In 2018, construction was in full swing, but that didn’t stop us from continuing our work of saving wildlife and wild places. I ask you to pardon our progress and help us celebrate the many milestones Zoo Atlanta accomplished despite the disruption!

Thanks as always for all you do for the Zoo!

Raymond B. King
President and CEO
In a substantial new commitment to wildlife conservation, Zoo Atlanta announced a new partnership with Conservation South Luangwa to protect African elephants and other species impacted by wildlife trafficking and human-wildlife conflict. The partnership represents a significant step toward a goal of increased leadership in African elephant conservation for Zoo Atlanta.

Zoo Atlanta launched Quarters for Conservation in 2016 with a goal of further increasing the Zoo’s impact on global conservation support. The initiative contributes 25 cents of every general admission ticket to programs for wildlife. The project beneficiaries for 2018-2019 were Lion Guardians, the Pandrillus Foundation’s Drill Ranch and Rainforest Trust.

Zoo Atlanta announced a commitment of support to six conservation projects protecting wildlife in Guatemala, Nepal, South Africa, Alabama and Georgia in the U.S., and as close to home as Atlanta’s Grant Park. Programs for Guatemalan beaded lizards, red pandas, northern pine snakes, African vultures and Georgia native birds were the 2018-2019 beneficiaries of the Zoo’s Mabel Dorn Reeder Conservation Endowment Fund. The Mabel Dorn Reeder Conservation Endowment Fund annually awards grants to projects that enable the Zoo to expand its conservation actions and contributions. Zoo Atlanta disbursed a collective $45,000 to this set of programs for 2018-2019 – the most the Zoo has ever apportioned to projects supported by the endowment.
2018 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

25 hatchling diamondback terrapin hatchlings arrived in Atlanta in August 2018, from the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, a department of the Jekyll Island Authority. The terrapins came to Zoo Atlanta through the Zoo’s support of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center’s Jekyll Island Causeway Conservation Program. Zoo Atlanta supports the program by rearing terrapins hatched from females killed or injured by automobiles. The terrapins are reared at the Zoo for around a year until they are large enough to present less of a target for predators.

Zoo Atlanta welcomed a new ambassador for one of Earth’s rarest big cat species: Sparky, a 13-year-old male Sumatran tiger. He arrived in Atlanta in early March and was recommended by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ (AZA) Tiger Species Survival Plan® (SSP) to pair with Chelsea, the Zoo’s female Sumatran tiger. The Tiger SSP, one of many SSP programs in which Zoo Atlanta is an active contributor, seeks to maintain healthy, genetically diverse and self-sustaining tiger populations within accredited North American zoos and is just one example of the many collaborative efforts by AZA zoos to preserve animal populations for future generations.

We celebrated the 30th anniversary of The Ford African Rain Forest. The 1988 opening of The Ford African Rain Forest was a landmark event for Zoo Atlanta and for the city of Atlanta, when the complex’s most famous inhabitant, the legendary late Willie B. the western lowland gorilla, stepped outside for the first time in more than 25 years. The gorilla population at Zoo Atlanta is now one of the largest in North America, and 23 gorillas have been born at Zoo Atlanta since the opening of The Ford African Rain Forest.
Zoo Atlanta
2018 Operating Revenue
$19.8 million

- Admissions: 42%
- Concessions & Rental Events: 12%
- Membership: 15%
- Contributions & Events: 6%
- Conservation & Education: 2%
- Contributed Goods & Services: 2%
- Other: 1%
Zoo Atlanta
2018 Operating Expenses
$21.1 million

FINANCIALS

- Animal Welfare: 22%
- Operations: 25%
- Concessions & Rental Events: 11%
- General Administration: 10%
- Conservation & Education: 15%
- Marketing: 7%
- Institutional Advancement: 5%
- Membership: 3%
- Contributed Goods & Services: 2%
Zoo Atlanta
2018 Operating Expenses by Function
$21.1 million

- Compensation: 57%
- Outside Contracts: 11%
- Utilities: 3%
- Cost of Goods Sold: 3%
- Event Costs: 3%
- Professional Services: 4%
- Program Costs: 4%
- Program Costs: 4%
- Professional Services: 4%
- Program Costs: 4%
- Program Costs: 4%
- Program Costs: 4%
- Program Costs: 4%
- Advertising: 5%
- Insurance: 6%
- Other: 6%
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