

California!

Oakland Zoo, Oakland CA



The Concept Plan for this new area of the zoo called California! develops the basic direction set in the previous master plan and refines the visitor amenities, animal exhibits, and the transportation to this remote area of the zoo. The new expansion zone will be more akin to a wild animal park than to a traditional zoo; animals will be viewed in large open natural habitats surrounded by the existing native plants of the site.

Visitors will be transported by an aerial tram up steep grassy hillsides and ravines thick with oaks. Arriving at the orientation plaza visitors will be introduced to the natural occurrences of extinction, geologic change, and human impacts on the natural environment of California.

A short walk down a wooden boardwalk will provide visitors

with excellent views of a wolf pack and the secretive jaguar whose historical range stretched north into California. Grizzly bear roam freely across the open grassland, mountain lion will be viewed from beneath the leafy canopy of mature oaks, and black bear range over a steep hillside of widely scattered oak trees.

An interpretive center will exhibit live animals and interactive components that present current information about native species in the bay area. Returning back to the tram station, visitors will have an opportunity to purchase gift items or dine at the view restaurant in the visitor center.

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Oakland Zoo
Oakland, California
2006-2007
\$ 32 Million

