

# Como Park Zoo & Conservatory



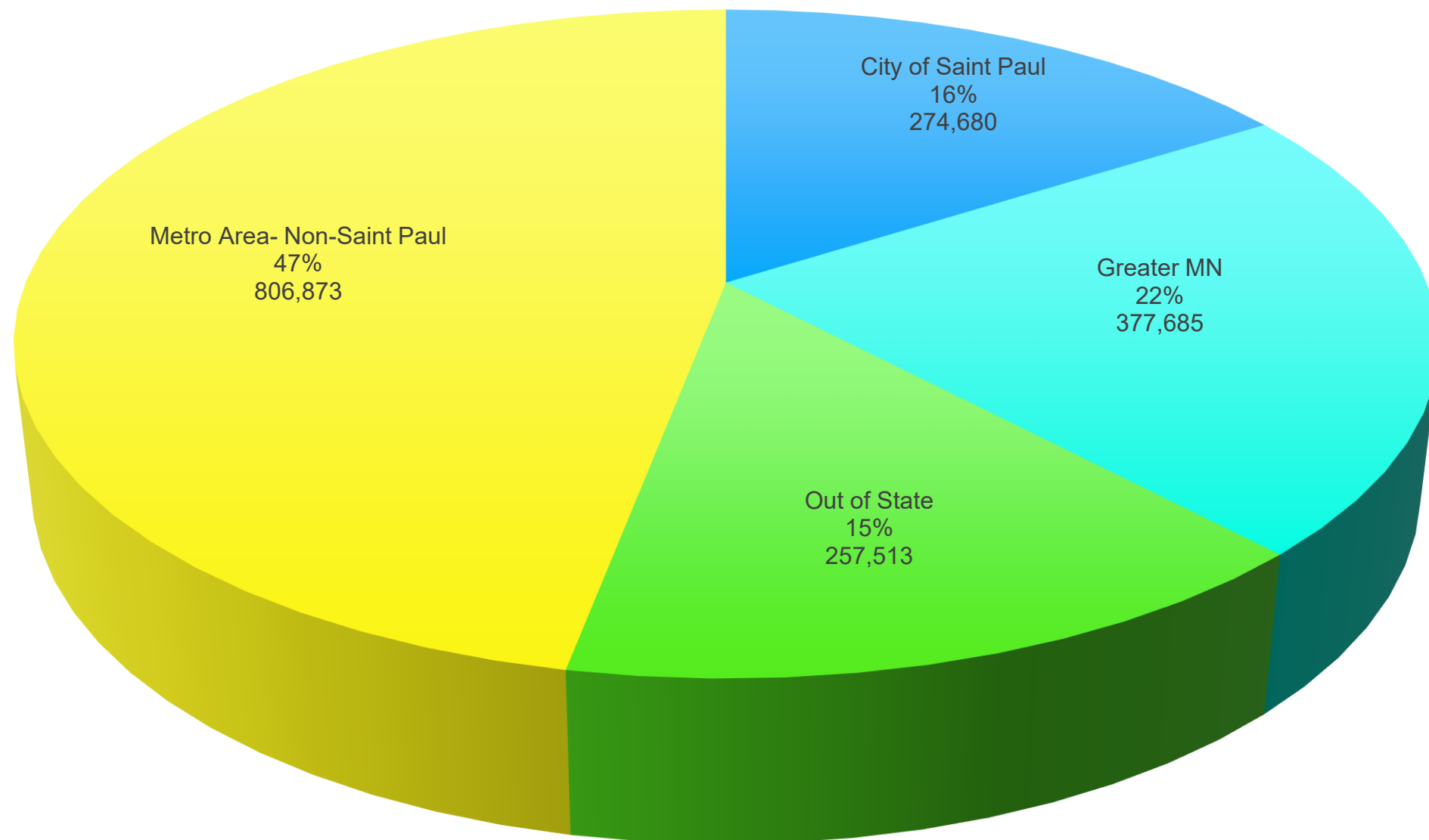
# Why Como Matters

- Economic Engine: \$200 million annual impact
- Minnesota's most visited cultural attraction: 1.8 million visitors annually
- Nationally recognized: AZA accredited
- Access: FREE access 365 days (Similar MN cultural attractions range from \$14.50-\$52.00)
- *This is a major state asset, operating costs covered by the City of Saint Paul, infrastructure requires additional investment*



# Loved by All

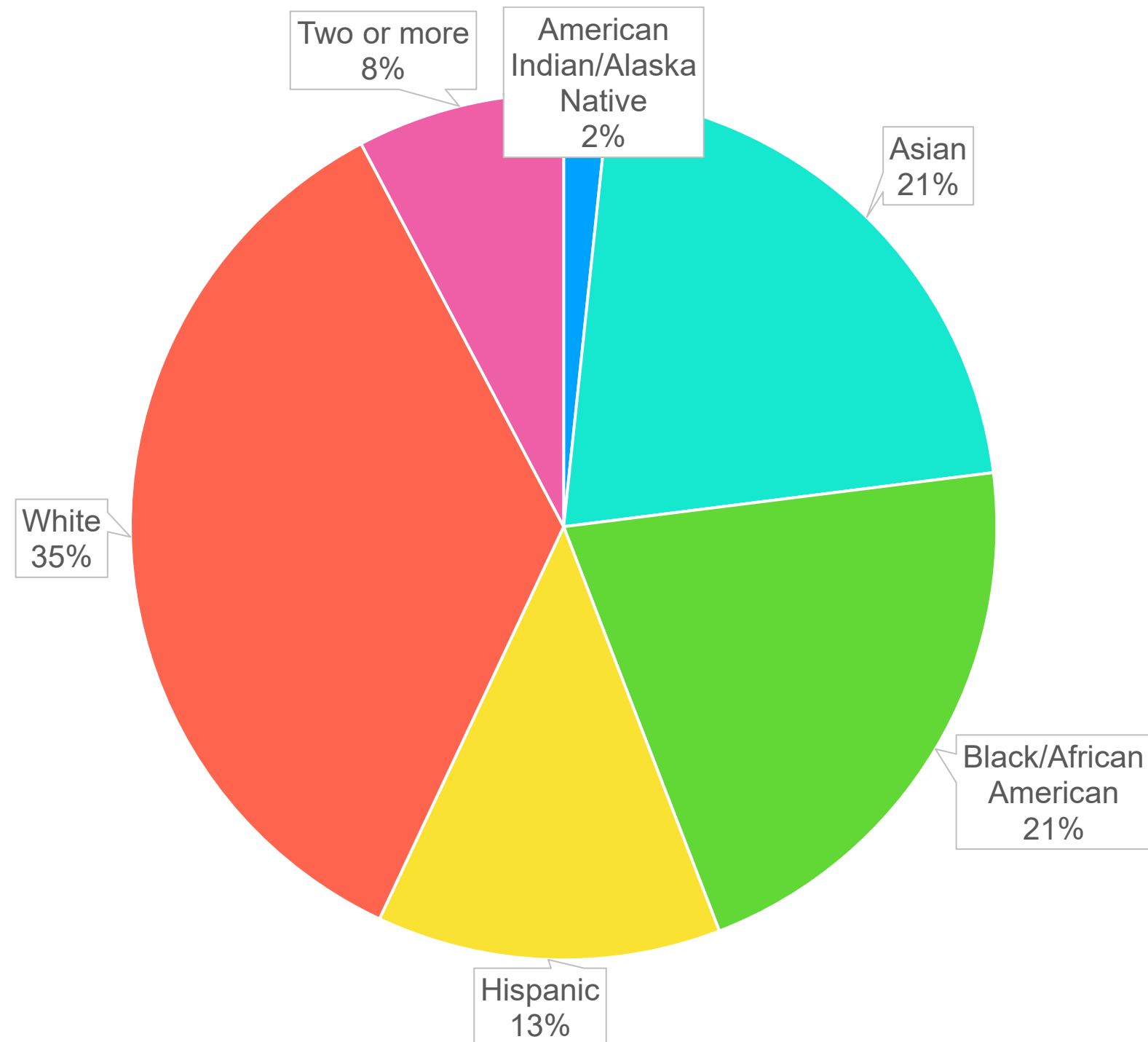
## Attendance



■ City of Saint Paul ■ Greater Minnesota ■ Out of State ■ Metro Area (Non-Saint Paul)

COMO

# Participate Demographics



Metro – 72.3%  
Greater MN – 27.7%

Free/Reduced Lunch -  
59.3%



# Como's Updated Request

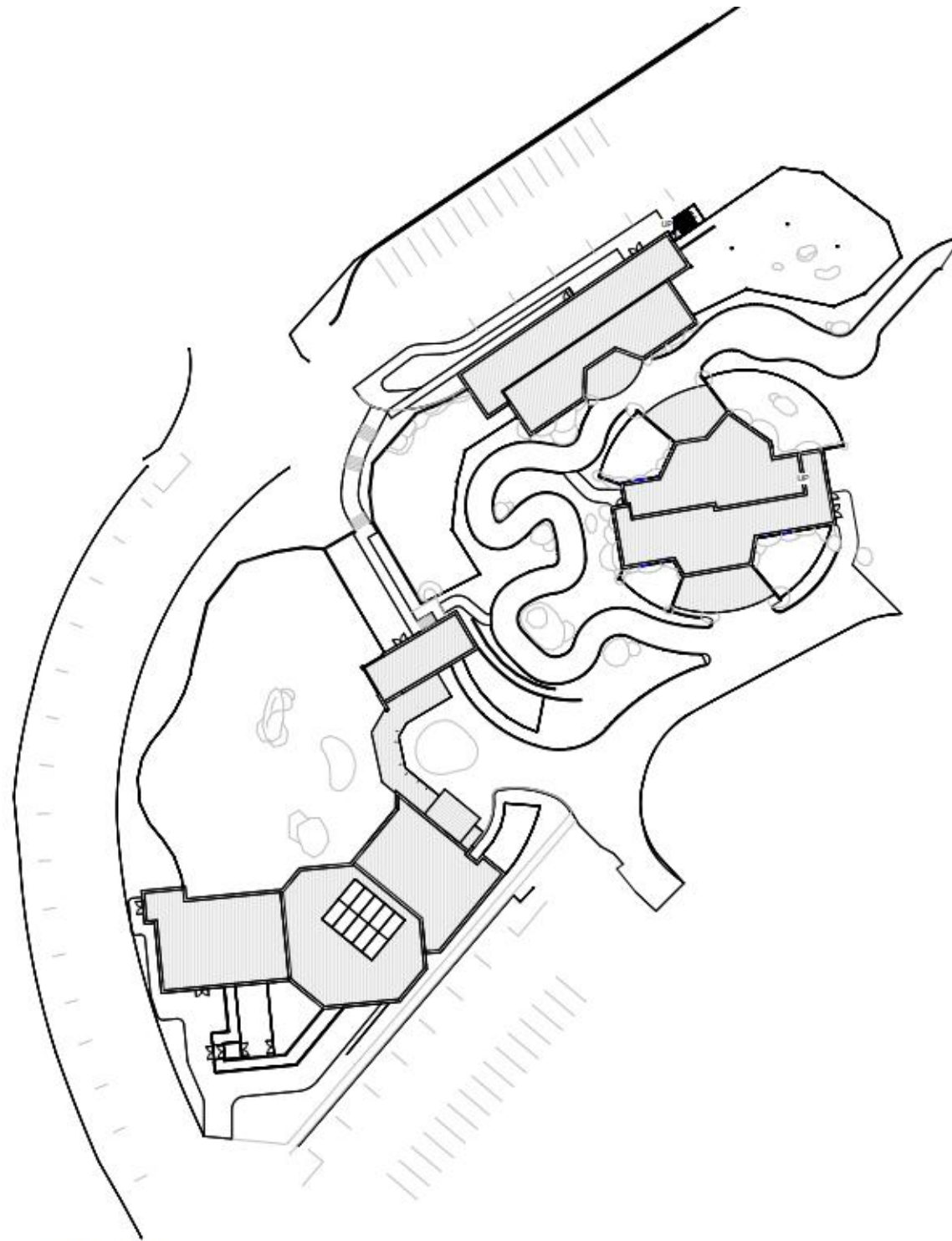
- \$25 million is required for New habitat construction – Lions and African Animals – and demolition of current Big Cats habitat in disrepair
- Previous 4 years of phasing feedback considered: design is now re-conceptualized for possibility of two phases
- Safety concerns for visitors and animals, AZA accreditation at risk – plans to re-home animals at other zoos are now being made
- closure of this section = 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the zoo



# Big Cats

- \$25.6M project
  - \$20M State Request
  - \$2.46M Como Friends (Additional \$1M committed for 2026)
  - \$3.14M Other/Fed

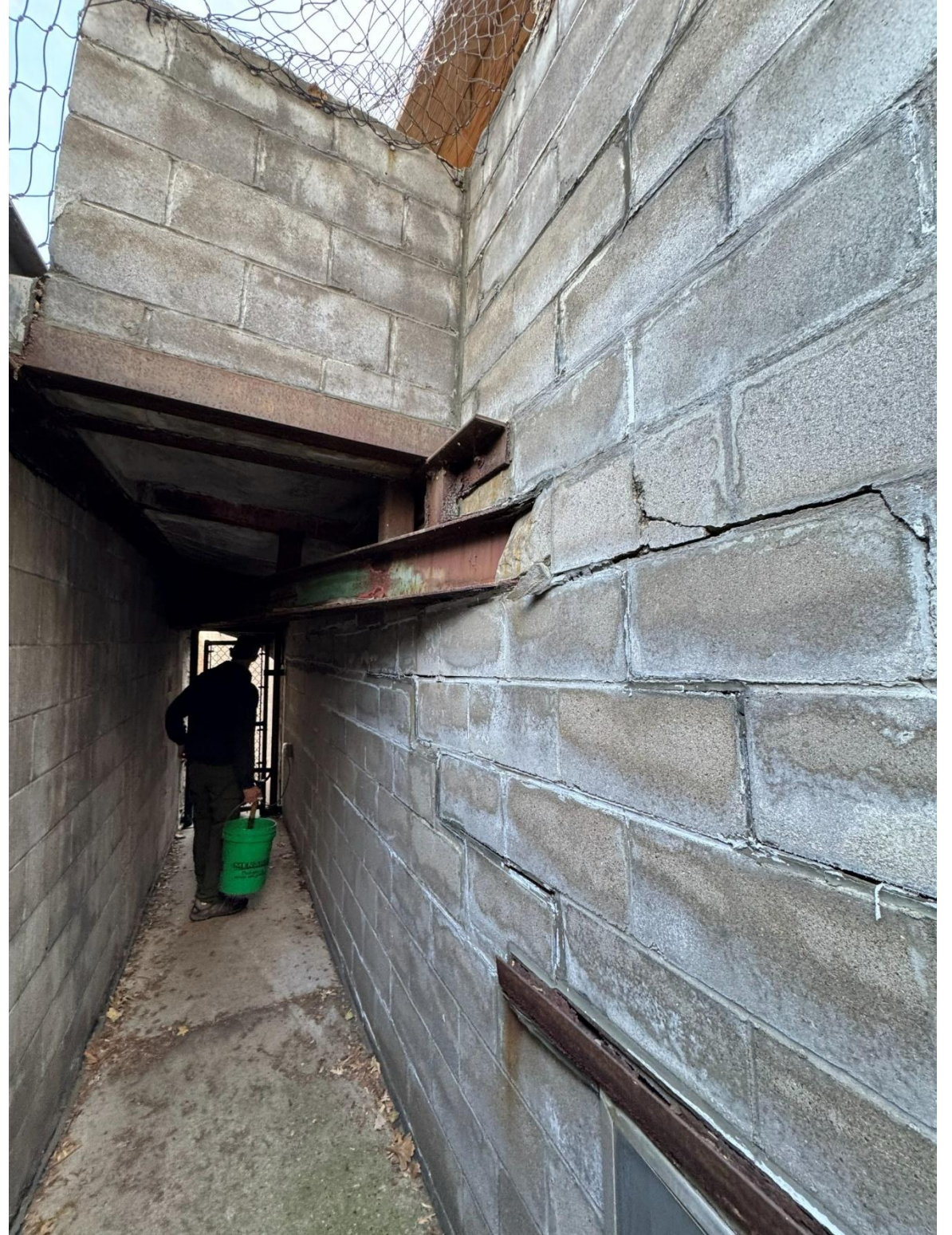




 **1** SITE PLAN  
1" = 30'-0"  
0' 10' 20' 30'

COMO

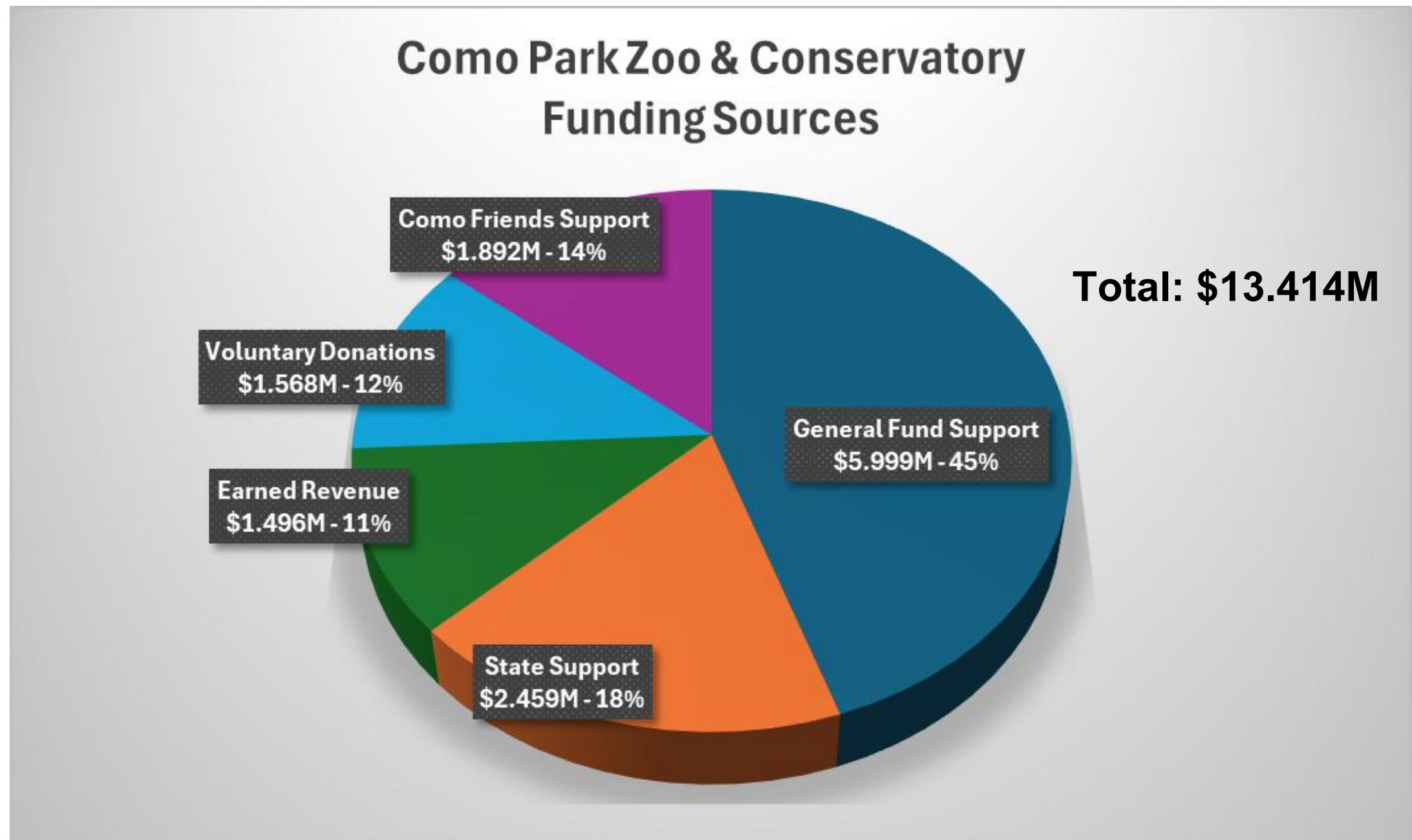






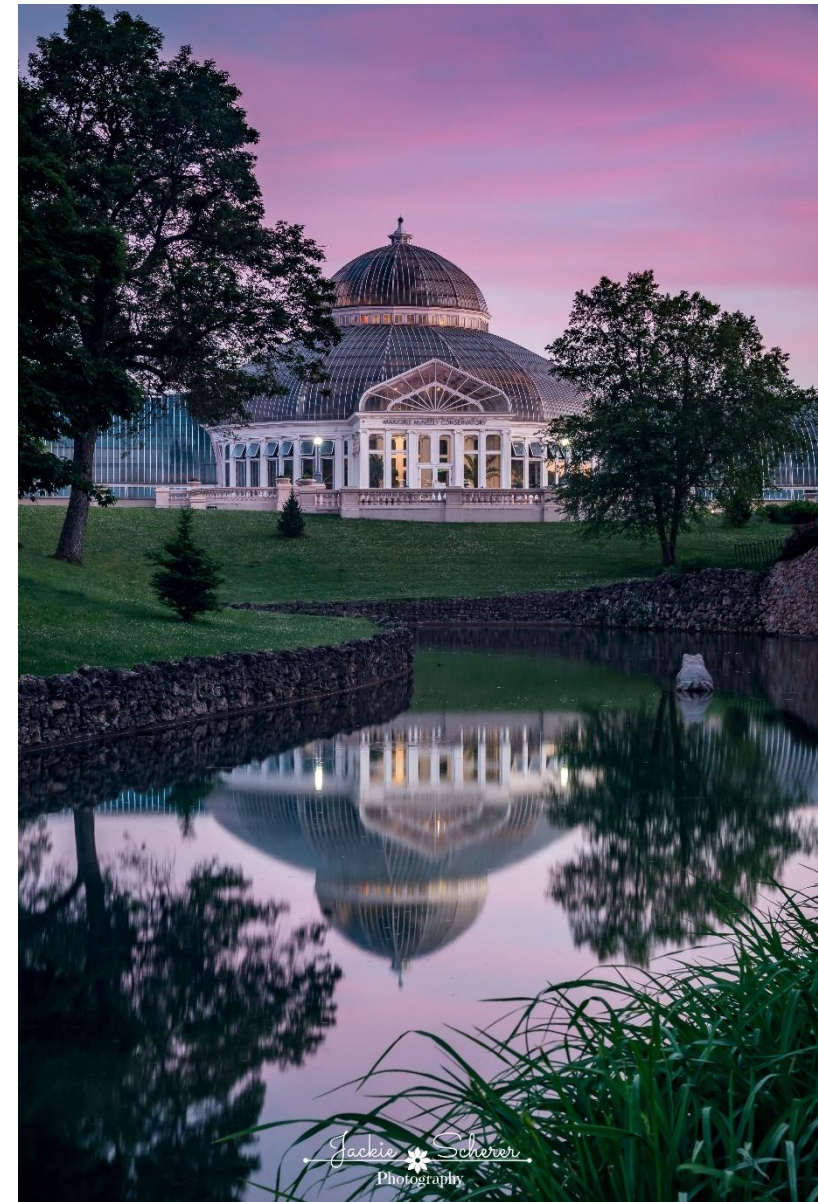


# 2026 Operating Budget



# State Support

- DNR/Lottery: \$255,000
- Metro Parks O&M: \$407,489
- *Arts & Cultural Heritage  
Legacy Fund FY26: \$1,680,000*
- *Parks & Trails Legacy  
Funds/Shuttle FY 26: \$117,500*



# Asset Preservation - State Bonding

- Current – Request Big Cats \$20M
- 2023 \$1M for Asset Preservation and Energy Efficient Capital Maintenance
- 2018 Como Harbor \$15M
- 2014 Como Transportation: \$5.4M
- 2010 Gorilla Forest \$11M
- 2006 Polar Bear Odyssey \$9.6M



# Como Friends Capital Campaigns

- Como Harbor - \$4.39M
- The Ordway Gardens & Polar Bear Odyssey - \$8.45M
- Visitor Center - \$7.61M

