



Wednesday, June 1, 2022

**Friends of the Greenville Zoo, Inc.**

DBA: Greenville Zoo Foundation

150 Cleveland Park Drive

Greenville, SC 29601

[Greenvillezooofoundation.org](http://Greenvillezooofoundation.org)

**Project:** Greenville Zoo Infrastructure and Exhibit Updates

**Amount:** \$1,000,000.00

**Recipient:** Non-Profit 501(c)3 Organization

**Tax ID#** 57-0654589

**Contact:** Lydia Thomas, Executive Director

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**1. The activity, function or project for which earmark is intended.**

All funding provided by the state will be utilized by the Greenville Zoo Foundation for capital improvements to the Greenville Zoo's infrastructure and exhibits. The listed projects are earmarked to be completed first and will address necessary improvements to the Greenville Zoo's animal enclosures. The improvements will support the health and well-being of the Zoo's animals and ensure the Zoo meets the requirements for accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The Greenville Zoo has been accredited with the AZA for 30 years, and to stay accredited, the Zoo must keep up with changing animal practices and exhibit standards.

- **New Africa Plaza and ADA Compliant Pathway**

The Africa Plaza will include a new ADA compliant pathway through a thematically planted hillside, with the potential for a lion training wall and a new exhibit.

- **Giraffe Feeding Platform**

The Giraffe Feeding Platform will allow the Zoo to offer giraffe encounters to the public, providing both an educational experience for the community and a new revenue source to the Zoo for capital improvement.

- **Siamang Exhibit Renovation**

Existing exhibit will be renovated and expanded to meet AZA standards and adequately house a family of Siamangs.

- **New Orangutan Holding Area**

Existing holding area will be updated to meet AZA standards.

- **Farmyard Renovation and Expansion**

Existing exhibit will be renovated and expanded to meet AZA standards. The project will address ADA compliance and allow the Zoo to bring in an education component with animal encounters.

**2. Public purpose served by the project**

Home to over 200 animals representing 79 species, the Greenville Zoo is one of just 239 Zoos and Aquariums in the United States accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). AZA accreditation acknowledges the highest standards of animal health, enrichment and welfare, conservation, education and recreation. Maintaining this accreditation ensures the animals at the Greenville Zoo are receiving the greatest care and the South Carolina community is provided the maximum benefits for education and recreation.

### **3. Project Budget**

New Africa Plaza and ADA Compliant Pathway - \$350,000  
Giraffe Feeding Platform - \$350,000  
Siamang Exhibit Renovation - \$955,000  
New Orangutan Holding Area - \$2,200,000  
Farmyard Renovation and Expansion - \$1,200,000

### **4. Demonstrated community support and need.**

The Greenville Zoo has a wide appeal throughout the community, attracting over 300,000 guests each year. The Zoo partners with schools to host over 500 school visits, and the award-winning education department serves over 40,000 school children each year. This year, the Zoo's Distance Learning Programs reached over 14,000. Over 500 community volunteers assist the Zoo per year, and the Zoo partners with many corporations such as Prisma Health, Spartanburg Regional and PNC Bank. The Greenville Zoo is a unique education resource that often supplements schools' education curriculums. Many of the programs are free with admission to the Zoo. The goal of the Greenville Zoo is to connect the community to wildlife, and inspire a life-long appreciation for the world, and its value to the community is immense.

### **5. Details of any state funds previously appropriated to the same or similar purpose.**

The Greenville Zoo Foundation has not received state funding.