

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2024	2026	2028
Animal Hospital	1	GO	\$ 35,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Asset Preservation	2	GO	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Total Project Requests			\$ 45,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			\$ 45,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000

Animal Hospital

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount:	\$35,000
Priority Ranking:	1
Project Summary:	Rebuild the Zoo's 47-year-old animal hospital

Project Description

This project will provide a modern veterinary technology and best animal care practices by adding things such as a(n):

- ambulance bay for safe animal transport
- nutritional laboratory for diet analysis and preparation
- Intensive Care Unit for small and large animals housed at the Zoo
- animal surgical suite and aseptic holding facilities for large animal species
- conference and education programmatic space for visiting veterinarians
- medical equipment storage area
- biosecurity control measures to prevent cross-contamination between animal areas
- proper isolation of hospitalized patients away from quarantined animals
- compatible animal programs and update workspaces

Project Rationale

The Zoo’s animal hospital, built in 1975, predates the opening of the Zoo and is no longer meeting industry standards for animal care and health due to:

- Animal and human safety hazards
- Inadequate HVAC and plumbing systems
- Outdated electrical services.

Project Timeline

Predesign – completed by August/September 2023

Design (including construction documents) – complete by May/June 2024

Construction – once full funding is available, we will launch the construction phase with goal to break ground in August 2024

Other Considerations

None

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

Description of Previous Appropriations

FY 2023 - \$1,225,000 to design a new or renovated animal hospital building at the Minnesota Zoological Garden

Project Contact Person

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Asset Preservation

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount:	\$10,000
Priority Ranking:	2
Project Summary:	Asset Preservation

Project Description

Minnesota’s “new zoo” is nearly 50 years old, and the campus is aging rapidly. Priorities for asset preservation during the next biennium include: assessment and design to replace the heat plant, repair and replacement of service roads and pathways, mechanical system improvements to meet MNB3 requirements, roof replacements, preservation of movie theater building, replacement of remaining Tropics Trail skylights, and modifications and retrofitting of restrooms to meet ADA and egress codes.

Project Rationale

Asset preservation allows the Minnesota Zoo to remain a safe, secure, and a fun world-class 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 backup 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 timeframe 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. Over 50% 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

2023 - \$16.8 million total; \$15.12 million for Lakeside Replacement

2020 - \$13 million total; \$11 million for Treetop Trail

2018 - \$6 million

2017 - \$4 million

2014 - \$7 million

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