

AMUR RIVER TAIGA

JOURNEY TO ASIA'S NORTHERN FORESTS

The central zone of the EVZ is home to megafauna species The zone experience is augmented through immersive that create a powerful "WOW" feeling for visitors while drawing parallels between local and global forest and river stories. The Amur River defines the border between the Russian Far East and Northeast China, and is home to many northern, cold-climate tolerant species including Amur tigers, Amur leopards, Eurasian eagle owls and Amur brown bears. Also home to unusual herbivores like the Siberian musk deer and Asian cranes and Oriental storks, the Amur River Taiga zone is a representation of Asian species unique to the Edmonton Valley Zoo. The Sichuan takin are another cold climate Asian species who currently reside at the zoo and will be relocated to this zone. Their space will be bisected by the Care Outpost viewing structure that provides visitors with refuge and place to learn about the excellent animal care at the EVZ.

By focusing on species from this region, we can create dynamic habitats that do not require significant indoor space. The species chosen for this zone are adapted for the significant temperature fluctuations and range in central Alberta. The wild habitats in the Taiga biome are similar to Canadian boreal forests, engaging visitors in 'our forest - their forest' narratives that reinforce global ecosystem connectivity.

The dynamic habitats feature varying terrain including topographical changes, dense planting, and rock elements, all linked by a connective water feature representing the river. This zone is one of the three that branch off the Waterways to the World, and the river is symbolic of water flowing through the arteries of the world.

habitat features, including overhead transfers for tigers, training walls for husbandry demonstrations, and opportunities to view species in their indoor winter spaces. The Eurasian eagle owl aviary is located between the two main bear habitat spaces to keep this area activated during the winter months when the bears are sleeping. One of the bear dens will remain on view for visitors. These elements provide visitors with different perspectives, including barrier-free views that showcase and help build appreciation for the thought and care that underpins EVZ's commitment to animal wellbeing.



EVZ IMAGE: SICHUAN TAKIN



REFERENCE IMAGE: AMUR TIGER IN AMUR RIVER VALLEY



REFERENCE IMAGE: AMUR RIVER



REFERENCE IMAGE: AMUR LEOPARD



PRECEDENT IMAGE: BROWN BEAR TRAINING WALL

VISITOR JOURNEY - AMUR RIVER TAIGA

Lauryn, Natalie and Laura are ready for a Mom's night out!
They've bought tickets for Zoo Brew and they are looking forward to enjoying the zoo...without their kids. Their kids are a little older now and they don't come to the zoo as often as they used to, but it has a lot of special memories of maternity leave stroller walks.

Cheers!"

The line of brewery tents stretches up the wide Waterways path, each showcasing a variety of tasty libations. On their right, the trio spots a tower of striped beer cans and realize the vendor has a prime spot, right in front the tiger habitat. a cascading stream bubbling through the middle, widening to a cool pool.

"I thought they were called Siberian tigers?"

Lauryn spots the sign, the stunning illustration has intense, piercing tiger eyes staring directly towards them. "It says here that they used to be, but they don't really live in Siberia anymore. They pretty much only live in the Amur River Valley in Russia, and they're critically endangered. But it says the Edmonton Valley Zoo is part of a Species Survival Program where they match and breed tigers to ensure they have healthy genetics."

"Match, like Tiger Tinder? That's pretty cool."

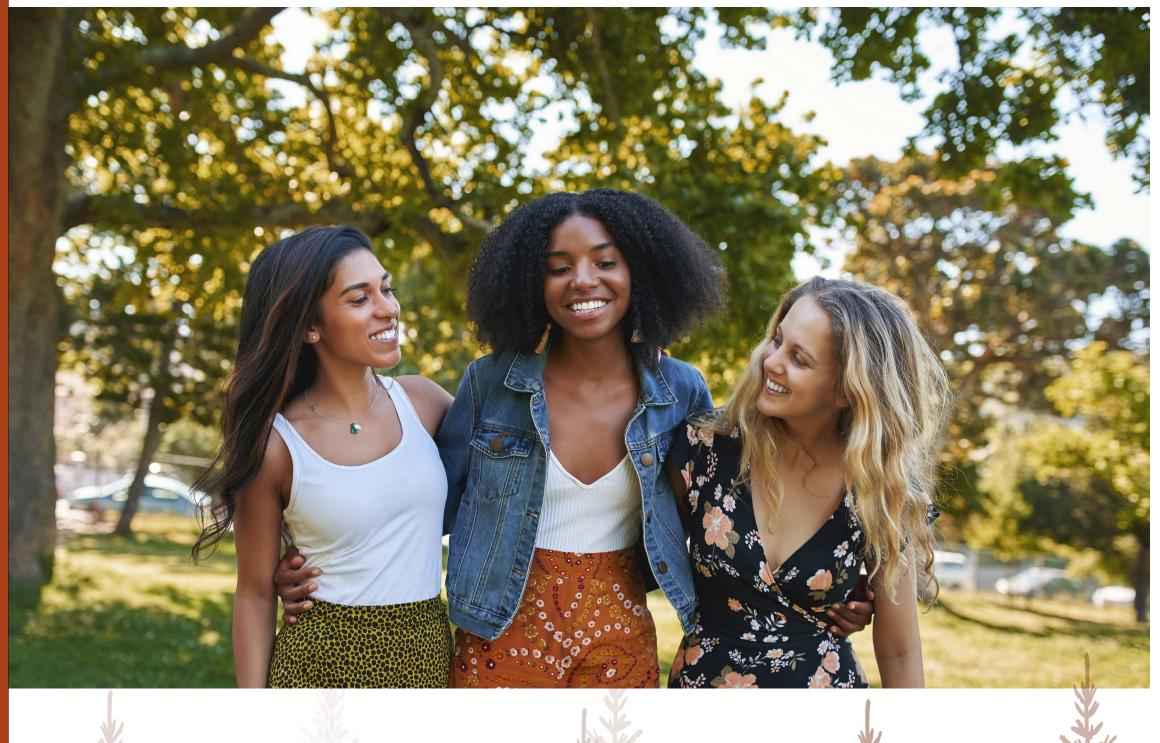
Across the path, they spot a small crowd gathered. Asking a staff member what's happening, they learn that a bear training demonstration is about to start.

"You train the bears?"

The team member explains that the training is for husbandry and veterinary care and lets the bears participate in their own care by learning behaviours like showing their paws and teeth. They are working on teaching them to do voluntary blood draws so they don't have to sedate them to check on their health.

"It's up to the bear if she wants to participate, but we do offer a tasty food reward if she makes the choice to do the behaviour."

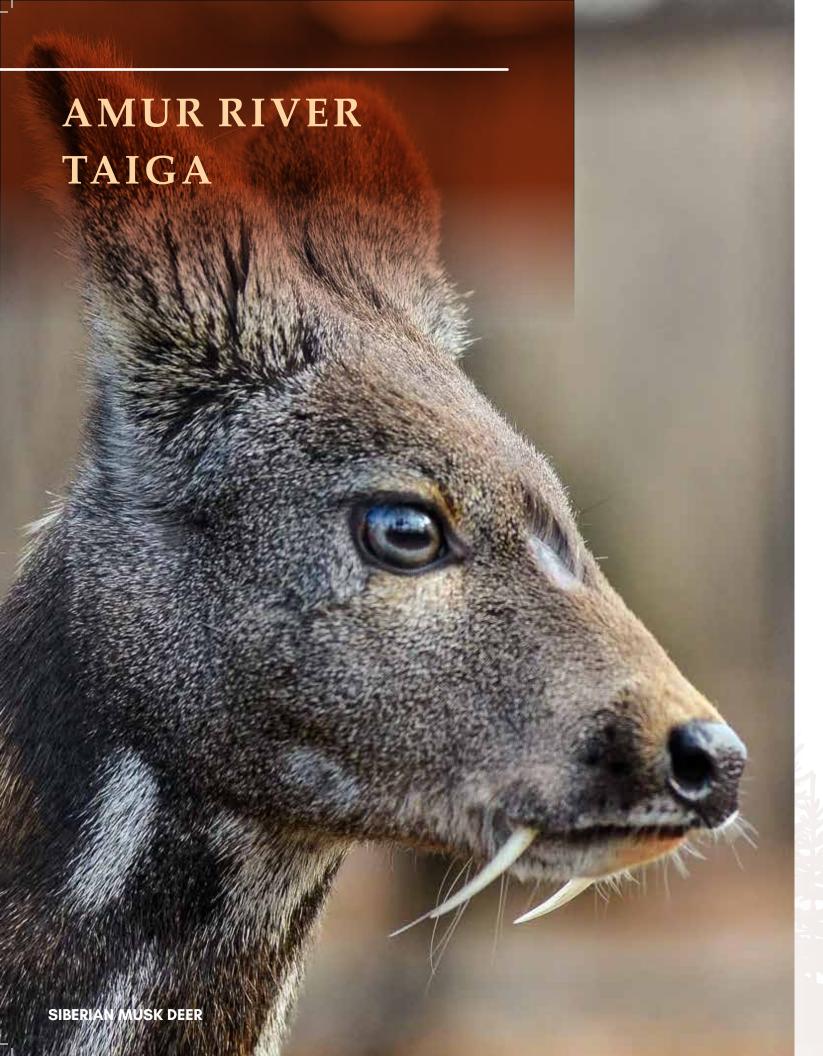
"Okay we have to watch that, but let's grab another beer."







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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

- Amur tiger habitats with overhead transfers
- Amur leopard habitat
- Care outpost & viewing shelter
- Other viewing shelters
- Siberian musk deer, Asian storks & cranes mixed species habitat
- Eurasian eagle owl aviary
- Sichuan takin habitats
- Amur brown bear habitats
- Parallel play element
- General components public areas (pathways, landscaping & fencing); signage (interpretive & wayfinding); trees; utilities; zone lighting

POTENTIAL SPECIES

Amur tiger / Panthera tigris altaica
Sichuan takin / Budorcas taxicolor tibetana
Eurasian eagle owl / Bubo bubo
Amur leopard*/ Panthera pardus orientalis
Siberian musk deer* / Moschus moschiferus
Red-crowned crane* / Grus japonensis
Oriental white stork* / Ciconia boyciana
Amur brown bear* / Ursus arctos lasious

Indicates new species

