

Redefined



A Wilder Future

REDEFINED

2022 was a year of growth at the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo. Once again, we have proven that together we can do extraordinary things. Our passionate team of staff and volunteers continued to provide exceptional care to the animals that call your zoo home, we continued to educate and inspire our community about the importance of wildlife conservation and we delivered more memorable experiences to our visitors than ever before.

From reintroducing threatened species to the wild to empowering communities to safeguard natural resources, we undertook efforts to assist 27 species at risk through 18 collaborative conservation initiatives that have positively impacted the environment and its inhabitants. We are seeing and inspiring changes to protect wildlife and wild places, locally and globally, and we have no plans of slowing down!

As I look ahead through 2023 and beyond, I'm very excited! While challenges may persist, hope does exist. The resiliency of species, as well as the determination of people around the world to protect them, paints an optimistic future for both wildlife and wild places. With a strong track record behind us and a deliberate path forward, the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo is well-positioned to help restore the balance between human life and wildlife in 2023 and beyond.

Thank you to our passionate staff and volunteers, our incredible donors and sponsors, our valued members and our community of supporters from around the globe. Because of you, the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo continues to be a place that inspires the next generation, takes action that makes a difference for wildlife and wild places, and invites our guests and community to become part of the solution to the challenges facing nature. Your heartfelt commitment to conservation inspires me.

As we continue our journey to be Canada's leader in wildlife conservation, the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo will remain a force of nature for making the world a wilder place. Thank you for supporting wildlife conservation!

Merci,



Dr. Clément Lanthier

President and CEO, Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo

“Returning more than 4,000 animals and plants into the wild is an accomplishment that all Canadians should celebrate. Conservation work is a collaborative effort, and this success would not be possible without organizations, communities, government, and individuals working together for the betterment of biodiversity, no matter how big or small the role is that they have played.”

- Dr. Clément Lanthier



THE WILDER INSTITUTE/
CALGARY ZOO

Redefined

With deep roots spanning over nine decades, the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo is one of the nation's favourite family destinations.

Sitting on 125 acres in the heart of the city, it is one of the oldest charities in Alberta and a leading authority in fighting the extinction of plants and animals worldwide.

As we continued on our journey to becoming Canada's leader in wildlife conservation, the opportunity to redefine our future became clear. We needed a new kind of conservation organization – one dedicated to research-based, collaborative work that engaged local people and governments to influence policy and advance global conservation practices.

That opportunity became reality with the launch of the Wilder Institute in 2021. The evolution of our charitable organization – to the Wilder Institute and the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo – provided us the unique ability to educate generations of visitors about the need for conservation with the help of animal ambassadors locally while also pursuing innovative conservation action that went beyond our gates, our province and our country.

“Restoring balance between wildlife, wild places, and human life, and sticking the landing, means embracing the reality that home is where wildlife belongs, but that home is where people belong, too. We must co-exist — not build fences.”

- Steven Ross, Chief Development Officer



WHO IS THE WILDER INSTITUTE?

Previously known as the Calgary Zoo Foundation, the Wilder Institute delivers on the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo's wildlife conservation mission.

“My role at the zoo is to help guests connect with nature and animals in new and interesting ways. This is why I get so excited about creating new events – to help attract diverse audiences that may never think of coming to the zoo. We give them a reason to care about conservation and why it matters. This is what inspires me.”

- Gillian Cardwell, Manager of
Special Experiences

Gorilla troop story

The zoo's beloved western lowland gorilla troop has won the hearts of our community near and far, with the birth of a female gorilla infant in 2022 bringing much-needed attention to her critically endangered species.

One-year-old Eyare may be tiny, but as an ambassador educating visitors about the struggles gorillas face in the wild, she is a mighty force with a growing platform! When she was born, it was a collaborative effort with our community partners at the Nigerian Conservation Foundation to find a moniker fit for such a treasured new addition. Eyare, originated from the Boky language used in the northern Cross River State of Nigeria, translates to “treasure, pride and gift” – feelings evoked in anyone lucky enough to see her.





Pack impact

HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE ACHIEVED TOGETHER IN 2022.



Undertook conservation efforts for

**27 SPECIES
AT RISK**

IN CANADA AND
AROUND THE WORLD

through 18 collaborative projects.



HOSTED OVER
500 EVENTS

Including corporate parties, weddings, and more.



Engaged and inspired guests with over

**1,100 SURPRISE
AND DELIGHT MOMENTS,**

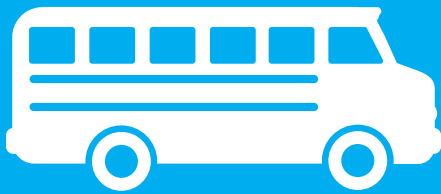
proudly brought to you by Servus Credit Union



WELCOMED THE ARRIVAL OF
38 ANIMALS



CELEBRATED THE
BIRTHS/HATCHES OF
113 ANIMALS



CONNECTED WITH OVER
30,000 STUDENTS
THROUGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

WELCOMED OVER
1,900 YOUTH
to summer camps



OUR 1000+
PASSIONATE STAFF
AND VOLUNTEERS
warmly welcomed over
1.2 MILLION VISITORS

Delighted guests after hours with

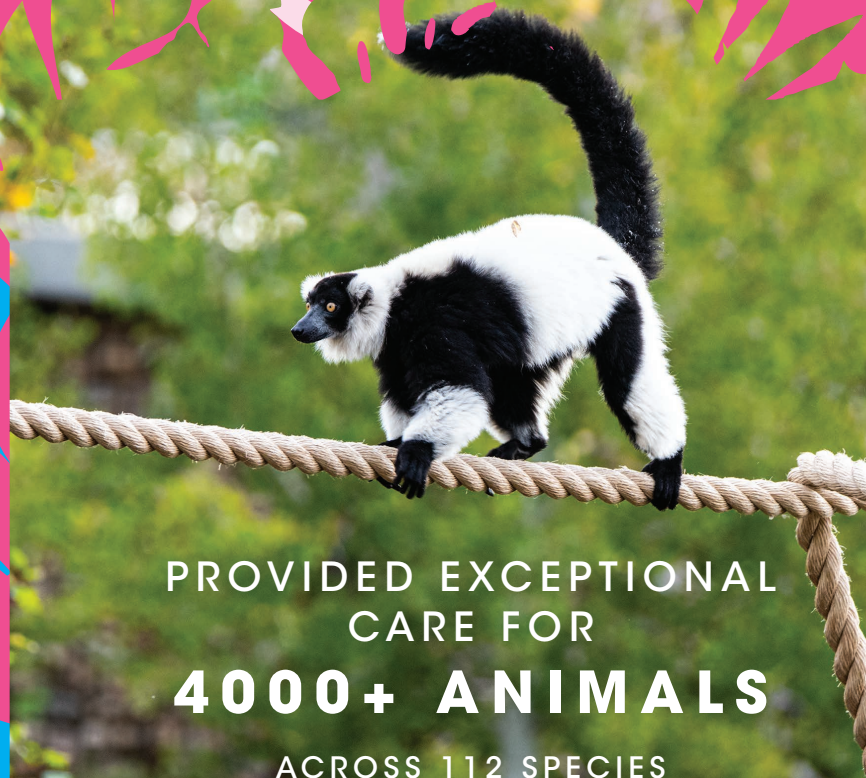
30 SPECIAL
EVENT
EXPERIENCES



More than

540 VOLUNTEERS
DONATED NEARLY
50,000 VOLUNTEER
HOURS

CONDUCTED OVER
3,100 VETERINARY
PROCEDURES



PROVIDED EXCEPTIONAL
CARE FOR
4000+ ANIMALS
ACROSS 112 SPECIES

A Wilder Purpose

REDEFINED

In 2021, we introduced the world to the Wilder Institute. As the zoo's conservation-focused arm, it started with a purpose - to restore balance between wildlife and human life, together.

Though our roots run deep in Alberta and Western Canada, the impact of our work is felt on a global scale. Through partnerships with communities around the world, we aim to develop local economies and empower sustainable livelihoods while working to protect at-risk species critical to their local ecosystems.

Together with our partners, we are helping to bring species back from the brink -making the world a wilder place.

“We often think that conservation is simply about releasing animals into the wild, but that is just one part of the story. Saving wildlife is like assembling a jigsaw puzzle, but without a picture from the box to work from and often with missing pieces. Conservation teams work to put all the pieces of the puzzle together.”

- Tara Stephens, Conservation Research
Population Ecologist

Better Together

By 2030, we aim to work with eight or more communities around the world on community-based conservation initiatives, providing scientific guidance and field work leadership, logistical support, monitoring, evaluation and more.

The Wilder Institute works in collaboration with stakeholders such as landowners, local peoples, First Nations, researchers, other conservation NGOs and with multiple levels of government within Canada and around the globe. We do this to bring together all the requisite knowledge bases and resources to scientifically develop, test and implement effective solutions for species-at-risk.

In 2022, the Kenya Mountain Bongo Partnership celebrated the opening of the Eburu Natural Forest Honey Cooperative in Kenya, to generate sustainable income through honey harvesting and product development while easing human pressure on forest resources and Critically Endangered mountain bongo. New research by our scientists this past year has also found that while illegal hunting and logging present ongoing threats to wildlife, 95% of community members surveyed support future reintroductions of mountain bongo.



“Just like humans, all species have a right to exist in this world, no matter how big or small. Our team here at the Wilder Institute is proud to be able to contribute its conservation expertise to help protect some of our world’s biodiversity. ”

- Lea Randall, Interim Senior Manager, Conservation Translocation



1,929
ENDANGERED
NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG
TADPOLES RELEASED INTO
BC WATERS

CONSERVATION TRANSLOCATIONS: A RIBBITING SUCCESS!

Conservation translocations and reintroductions are some of the most important tools to help prevent species loss. Put simply, a translocation is the act of moving at-risk species from captivity or the wild to another wild location where they’re in decline.

The Wilder Institute’s northern leopard frog program had a banner year in 2022! We selected a new reintroduction site near Cranbrook, B.C. A total of 1,929 tadpoles were released into four wetlands at the new site, and by the end of summer, they had spread to all 23 surveyed wetlands.

Throughout the summer, the average size of frogs at the new site was 20% larger and 114% heavier than at the previous reintroduction site! By September, all of the frogs surveyed were large enough to have reached reproductive maturity (determined by size rather than age in northern leopard frogs). The Wilder team is cautiously optimistic that we will see wild breeding amongst the released northern leopard frogs in the coming spring– a first in the program.

Wildlife Achievements

IN 2022

“The need to protect wildlife and restore biodiversity has never been greater. I’m so proud to see communities coming together across the country to support the recovery of these threatened species. We’ve seen thousands of volunteers supporting citizen science efforts, garnered support from governments, non-profits, and industry partners, and welcomed new wild friends through our conservation efforts this past year.”

- Dr. Clément Lanthier, President and CEO

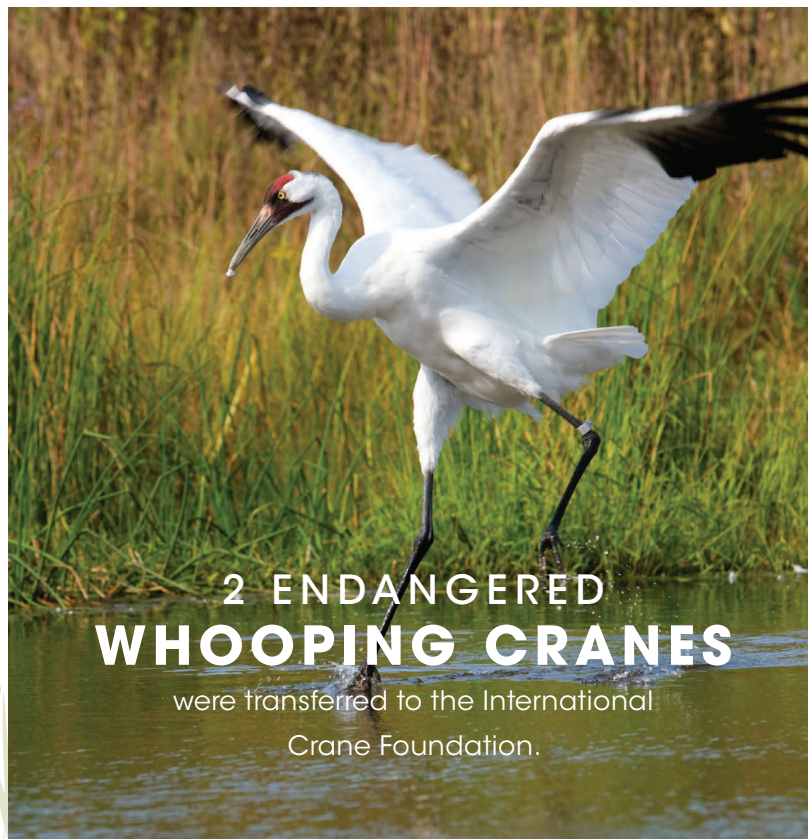
OPENED THE ARCHIBALD BIODIVERSITY CENTRE (ABC).



17 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED
Vancouver Island marmot pups were born at the ABC and 10 previously born at the ABC were released.



41 ENDANGERED
GREATER SAGE-GROUSE
were released into Alberta and Saskatchewan.



2 ENDANGERED
WHOOPING CRANES
were transferred to the International Crane Foundation.

2 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED
PRZEWALSKI'S HORSE FOALS

were born at the ABC.

Supported the planting of 1,000+ wood poppies
and 1,000+ crooked-stem asters in Ontario.

Launched the
**CROSS RIVER GORILLA
INITIATIVE,**

a new community-based conservation program.

Shared our knowledge in conservation with over

6,000 PEOPLE

at our first-ever Alberta Biodiversity Festival.

Supported responsible business development,
such as the

**EBURU NATURAL FOREST
HONEY COOPERATIVE,**

to support sustainable livelihoods in Kenya.

BECAUSE OF YOU

The generous gifts given by our donor community are put to work, helping us provide world-class care to animals that call the zoo home, education programs that inspire the conservationists of tomorrow and support projects like the Canadian Wilds that will connect future visitors with wildlife. Beyond the zoo's gates, these gifts also support our critical conservation work that gives hope to species at risk in the wild and improves the livelihoods of local communities.



**20 ENDANGERED
BURROWING OWLS**

released through the head-starting program.

Visitor Experience

REDEFINED

We couldn't do it without you! Thanks to your generous support, through day admissions, donations, memberships, school programs, corporate and after-hours events, we're able to do our critical conservation work each day. Together, we're protecting the future of wildlife and wild places!

"It's been so exciting to help our team of Wildlife Visitor Experience Hosts evolve and share their passion for wildlife conservation and the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo. I'm looking forward to watching them find new and engaging ways to connect with our guests over the coming year!"

- Jennifer Evans

Coordinator of Visitor Engagement

Surprising & Delighting Visitors Daily

Conservation has never been more entertaining! Our passionate and dedicated team of Wildlife Visitor Experience Hosts is always coming up with new and exciting ways to connect with our visitors. Whether you're attending the annual Penguin Walk or being wowed by our in-house Wilder Bunch theatre team, having fun with chalk art and colouring pages or taking in the sights of our daily summertime Conservation Parades, our Visitor Engagement team is always on hand to help ensure you have the best time, every time.

Wild After Hours

As the sun sets and the animals settle down for the night, the zoo "comes alive", transforming into a whimsical backdrop for evening adventures. At each of our adult-only nighttime events, guests enjoy exclusive access or behind-the-scenes experiences, all while enjoying music, delicious food, refreshing libations, and engaging activities! With an exciting lineup of returning favourites, like Locked Zoo, Zoo Brew, Sustainable Seafood Boil and Corks for Conservation, along with a slew of new zoo-nique offerings.



**OVER 134,000
PEOPLE**

**EXPERIENCED THE MAGIC
OF ZOOLIGHTS,**

presented by Olympia Trust Company, under
the glow of thousands of twinkling lights
during the 2022/23 season.

The first Corks for Conservation event in 2022

**WELCOMED
450+ GUESTS**

Inspiring the Conservationists of Tomorrow

We have a strong commitment to delivering high-quality conservation education to the thousands of youths that visit us each year. Educational school programs, camps and field trips encourage children to engage in immersive experiences that build a connection with the natural world, and an awareness of the challenges and solutions for sustaining them. For those who can't visit the zoo in person, our dynamic conservation educators have created a Virtual Safari Program which provides an engaging virtual experience.



2022 SAW US BREAK RECORDS!

We hosted an incredible

545 EVENTS,

including 82 weddings
and 143 holiday parties!

Wild Times at the Zoo

From weddings to office barbecues, team-builders to holiday parties, the Event Sales team at the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo knows how to deliver remarkable experiences! Corporate events at the zoo offer a unique opportunity for companies or groups looking to reward their employees, impress their clients, or host a truly inspiring event in the most unique venue in the city.

Zoo school attendees:
840 ATTENDEES IN 26 WEEKS

Conservation champions:
372 STUDENTS IN 19 CLASSES

School programs:
**24,061 STUDENTS & ADULTS
IN 907 PROGRAMS**

Summer camps:
**1967 ATTENDEES IN
13 CAMPS OVER 8 WEEKS**



Animal Wellbeing

REDEFINED

Animal wellbeing is at the core of what we do. It is the driver of every decision and every action. From what our guests see, touch and do during their visits through to the research projects we pursue, each move we make is a deliberate step towards protecting the lives of species at risk here at home and around the world for generations to come.

What it means to be an accredited institution

We are among the world-class zoos and aquariums that have achieved the rigorous accreditation standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). This accreditation signifies our rigorous attention to providing superior animal care and memorable and safe guest experiences.



In order to receive this accreditation, we have been evaluated by recognized experts in the profession and measured against the established standards and best practices in animal care and welfare, veterinary programs, conservation work, education, visitor services and safety. We are regularly re-evaluated to ensure the highest standards of animal welfare and care are being delivered and we are proud to say that have maintained our AZA accreditation for 45 years since 1978!

“When animals can voluntarily participate in their own care, it makes the process less stressful for the animal and its human caregivers. It takes time, dedication, and a lot of patience! I’m extremely proud of my team and truly grateful to be able to work with such magnificent animals and contribute to their survival.”

- Mona Keith, Animal Care Supervisor

What is an SSP?

Species survival plans, or SSPs, are cooperatively managed programs that identify population management goals and recommendations to ensure the sustainability of a healthy, genetically diverse and demographically varied animal population within zoos and aquariums. Here at the zoo, we participate in over 40 SSPs for animals from the largest western lowland gorilla to the smallest Egyptian box tortoise.



Helping our Flamingos Flamingle

Flamingos have been a fan favourite at the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo for generations. But what many visitors may not realize when looking at the flourishing flamboyance is the challenge faced by our team when it comes to promoting breeding amongst these birds.

The last successful flamingo chick at our zoo hatched in 1993. Since then, zoo animal care and avian specialists have been working to understand and replicate the conditions that culminated in the hatch. In 2022, they saw the first glimmer of possible success when members of the flamboyance began to display positive breeding and nesting behaviours!

When the Animal Care, Health & Welfare team was preparing for the 2022 breeding and nesting season, an avian influenza outbreak in the city forced them to pivot, keeping the flamboyance inside to protect the birds from the threat. It's known that "shifting" flamingos, moving them from one habitat to another, can be disruptive to nesting behaviours. When the birds were kept in their indoor habitat, instead of moving inside and outside as is common when temperatures warm up, they started seeing significant increases in nesting behaviour – not only were the birds building nest mounds, but the paired and potentially breeding birds were returning to the same mounds each time.

While no eggs came out of the 2022 breeding season, these positive behavioural changes presented an incredible learning opportunity! We are continually learning and evolving our practices and strategies to offer our animals, great and small, the best quality of life possible.

“When we treat animals well,
we act with both self-respect
and mutual respect.”

- The Honourable Murray Sinclair
Author of the original Jane Goodall
Act legislation and former senator and
Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

BILL S-241: THE JANE GOODALL ACT

Every day at Canada's leading zoos, our amazing teams of dedicated specialists work to ensure that the animals we love receive exceptional care. Currently under review by the Canadian Senate, the Jane Goodall Act (Bill S-941) will establish the strongest legal protections Canada-wide for wild species in human care. This bill is backed by the nation's top zoos (including us!), animal advocacy groups and the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada and has undergone intense review from experts in animal welfare. With a focus on species with complex needs — including clever creatures like grizzly bears — the Act will ensure world-class care becomes the standard across Canada.



Community Connections

REDEFINED

It begins with you. From our volunteers to our members and donors, our community sustains work that makes a world of difference. Through your generous support, you help provide world-class care for animals, give hope to at-risk species, inspire future generations and help create cherished family memories.

Offer-ly Exciting Outcomes

The Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo is celebrated as a centre for innovative habitat design practices. And our resident bevy of North American river otters was one of the most recent species to experience the benefits of an all-new habitat. This re-imagined space was a long-time dream that came to life thanks to the generous support of our donor community!

Last year, we introduced 'Malo' – a young, orphaned otter pup rescued by the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre that needed a new home. Our donors didn't hesitate to lend a helping hand and thanks to their generosity, we were able to welcome him with open arms.

TOTAL MEMBERS

86,104

TOTAL DONORS

11,772



VITAL VOLUNTEERS

Every day, the zoo's volunteers donate a most valuable gift – their time! These passionate individuals play a role in every aspect of our organization and often, the passion to get involved starts at a young age and continues throughout their lifetime. From teens to 30+ year veterans, our volunteers support teams across the zoo, enhance the visitor experience, and connect guests with nature in a way that inspires action to protect wildlife and wild places.

“I especially appreciate the care and attention our volunteers take to learn specific information about all of our animals.”

- Sarah Mackey
Senior Development Officer, Partnerships

**521 TOTAL
VOLUNTEERS**

**TOTAL VOLUNTEER
HOURS: 52,629**



The Future

REDEFINED

Reimagining the Canadian Wilds

The Canadian Wilds zone at the zoo has been educating visitors and future conservationists for 40 years. In 2021, we set about to undertake one of the largest projects in our organization's history - to reimagine the Canadian Wilds.

Our goals through this project are to showcase our active role in the conservation of native Canadian species and create larger, more complex habitats for our North American river otters, whooping cranes, woodland caribou and muskox, as well as create a sanctuary for polar bears.

Through this project, we look to honour Indigenous knowledge, science and art by collaborating with Indigenous communities to weave Indigenous Ways of Knowing into our interpretive journey. The new Canadian Wilds experience will envelop you in beautiful and immersive habitats with compelling storytelling that encourages us to reflect on the human connection to the natural world and our responsibility to protect it. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our valued donors, funders and government partners.

MOHKINSTSIS

The Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo sits in a very special place. A sacred spot known to the Blackfoot people as 'Mohkinstsis'. "Mohkinstsis" (MOH-kin-stiss) is the Blackfoot name for 'Calgary'. The word translates to "elbow" and refers to the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers just off the southwest shore of St. George's Island (the island the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo sits upon).

When the Canadian Wilds reopens later this year, our hope is for our visitors to see themselves as part of the wonder, right alongside the magnificent wildlife that calls Canada home. It's time to remember how close we truly are. Remember that we once shared the same wild spaces – and dare to make a world we can share once more. We can't wait to welcome you into this special space this Winter.

**MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH INVESTMENT BY
THE TAYLOR FAMILY FOUNDATION, BRAWN
FAMILY FOUNDATION, GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA – CANADIAN HERITAGE AND PRAIRIES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CANADA, PROVINCE
OF ALBERTA, CITY OF CALGARY, AND MANY
GENEROUS DONORS, FUNDERS AND PARTNERS.**

“As an internationally-recognized conservation charity, the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo is known for our excellence in habitat design and animal care. We are well suited to support the identified need to provide sanctuary to polar bears and support greater conservation messaging around the critical issues facing wildlife in Canada’s Arctic.”

- Jamie Dorgan, Interim Chief Operating Officer



Ways to Give

Financial support for the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo can be provided in a variety of ways: from annual gifts and ZooCare contributions, to donations for special projects and planned gifts. We invite you to review our projects and programs to see what might interest you.

calgaryzoo.com | wilderinstitute.org

For more information, please contact the development office at the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo.

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Charitable Registration
#118824192RR0001

