



Our mission: To provide close-up animal experiences that inspire connections to wildlife and action toward conservation in our region and around the world.

CLOSE-UP EXPERIENCES

The 2019 bonding bill provided critical funds for the renovation and revitalization of three exhibits, including Bear Country, which is now home to two rescued brown bears (Tundra and Banks). These habitats have created dynamic experiences for guests of all ages to connect with wildlife and learn about conservation.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

We strive to be a place of gathering for our community and empower our neighbors in conservation. The LSZ is dedicated to a world where learning is an inclusive, all-encompassing, and collaborative environment by providing a safe space for all guests, staff, volunteers, and animals in our care.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSION

The LSZ established a DEAI committee along with an associated organizational plan. We are committed to embracing, nurturing and upholding a diverse and inclusive culture for our staff, volunteers, visitors, and community. We strive to enact real change by identifying and developing insightful approaches towards growth within the LSZ and our industry.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS IN 2023

The LSZ entered its 100th year as a thriving nonprofit organization. We received our renewed AZA (Association of Zoo & Aquariums) accreditation in 2022, have updated our strategic and master plans, and are in the process of building a brand-new world-class red panda exhibit set to open this spring. We continue to accomplish our mission and work towards achieving our vision of a future where all living things thrive together.

2023 Asset Preservation Request

HF 1469 | SF 1419

\$1.5 million for asset preservation for the 19th oldest zoological facility in the United States. As Minnesota's second oldest zoo, we are celebrating our 100-year anniversary in 2023. Over time, aging infrastructure coupled with deferred maintenance has created significant operational challenges and inefficiencies. This funding is critical to preserve our historic educational organization so that Minnesotans can connect with wildlife and learn about conservation.

Projects include:

Walking surfaces and front entrance improvements

- Enhance the accessibility of zoo grounds for all people
- Install additional ADA-accessible features

Upgrade lighting infrastructure throughout buildings

- Install LED elements to increase efficiency
- Prioritize solar power where applicable

Animal exhibit preservation

- Connective drainage work and enhancements on existing exhibit black bear pool and water features
- Reseal Amur tiger pool to improve utility efficiency and reduce costs

Existing building improvements

- Perform necessary upgrades to HVAC systems for air quality, heating, and cooling for health and safety of staff, animals, and guests
- Preservation projects at the Willard Munger Animal Care Center
- Additional deferred maintenance projects as funding allows
 - Vital updates to classroom spaces (year-round programming and preschool)
 - Address front entrance infrastructure issues

