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the **TWIN CITIES** Metropolitan Area

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A report of the Metropolitan Council, based on the report of the Zoo Advisory Committee:

John Tilton, Chairman

Firmin Alexander, Jr.

Mrs. Irving Beaudoin

Lloyd L. Brandt

Fred C. Cady

Austin B. Caswell

John Chisholm

Mrs. Byron Cochrane

William C. Davenport

Robert J. Dircks

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Mrs. W. Hoepfner

Erling O. Johnson

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Mrs. J. Paul McGee

Richard R. Miller

Howard I. Moore

John Mooty

Richard J. Pitheon

Joseph E. Richardson

Mrs. Arne Schoeller

William Sell

Mrs. James Sheeley

Adolf Tobler

Mrs. F. Waterous, Jr.

The Minnesota Zoological Society, the Educational Research and Development Council, the University of Minnesota zoo committee, the Citizens League, the Como Park Zoo staff, and Voigt and Fourre, Inc., Architects, as well as existing major zoos assisted in formulating and developing the recommendations made by the Zoo Advisory Committee in the Committee report to the Metropolitan Council.



A Day at the Zoo

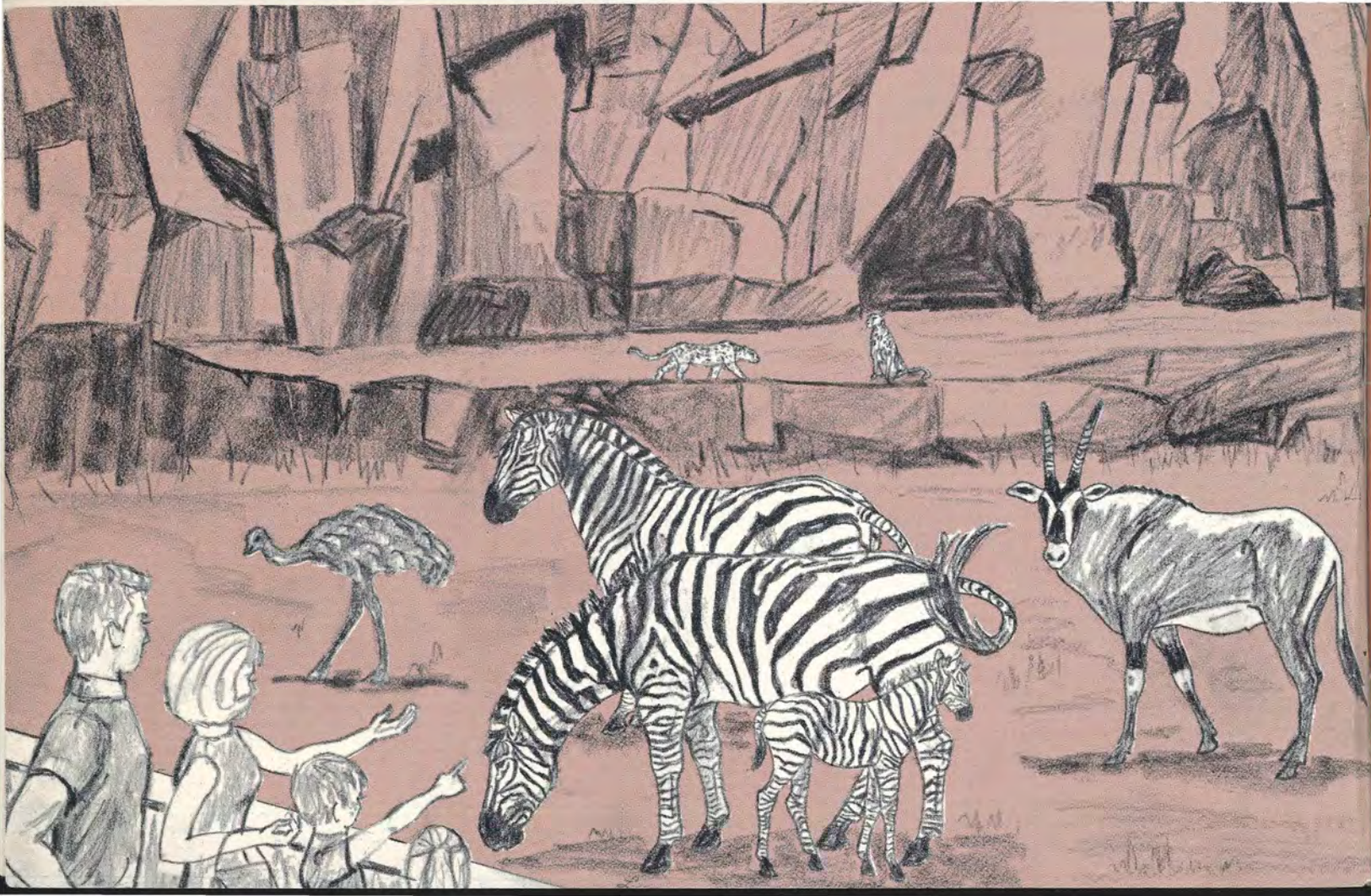
A day at the zoo . . . a worldful of animals in a Minnesota woodland. Ride the puffing narrow-gage train past lions lolling on a transplanted piece of African veldt, stroll through a deep green tropical jungle where birds of paradise perch just out of reach, or watch from the comfort of a heated walkway as polar bears play outside on a sub-zero arctic waste.

Such a family adventure can be available in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area within a few years, not only for state residents but for thousands of

tourists as well.

For five months, a special zoo committee of the Metropolitan Council investigated the prospects of adding a major zoo to the Twin Cities Area's list of recreational, educational, and cultural attractions. The committee found that a metropolitan zoo is needed and that it is possible to build one—not just an ordinary zoo, but one with features unique in the world.

Let's see what the proposed new zoo in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area would be like.



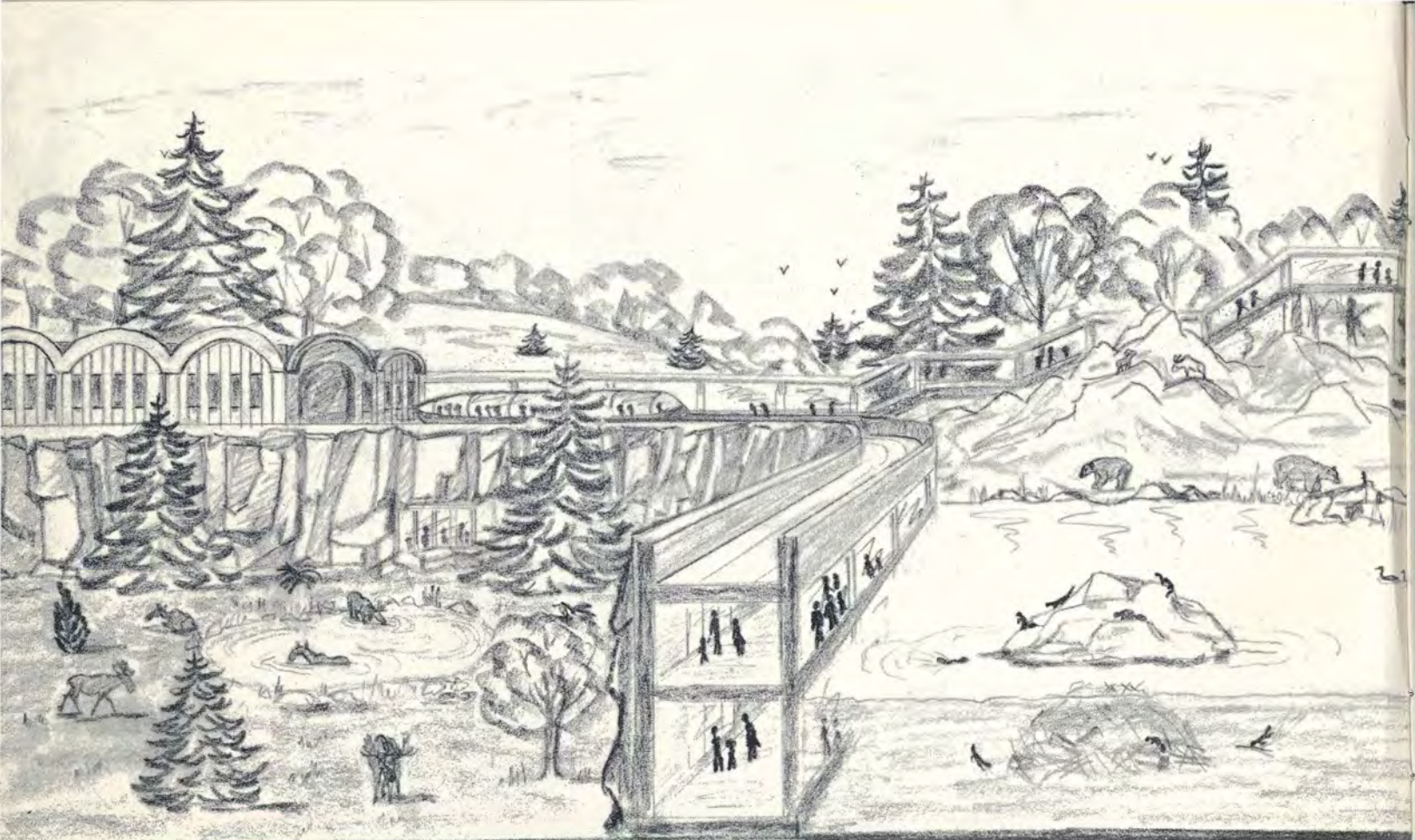
A First-Rate, Family-Oriented Recreational Facility

A zoo is an excellent place for families to relax, enjoy the out-of-doors, and learn at the same time. A year-round zoo that can provide high-quality family-oriented recreation is much-needed in the Twin Cities Area. The nearest major zoos are in Milwaukee, Omaha, St. Louis, Winnipeg, and Chicago, all at least 325 miles from the Twin Cities Area.

A zoo offers exciting new opportunities to coordinate the Area's recreational facilities. The Area presently boasts major league sport facilities, acclaimed educational centers, theaters, and museums. Studies show that an outstanding zoo can add from one to three days to the stay of an average visitor—as he takes advantage of other recreational opportunities.

A new major zoo will enhance the state's image and draw out-of-state families to live and work here.





Year-Round, Comfortable Use

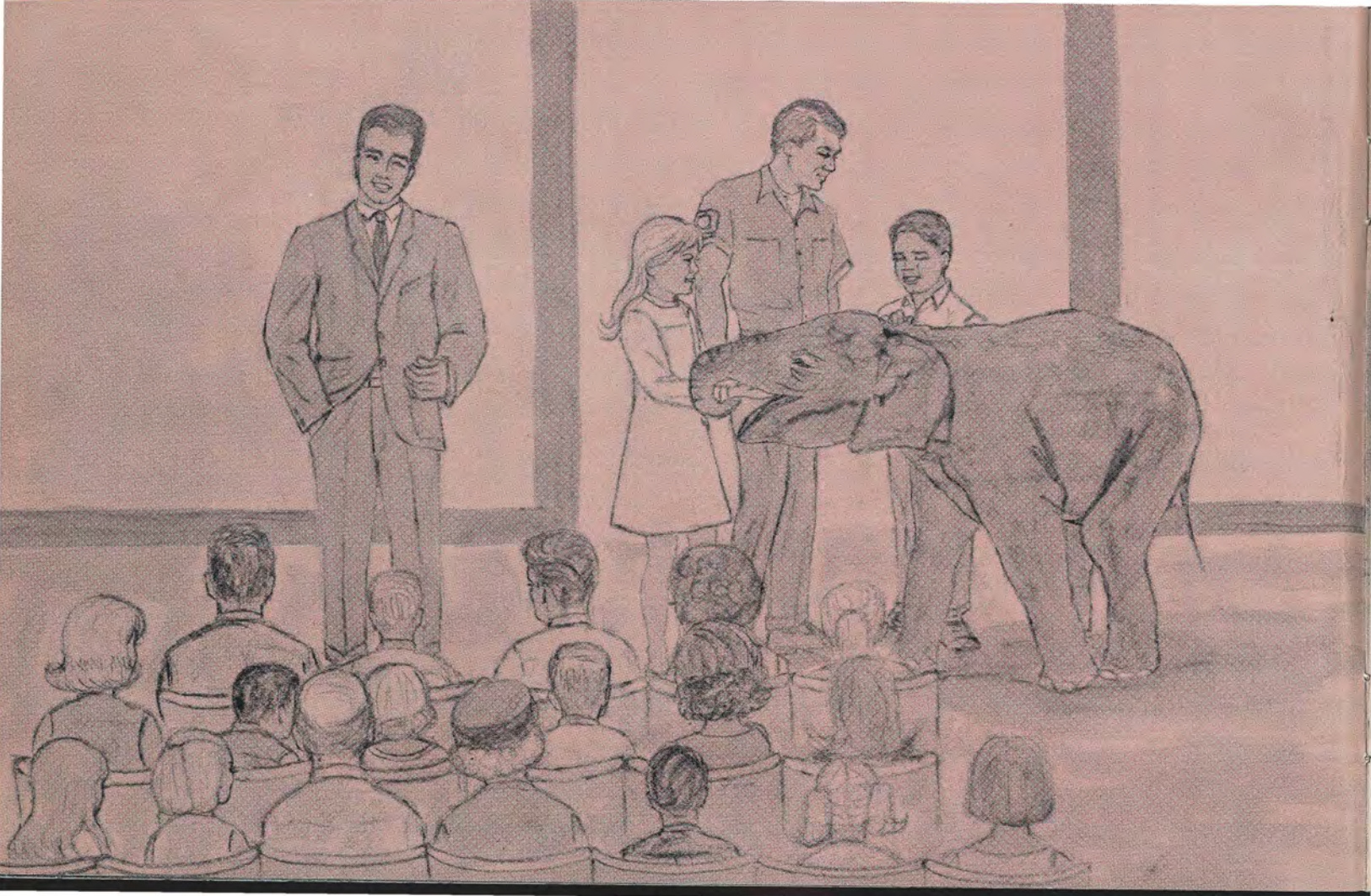
The new facility would be a four-season, temperature-controlled zoo, a year-round operation in an environment pleasing to animals and visitors.

It would be the first zoo in the country displaying a large and complete selection of North American species in their natural habitats on a year-round

basis, cool in summer, open in the winter . . . see a bear hibernating, beavers in their winter home under the ice, penguins capering in freezing water.

Visitors would view the displays from heated trains or casually stroll through enclosed corridors . . . leave your winter overcoat at the door!





An Excellent Educational Opportunity for Area School Children

A zoo is the most effective school science laboratory available, where children can see first-hand how animals are suited to a particular life and environment, and how they relate to other animals and to man.

School science programs would be coordinated with class visits to the new zoo.

Competent zoo personnel would conduct classes in the classrooms, auditoriums, or other facilities at the zoo. Such buildings would make the most of the zoo as part of the total Area educational system.

Seventeen of the 21 major zoos in the country now offer educational programs.







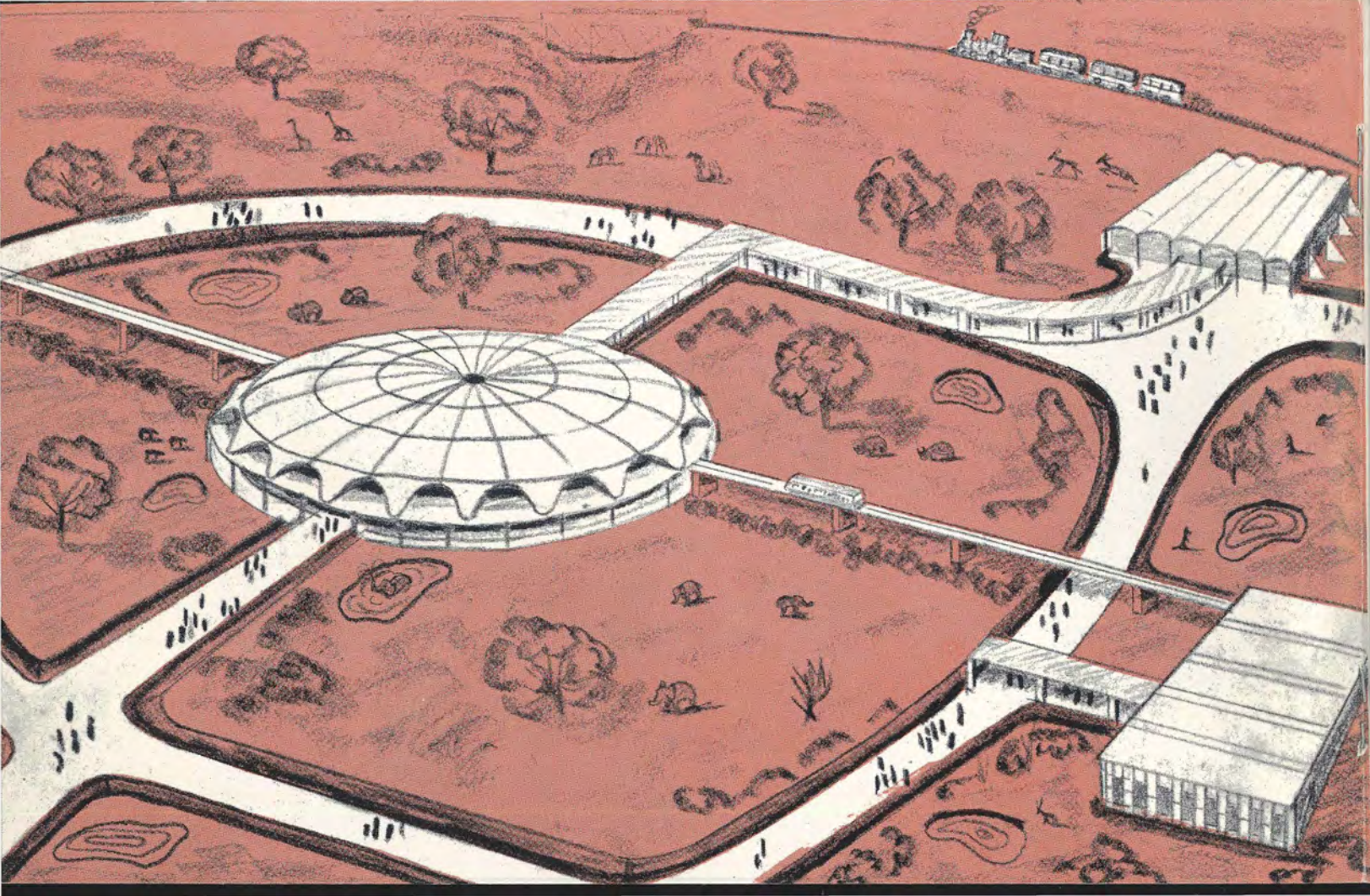
Research Facilities

Research facilities provide for the comfort and well-being of animals. They have been locales for extraordinary advances in animal health and behavior. Since the 1940s, nearly 50 zoos have built research-oriented animal hospitals.

The facilities would offer scientists an exciting opportunity for graduate study and research in nutrition, behavior, physiology, veterinary medicine, and zoo administration. Personnel from the zoo and scientific community could share facilities

and talents. An excellent facility would have international scientific appeal and spread the fame of the state abroad.

To ensure animal health and comfort, the metropolitan zoo's facilities would be designed to eliminate the need to move animals into restricted, unsightly, and unsanitary quarters during the cold weather, removing one of the regular hazards of captivity that takes a heavy toll of animals at some zoos.



Preservation of Threatened Animal Species

Before long, it may not be possible to see interesting and popular animals in their natural settings like the orangutan, buffalo, giant panda bear, or hippo, because they are rapidly becoming extinct.

Since 1600, the world has lost 94 species of birds and 36 species of mammals. Man's exploitation has increased the natural rate threefold.

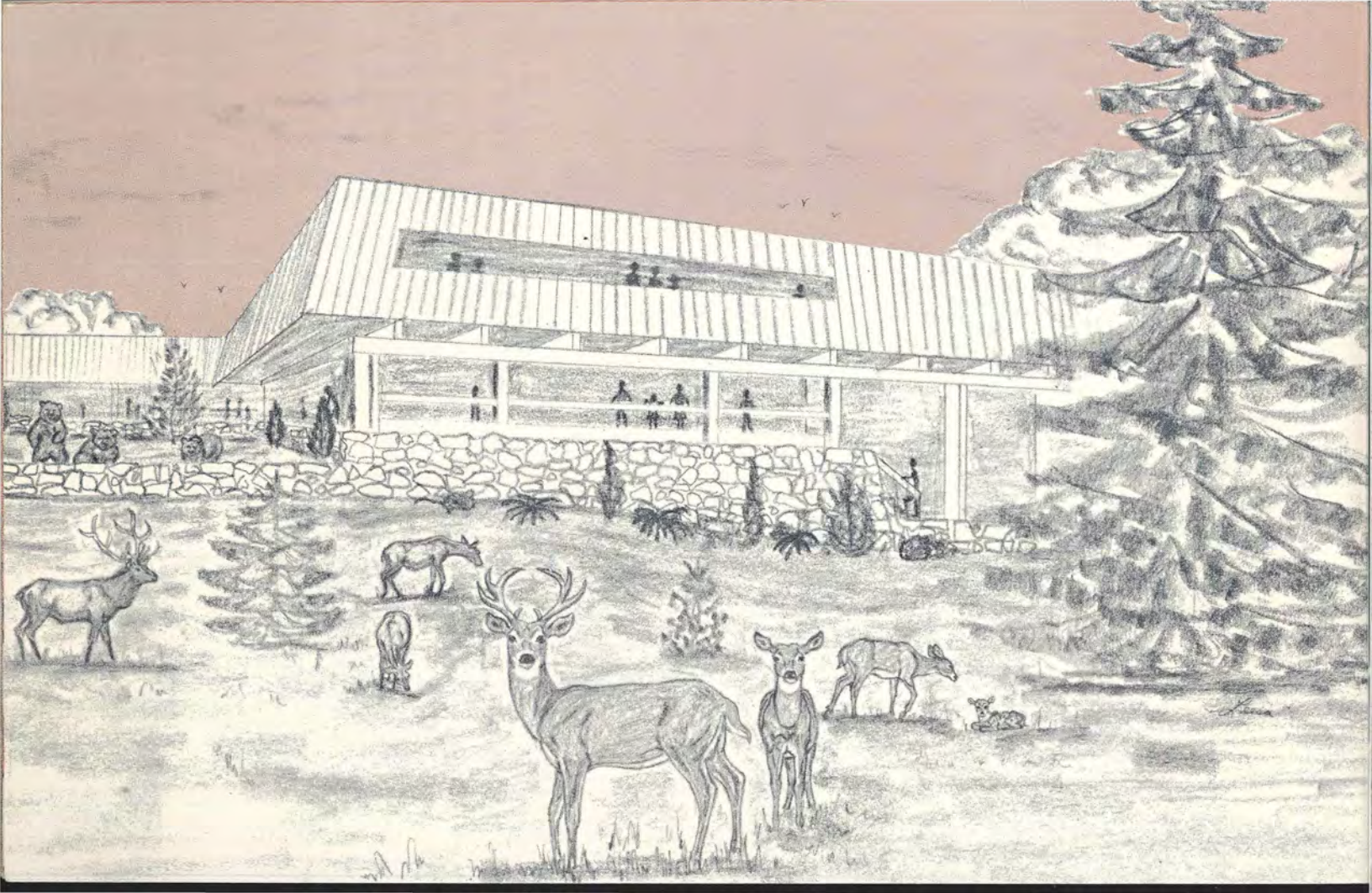
Today, 300 species of birds and 120 species of mammals are threatened with extinction.

Zoos have been successful in attempts to perpetuate species, and to increase their numbers by controlled breeding. Zoos have rebred the tartan horse and have bred enough Hawaiian geese to

restock the islands with the once-dwindling species.

Many herd animals threatened with extinction need room to roam about their natural habitat. A new metropolitan zoo would be designed to provide natural settings for North American species and others.





Minnesota Wildlife ***in a Natural, Minnesota Setting***

A special display of Minnesota fauna would be unique. How many Minnesotans have ever seen a timber wolf, wolverine, coyote, or a cougar?

Animals would be grouped as they normally live . . . those that live in the same geographic area, and those that are enemies . . . predator and prey. Displays would demonstrate variation within a species and climate variation.



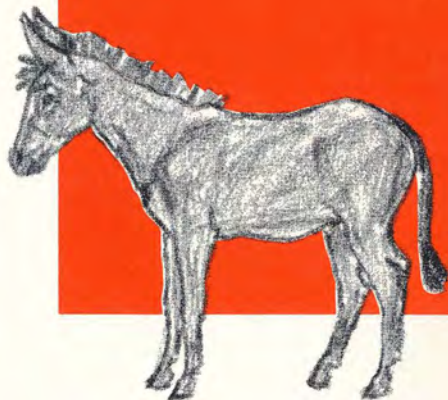


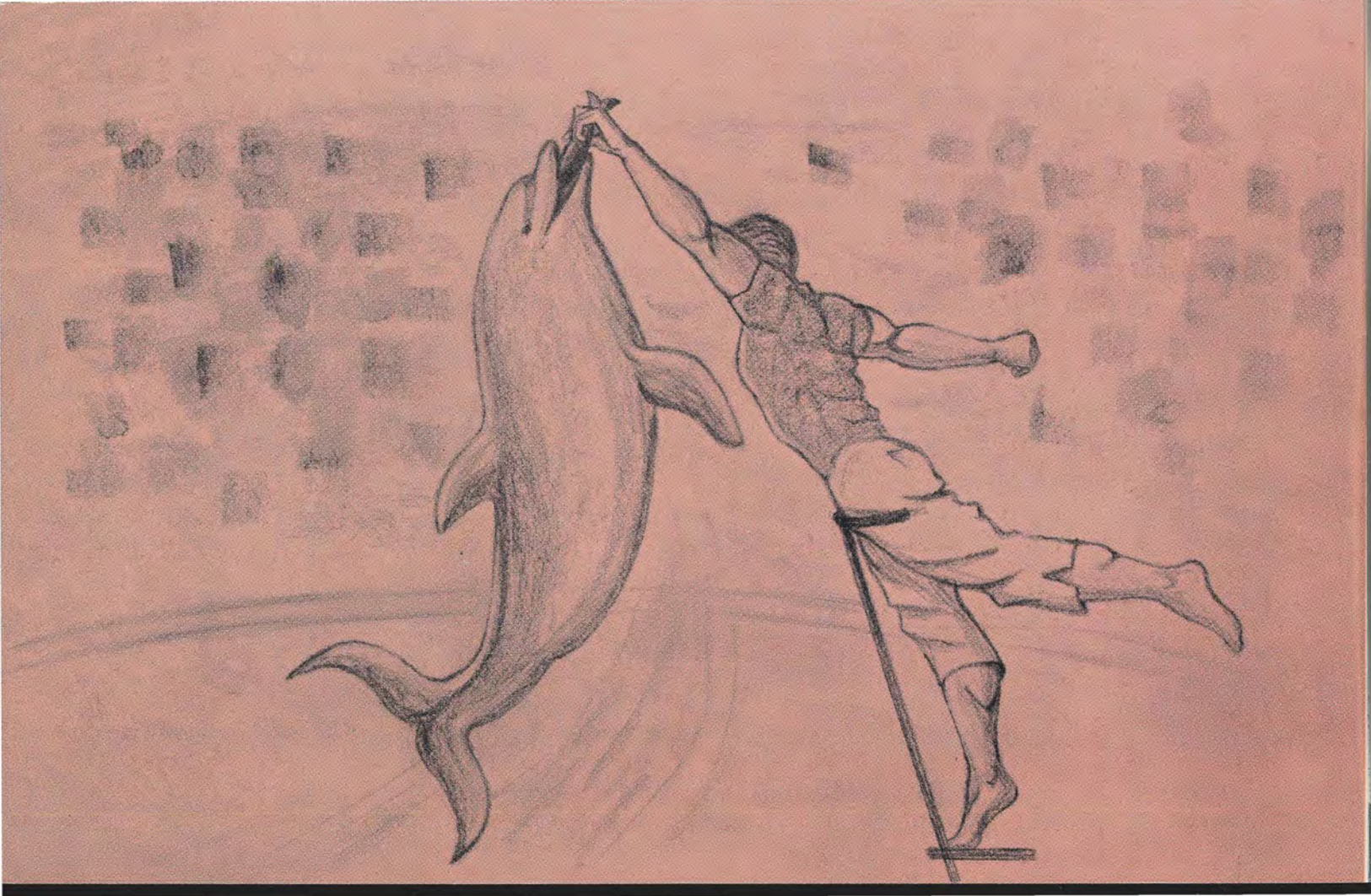
A Specially Designed Children's Zoo

Children get the greatest recreational and educational benefit from seeing zoo animals. Zoos should be especially designed with children in mind.

One way to help children understand animals is to construct a children's zoo. Seventeen of 21 major zoos in the United States have children's zoos. Tots can observe newly-born and fully-grown animals closely, and touch them. Other zoos have hatcheries, barns showing milk production, and Wild-West and childhood-story themes.

Popular animals are farm animals, chimps, seals and other aquatic animals, birds, donkeys, deer, rabbits, and other Minnesota species.





Public Performances by Trained Animal Acts

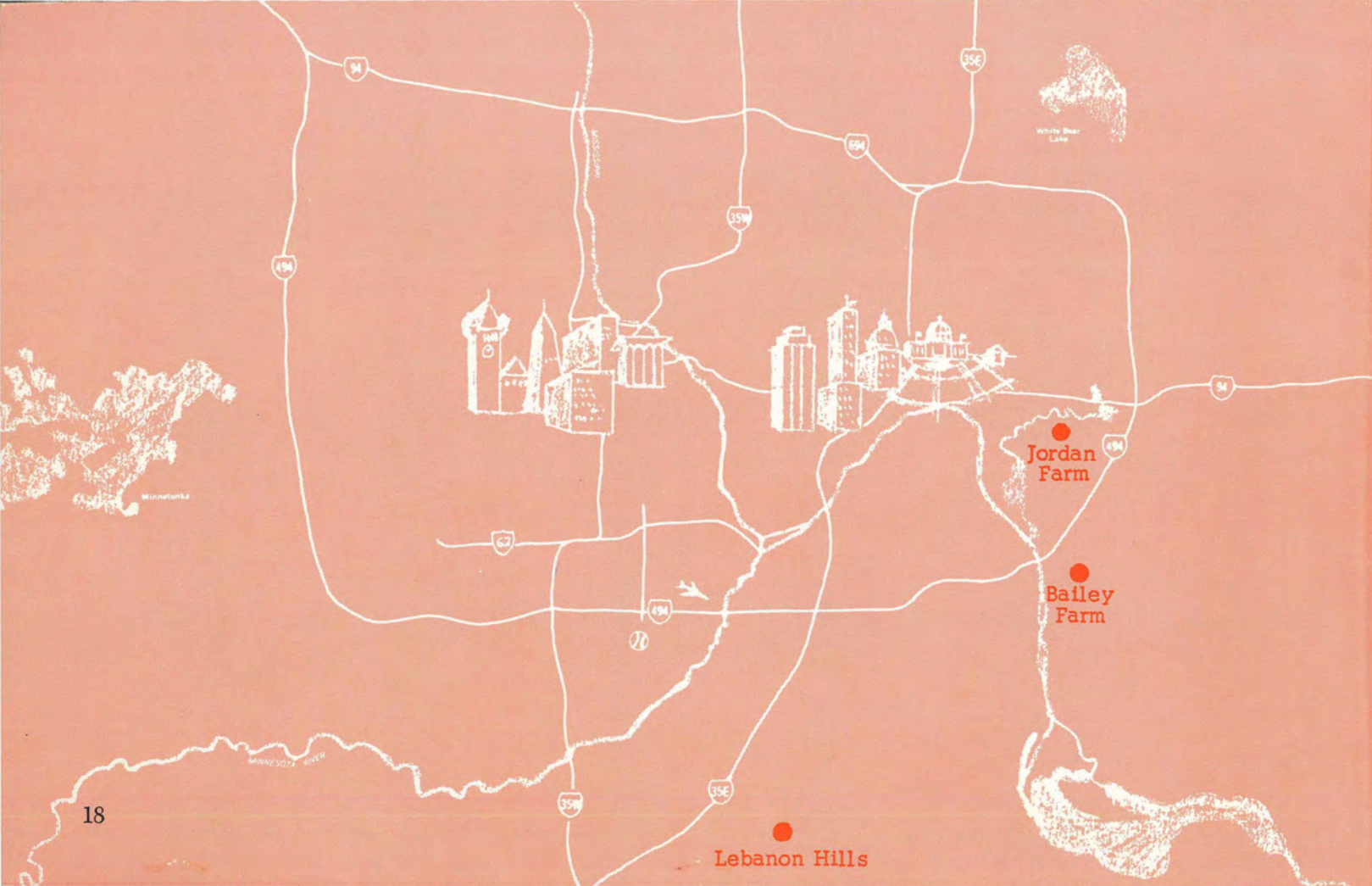
People love to see animals perform. Everyone enjoys watching the all-too-human antics of such born performers as monkeys, chimps, seals, sea lions, and penguins. Animals enjoy entertaining people, and, with training, they can do things we wouldn't

believe could be done.

Trained animals have added to the popularity of many private parks and zoos.

Scientific research can be integrated easily with animal training.





A Carefully Selected Site, Specially Suited to a Zoo

The Zoo Advisory Committee investigated 49 sites in the Metropolitan Area to see how well they meet critical zoo needs. The site selected must have good accessibility to the freeway system and to public transportation. It must have access to essential facilities, especially sanitary and storm sewers. It must have a natural, attractive balance to topography, water bodies, and tree groves.

The site must contain ample space for comfortable, unrestricted design features, parking, and buffers.

The committee found that at least three sites in the Area are acceptable: the Jordan Farm adjacent to Battle Creek Park in Maplewood; the Bailey Farm near the junction of I494 and TH61 in Washington County; and Lebanon Hills near the junction of I35E and I35W in Dakota County.

Eventual site selection depends on how well proposed sites meet criteria and on more detailed engineering data. Others may yet be considered. But it is clear that suitable sites are available in the Area.

Sound Financial Support

The new major zoo is within the financial means of the Metropolitan Area.

The Zoo Committee recommends that the Metropolitan Council be given authority to issue \$20 million in bonds, the estimated cost of the new facility, as well as taxing authority to meet debt service costs. Bonds would be issued as needed in small amounts to meet construction costs over the 10-year development period.

Such a plan would permit the Council to pledge the full faith and credit of the entire seven-county Area.

A major part of the new zoo's annual operating costs would come from admission charges and the profits from food-vending and souvenir sales, with only a small part subsidized by the general taxpayer.

To pay interest, debt retirement, and part of the operating costs, the Committee suggests three alternatives: a one-cent state-wide cigarette tax increase with about half the proceeds returning to the Metropolitan Area; a one-cent cigarette tax increase in the Metropolitan Area only; or a one-mill property tax in the Metropolitan Area.

Metropolitan-Wide Administrative Representation

The Committee favors creation of a Zoo Administrative Board responsible to the Metropolitan Council. The Board would consist of persons from interested groups and citizens appointed by the Council.

The Board would establish over-all operating policy, prepare the budget, plans and programs, and operate the physical facilities.

The Council would issue bonds, appoint Board members, approve the plans, programs, and budget, and review Board policies.

This major recreation facility will be an asset to the Area, to its family life and to the enjoyment of people of all ages, and to its economic prosperity . . . but only with the continuing support of interested citizens and action by the 1969 Minnesota Legislature.

The Metropolitan Council is preparing detailed proposals on zoo finance and administration. It will ask for legislation to create the new facility.

The Educational Research and Development Council, the Minnesota Zoological Society, the Minneapolis School of Art, and the University of Minnesota have offered their assistance in the new zoo's development.

Favorable action by the Legislature is the first step toward a fully-operational zoo within 10 years. The first buildings could be ready within three years. One or two exhibits can be planned and built each subsequent year.

An industrious people rightly take pride in their achievements: a Twin Cities Metropolitan Area with unexcelled institutions, facilities, and business opportunities. That same industry can build a zoo that will further enhance the Area's excellence and enrich the lives of those who will use it and those who helped create it.

For further information or requests for speakers, contact the Metropolitan Council. Zoo Committee members are also ready to provide additional information.

