

THE AERIE

UP, UP, UP, WE ALL GO!

This zone connects stories of charismatic species from around the world by highlighting their ecological niche as aerial and arboreal from global biodiversity hotspots. These climbing and flying species live their lives exploring treetop canopies or taking to the skies, allowing visitors to ponder what life is like from way up high as they explore the zone. The concept helps connect new features in the zone to existing habitats and species that are not geographically aligned by focusing on their ecological stories within their ecosystems.

The existing Lemur exhibit, Red Panda habitats, and Urban Farm are retained. The zone includes two new buildings, addressing the need for more amenities that provide a reprieve from the elements and support the year-round experience. An insect pavilion features flutters, buzzers and crawlers in a warm, heated space. Some species may only be viewable at certain times of year, so the space is augmented with interactive sculptures. The space is also the perfect backdrop for birthday parties and wedding ceremonies and photos, with a rental event space.

Next door, a walk-through tamarin and sloth habitat gives visitors a peek into the rainforest ecosystems of South America. Time moves a bit more slowly under the hush of the canopy, where careful observation of the animals creates a powerful desire to protect their wild habitats. The space is also home to smaller critters. Families can get up close to study tortoises and armadillos.

Visitors are encouraged to join in the treetop exploration, with an Aerial Treetop Trail canopy walk experience unique

to the Edmonton Valley Zoo. This wheelchair/mobility aid/stroller-friendly overhead feature allows all visitors to ascend into the trees via a sloped ramp or climbing features where they can observe animals, including the Red pandas at eye-in-the-sky level. Elements are designed so that equivalency of experience is maintained, and vantage points can be accessed by everyone. This year-round experience is intentionally designed to handle snow load and removal, ensuring that guests can enjoy it through the winter months.

Upon their descent, visitors can access the guest amenities of the Urban Farm and learn about local sustainable agricultural practices. Visitors are wowed by the goats on the roof and discover the importance of honeybees before continuing on to the last stop of their aerial journey. An immersive aviary is home to many species of raptors. The quiet, forested pathway lends itself to contemplation and reflection on the world from above.



REFERENCE IMAGE: GREY HORNED OWL



REFERENCE IMAGE: GOLDEN LION TAMARIN



EVZ IMAGE: BLACK-AND-WHITE RUFFED LEMUR



PRECEDENT IMAGE: CLIMBING PLATFORM



PRECEDENT IMAGE: TREETOP TRAIL



EVZ IMAGE: GOATS ON THE ROOF

VISITOR JOURNEY - THE AERIE

Natalie and Steve have 3 school aged children, Meryl (11), Anders (9) and Lennon (4). They live in Edmonton and visit the zoo once or twice per year. They struggle to find activities that all three kids are interested in. They are excited to hear about the new aerial treetop experience at the zoo, because all of them can do it together and the family doesn't have to split up.

"Race you to the top!"

Anders and Meryl take off, choosing the fastest route of stairs and climbing ladders coil around the tree trunks, pausing at the small lookout points with animal' eye view telescopes showing the world through the perspective of a bird, bat and butterfly.

"I can see the whole zoo from here." "Whoah, this one is trippy!"

Natalie, Steve and Lennon wind their way up the boardwalk, the gentle slope carrying them into the canopy. They reach Lennon's favourite swinging bridge, swaying in the gentle wind between two tall pines. The bridge connects to a landing where they spot the red pandas snoozing high on branches.

"How do they sleep so high without falling down?"

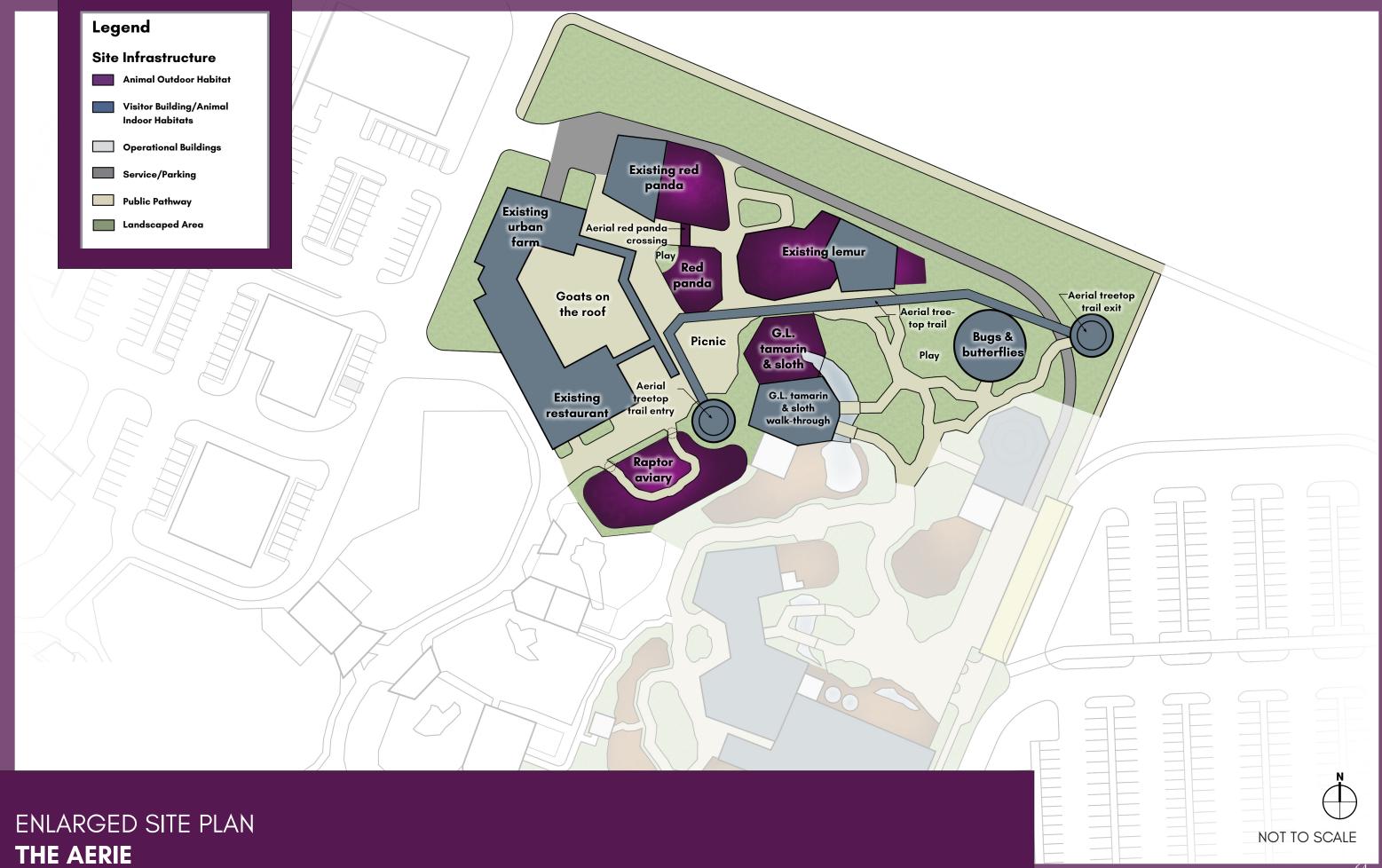
The five reconnect, piling into a family-sized hammock, pretending to nap like the pandas. Perfect spot for a selfie. They stroll together, pointing out the animals they can spot in the distance. Level with the Goats on the Roof, they climb to the overlook, parallel with the animals. Lennon leaps like a mountain goat kid, balancing between each jump on a thin balance beam.

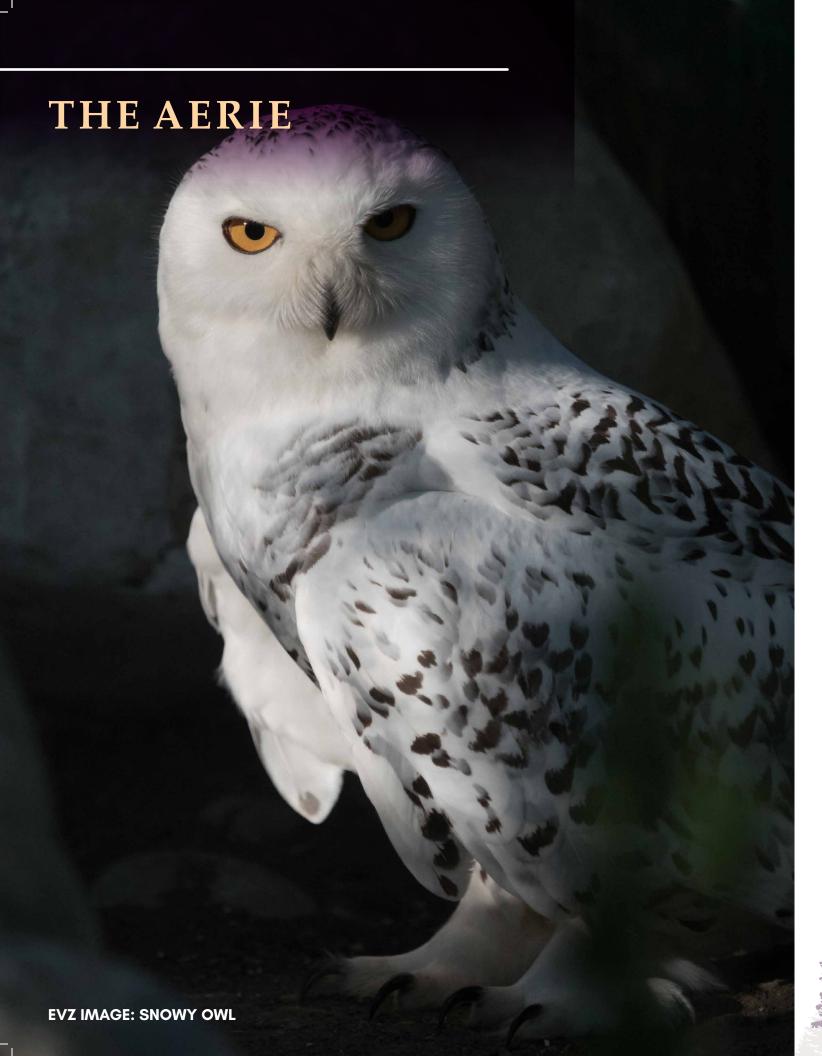
The boardwalk bridge descends, carrying them to a set of vestibule doors, where a quiet hush settles the family as they enter a forested world. Keen eyes peer down from overhead, as great-horned owls study their every move. Together, they read stories of each feathered friend and how they came to be at the zoo through partnership rescue programs.

"This is their home."









FUNCTIONAL PROGRAM

The complete functional program including: sizes, components, levels of service requirements, critical asset identification and risk is included in Appendix B.

The functional program largely reflects new or modified infrastructure. Existing infrastructure to be maintained is discussed on page 127, with modifications and removals to current infrastructure further described in Appendix C.

PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

- Aerial treetop trail canopy walk experience
- Butterflies & bug pavilion
- Golden lion tamarin & Linne's two-toed sloth indoor and outdoor habitats
- Current red panda and lemur habitats
- Current urban farm & with remodeled temporary staff hub
- Raptor walkthrough aviary
- General components public areas (pathways, landscaping & fencing); picnic area; signage (interpretive & wayfinding); trees; utilities; zone lighting

POTENTIAL SPECIES

Red panda / Ailurus fulgens refulgens

Black-and-white ruffed lemur / Varecia variegata

Ring-tailed lemur / Lemur catta

Golden lion tamarin / Leontopithecus rosalia

Goeldi's monkey / Callimico goeldii

Linne's two-toed sloth / Choleopus didactylus

Domestic goats (boer & toggenburg) / Capra hircus domestic

European honey bee / Apis mellifera

Snowy owl / Bubo scandiacus

Great grey owl* / Strix nebulosa

Great horned owl* / Bubo virginianus

Rough legged hawk */ Buteo lagopus

Various bugs + invertebrates*

Various small ambassador animals for indoor tropical display in Bugs + Butterflies

* Indicates new species



