

DESTINATION RIVERBANKS

Building on Success

The last major bond issue approved by Richland and Lexington county councils occurred in 1997, with the addition of gorillas, elephants and a new birdhouse.

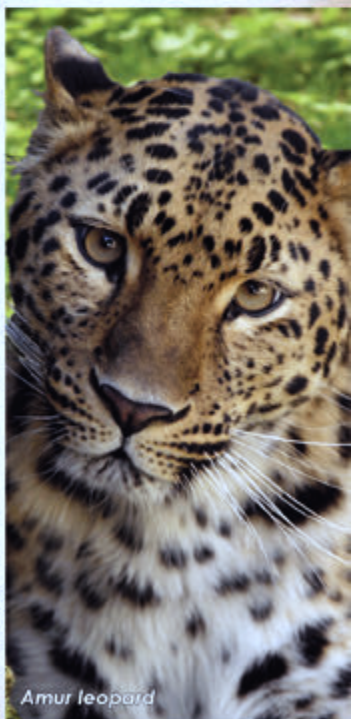
Since then Riverbanks' annual attendance has soared to nearly one million visitors...



giant flying fox



Malayan tapir



Amur leopard



orangutan



babirusa



red panda

telling a new tail



Asian small-clawed otter




Komodo dragon

We're now ready to bring a new corner of the world to the Midlands. Our vision of an Asian animal complex will welcome several charismatic animals to the Riverbanks family.

The highlight is sure to be the orangutan. Other animals may include Komodo dragons, Amur leopards, giant flying foxes and red pandas. This new complex will encompass the current lion and hyena grottos, the slamang islands and the wooded area adjacent to the pony trail. (Have no fear, these Riverbanks favorites aren't going far – they'll just have new homes at the Zoo.) All will be anchored by an Asian village where guests can find suitably themed food and gift opportunities.

An expansion of this magnitude promises unparalleled experiences.



In the spring of 2009, Riverbanks demolished the original sea lion exhibit, which was a family favorite for 35 years.

Transferring the sea lions was a very difficult decision for the Riverbanks Park Commission and staff. But we simply could not provide the care they deserved. Bringing these popular animals back to Riverbanks is one of our highest priorities.

We're looking forward to building a bigger and better sea lion experience in the Palmetto Plaza with interactive opportunities and underwater viewing.



reconnecting with old friends



turning over a new leaf



After nearly 15 years, Riverbanks Botanical Garden is ready to bloom again.

Our idea of a children's garden will be modeled after a number of similarly designed exhibits across the country that are play oriented and include amenities such as tree houses, fairy houses, giant insects, splash-play and other fun, interactive activities. The children's garden will reside just north of the walled garden.

A new children's garden will motivate kids to get excited about nature in a fun and engaging environment.

spreading our wings

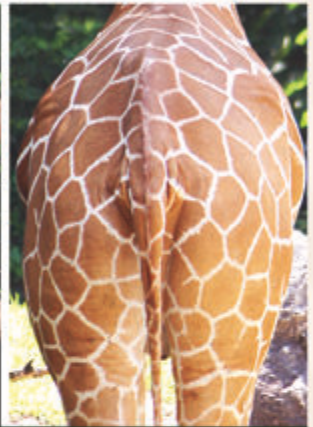


To accommodate our growth and enhance the guest experience, we must:

Expand the entrance: The existing Zoo entrance opened in 1988 and was designed to accommodate a half-million visitors, one-half of the current annual attendance. This project creates a larger entry that will include state-of-the-art ticketing systems, customer relations and membership sales offices and enhanced first aid. Not only will the new entrance facilitate a more efficient admissions process, but also it will bring Riverbanks in line with the guest service amenities found at other major zoological and theme parks around the United States.

Develop new and update existing food and gift opportunities: While the new entrance will boast a vastly expanded Elephant's Trunk Gift Shop, the Zoo's original gift shop (the Boomerang Gift Shop built in 1973) will be completely replaced. This project will also expand seating at Kenya Café.

Improve park infrastructure: Approximately 30% of Riverbanks Zoo and Garden is now more than 35 years old. Even our newest structures are subject to the wear and tear of one million people each year, requiring major renovations, repairs and efficiency upgrades. One of our biggest undertakings will be to restore the Zoo's original public restrooms, which were also constructed in 1973.



the bottom line

A bigger, better Riverbanks

...for you, our community and the animals

To continue to provide a positive guest experience and the highest standard of care for the animals, we must maintain Riverbanks' existing facilities and provide new exhibits. While we feel that now is a good time to seek the advice of Richland and Lexington county councils on the timing of a bond issue, the Riverbanks Park Commission has not yet made a formal request.

As I stated in my column on page 3, when the bond issue is approved, it will be approximately two years before the first tangible evidence of the expansion is visible.

Satch