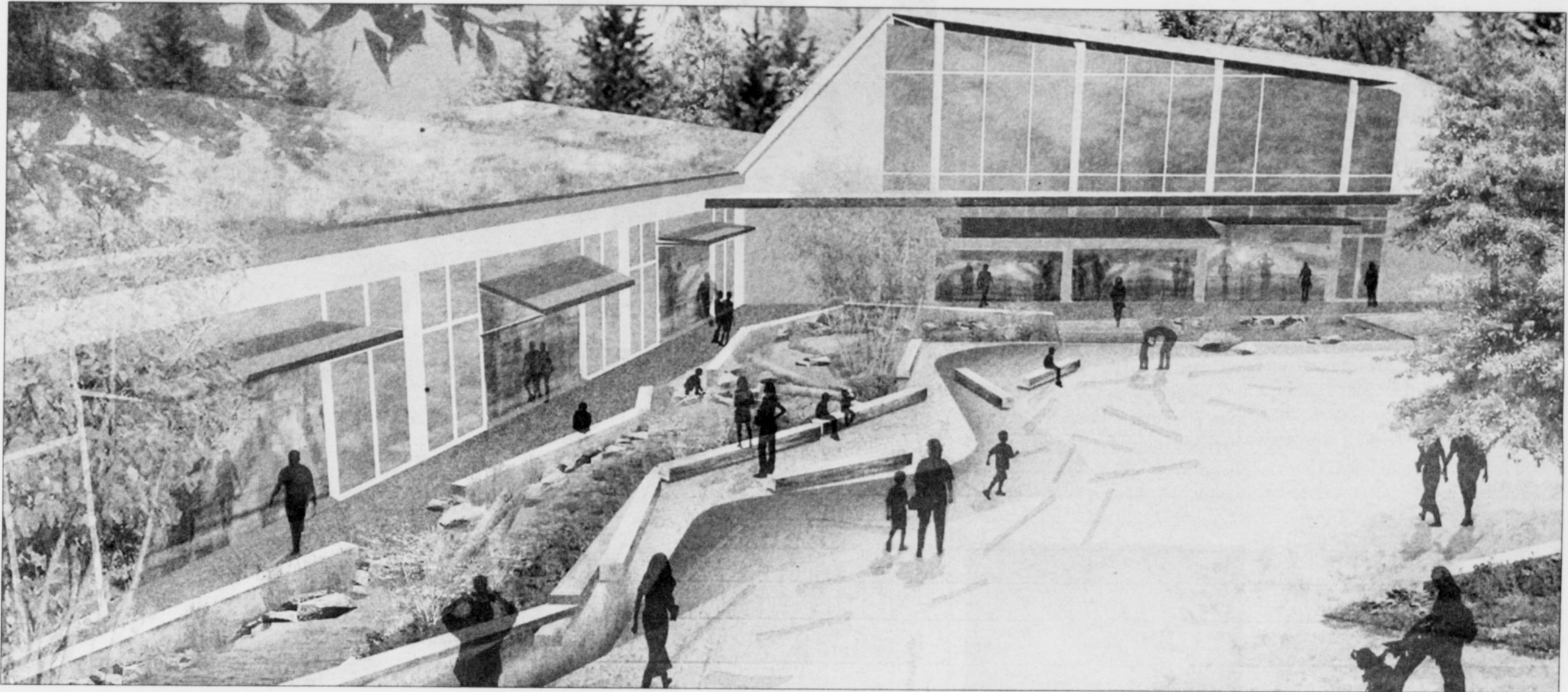


The Portland Observer Sustainability



An artist's rendering shows an eco-roof atop the Oregon Zoo's planned conservation education center. The roof will slow and filter stormwater runoff and insulate the building.

Greener Future for the Oregon Zoo

Plan includes eco-roof and other energy-saving designs

The Oregon Zoo is looking to become a truly "green" zoo. A new 20-year master plan approved Nov. 3 by the Metro Council will help guide that vision.

A zoo-wide geothermal heat exchanger, rain-harvesting systems and green roofs are among the elements of the plan that will save energy and water, as well as re-

duce operating costs. On each new facility, the zoo is striving for silver certification or better from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program.

At the same time, the master plan will help the zoo implement a new vision of expanded, more

natural habitats in which animals can make choices about how and where to spend their day. Each habitat will be larger, will include more natural materials and will be open to the air and sky, with sheltered areas for colder seasons.

The plan lays out 20 years of improvements to guest and animal spaces across the zoo, ini-

tially focusing on replacing and upgrading the oldest areas of the zoo campus. The most critical need is for a new veterinary medical center, which is already under construction and due to be completed by the end of the year. A water-saving filtration system for the penguin pool is also close to completion.

Habitats for elephants, polar bears, rhinos and primates will

come next. A new education center, and an entirely new condor habitat, are also part of the first phase of projects.

A \$125 million property tax bond, passed by voters in 2008, is funding this first phase of master plan implementation. The remaining projects identified in the master plan will be funded through future sources.

Focus on Parks East of I-205

Portland Parks and Recreation has completed improvements to West Powellhurst Park as part of an initiative to champion parks east of I-205, which is a region of the city that does not have the rich tradition of parks and recreational places seen in older parts of the city.

This month, the parks bureau installed new park benches and spread fresh ADA-accessible wood chips on the entire soft surface path at West Powellhurst.

"The park is looking better than ever," says PP&R East Zone manager Doug Brenner. "It's a pleasure creating improvements to existing parks for the immediate enjoyment of all users! We are proud to help advance the City's E205 Initiative."

Portland Parks & Recreation finished E205 improvements at Parklane Park last month. An enthusiastic park user named Julie shared photos of her family enjoying the improved facilities, which include swings, playground equipment, and drinking fountains.

"Thank you so much for all you do for our park," she wrote.



A mother and son enjoy the recent improvements to Parklane Park at Southeast 155th and Main.

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