


This morning during [Mayor Langford's](#) comments to the [Birmingham City Council](#), he  announced plans to present a proposed redevelopment agreement to councilors next week that would allow the [Birmingham Zoo](#) to begin work on its long planned expansion called [Trails of Africa](#).

The mayor reported that the zoo, which is currently the state of Alabama's #1 tourist attraction, has already raised more than \$6 million for the 14-acre expansion but needs additional financial support to make it a reality. [A report in The Birmingham News from September 2007](#) had zoo officials estimating the overall cost of the project at \$15 million.

The City of Birmingham owns the zoo, but the property is operated by an independent 501©3 organization.

**Image:** Courtesy of Birmingham Zoo website