

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2022	2024	2026
Renovate Animal Hospital	1	GO	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Reopen the Nocturnal Trail	2	GO	\$ 4,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Asset Preservation	3	GO	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Total Project Requests			\$ 29,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			\$ 29,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000

Renovate Animal Hospital**AT A GLANCE****2022 Request Amount:** \$5,000**Priority Ranking:** 1**Project Summary:** Renovate the nearly 50 year-old animal hospital to support modern veterinary technology and practices to improve welfare of the Zoo's nearly 5,000 animals.**Project Description**

Built in 1975, the Zoo's animal hospital predates the opening of the Zoo and requires significant renovation to meet industry standards for animal care. The project will repair the exterior structure, replace HVAC systems and electrical services, renovate facilities to support modern veterinary technology and practices, add an ambulance bay for safe animal transport, update workspaces, and co-locate compatible animal programs.

Project Rationale

As a nationally-accredited zoo, we uphold the highest standards of care for our collection of nearly 5,000 animals. Our team of veterinarians and technicians work tirelessly to care for the animals, but they are hampered by an extremely outdated facility. Animal welfare standards, veterinary practices, and medical technology have advanced tremendously in the decades since the Zoo's animal hospital was built. While our veterinary staff work wonders with what they have, the outdated facility greatly limits their efficiency and effectiveness.

Project Timeline

We anticipate design and construction will take approximately 2 years, with a goal of completing the renovation by summer of 2024.

Other Considerations

None.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

This project supports a sustainable business model for the Zoo. More efficient building systems will reduce utility and repair bills. Modern technology and workspaces will allow existing staff to operate more efficiently and bring in-house many procedures that currently require costly external contractors. Updating one of the oldest facilities on the campus will reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

Description of Previous Appropriations

None.

Project Contact Person

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Reopen the Nocturnal Trail**AT A GLANCE**

2022 Request Amount:	\$4,000
Priority Ranking:	2
Project Summary:	Reopen a long-closed portion of the Tropics Trail to add immersive exhibit space and needed guest amenities.

Project Description

In the middle of the popular Tropics Trail is a boarded-up hallway that was once the beloved nocturnal section of the trail, which closed over 10 years ago. This project renovates and reopens this area as a new immersive exhibit with much-needed guest amenities such as restrooms and program space.

Project Rationale

Reopening the closed portion of the Tropics Trail as a new exhibit is vital for keeping the Zoo fresh and relevant for the next 40 years. Empty spaces and signs of neglect threaten the Zoo's vitality and can have a negative impact on attendance. Existing members see this as evidence of a diminishing return on their membership investment, potentially negatively impacting membership renewal rates. Corporate sponsorship/investments, which also have significant impact on the Zoo's earned income and profitability, favor innovation and new experiences making revitalization of existing spaces critical for sponsorship retention.

Project Timeline

We anticipate design and construction will take approximately 2 years, with a goal of opening by spring of 2025.

Other Considerations

None.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

As a world-class Zoo and the state's largest environmental educator, the Minnesota Zoo's mission and financial model are driven by creating new ways for people to connect with animals and the natural world. New and improved guest experiences are critical to sustaining attendance and generating earned income that comprises two-thirds of the Zoo's operating budget. This project will be designed to minimize operating costs, with any additional costs for maintenance of the space supported through earned income from attendance.

Description of Previous Appropriations

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Asset Preservation**AT A GLANCE****2022 Request Amount:** \$20,000**Priority Ranking:** 3**Project Summary:** Asset preservation to maintain the Minnesota Zoo's 40 year-old, 485-acre campus. Routine asset preservation appropriations are vital to maintaining this beloved state asset for future generations of Zoo guests.**Project Description**

Minnesota's "new zoo" is over 40 years old, and the campus is aging rapidly. Priorities for asset preservation during the next biennium include replacement of the lakeside plaza; repair of animal exhibits and support buildings including roof and skylight replacements; improvement to outdated mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems; and repair and replacement of deteriorated bridges, trails, and roads throughout the site.

Of particular importance is replacing the infrastructure of the lakeside plaza, a gathering area at the heart of the Zoo campus that is in critical disrepair. A structural engineer reported in July 2020 that while the cantilevered platform remains safe to occupy, the structure is seriously degraded and must be replaced to avoid further structural movement and damaging water intrusion to animal holding areas and mechanical spaces in the main building. Based on the engineering report, the Zoo implemented a load limit in the area and developed a plan that replaces and/or stabilizes the deteriorated structural systems; prevents future damaging water intrusion; replaces deteriorated concrete slabs, ramps, stairs, and railings; and renovates the animal holding space and mechanical systems housed below the affected structure. The Zoo anticipates this project will cost at least \$14 million of the total asset preservation request.

Project Rationale

Asset preservation allows the Minnesota Zoo to remain a safe, secure, and fun destination for Minnesotans of all ages. The Minnesota Zoo operates on the scale of a small city, with 485 acres of land, 121 buildings, its own heat plant and back up generators, 6.5 miles of roads, 48 acres of parking lots, and 25 miles of fencing. Animal exhibits and holding facilities require complex air handling and life support systems to ensure animal welfare. Significant investment is needed each year for the Zoo to remain fresh and relevant.

Project Timeline

Asset preservation funding will be spent during the four year time-frame of the appropriation.

Other Considerations

None.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

Asset preservation projects support a sustainable business model for the Minnesota Zoo. More efficient building systems reduce utility and repair bills. Timely infrastructure improvements prevent costly failures and downtime. Renovating and retrofitting existing spaces makes staff more efficient and improves the guest experience – both of which are vital to generating revenue and controlling costs. Two thirds of the Zoo’s operating budget is earned through admissions, membership, education, and other programming. Supporting a positive guest experience through maintaining the Zoo’s campus is essential to the Zoo’s continued operation.

Description of Previous Appropriations

2020 - \$13 million (including Treetop Trail)
2018 - \$6 million
2017 - \$4 million
2014 - \$7 million
2012 - \$4 million
2011 - \$4 million
2010 - \$6 million
2009 - \$3 million

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