

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Rank	Fund	Project Requests for State Funds			Gov's Rec	Gov's Planning Estimates	
			2022	2024	2026	2022	2024	2026
Renovate Animal Hospital	1	GO	8,000	0	0	8,000	0	0
Asset Preservation	2	GO	17,000	17,000	17,000	12,600	12,600	12,600
Reopen the Nocturnal Trail	3	GO	6,000	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Project Requests</b>			31,000	17,000	17,000	20,600	12,600	12,600
<b>General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total</b>			31,000	17,000	17,000	20,600	12,600	12,600

<https://mnzoo.org/>

### AT A GLANCE

- A world-class zoo that is home to nearly 5,000 animals —many endangered
- 485 acre campus with 121 buildings and related facilities
- 1.3 million visitors annually in a typical year
- The state’s largest environmental educator, serving nearly 400,000 participants in a typical year
- \$222.7 million annual economic impact, supporting more than 2,200 jobs in a typical year
- More than 90,000 free admissions to Minnesotans who qualify for assistance programs through Free to Explore in a typical year

### PURPOSE

The mission of the Minnesota Zoological Garden (Minnesota Zoo or Zoo) is to connect people, animals and the natural world to save wildlife.

Located on nearly 500 acres of pristine forested land, the Minnesota Zoo is an expansive wonder that offers its guests a window into the natural world. As the state’s largest environmental education center, the Zoo serves all Minnesotans through the facilitation of experiential learning opportunities. Home to nearly 5,000 animals, many of them endangered species from around the globe, the Zoo harnesses the power of connection and education to be a catalyst for social and environmental change and a leader in wildlife conservation.

The Minnesota Zoo first opened its doors to the public in 1978 and continues to serve nearly 1.3 million guests in a typical year through award-winning exhibits and educational and interpretive programming. Today, guests to the Zoo can be transported around the globe while visiting exhibits such as Russia’s Grizzly Coast, Discovery Bay, 3M Penguins of the African Coast, Medtronic Minnesota Trail, Tropics Trail, Northern Trail, and the Wells Fargo Family Farm. In addition, the Zoo offers many opportunities for children to engage in hands-on learning and play through amenities like Hanifl Family Wild Woods and Woodland Adventure. Each of these experiences are designed to promote experiential learning and facilitate emotional connections to the natural world in order to build awareness of global conservation issues and celebrate Minnesota’s natural history.

The Minnesota Zoo is passionately committed to saving wildlife and the habitats they depend on. While physically located in Apple Valley, MN, the Zoo is engaged with conservation efforts throughout the state and across the globe. In close collaboration with other state and federal agencies, Zoo researchers dedicate their expertise to lead projects that address a wide range of threats to endangered species. In Minnesota, efforts focus on reintroduction of the state’s most imperiled butterflies and the diminishing prairie they depend on, as well as threatened aquatic turtles and endangered freshwater mussels, and the reintroduction of wild bison herds in Minnesota State Parks. The Zoo also leads international conservation efforts through programs such as the renowned black rhino project, the reintroduction of Asian wild horses, and championing tiger conservation for decades. From programs implemented statewide to efforts across the globe, wildlife conservation remains at the heart of the Minnesota Zoo’s mission.

The Minnesota Zoo is a leading environmental education institution, serving nearly 400,000 people in a typical year through its educational and interpretive programming. These experiences are designed to educate and motivate people of all ages and backgrounds to act on behalf of wildlife. Through direct exposure to live animals, participants learn to appreciate and develop empathy for wildlife, cultivate a profound sense of curiosity for the natural world, and feel empowered to become stewards of wild animals and wild places. The Minnesota Zoo implements a wide variety of educational programming covering topics such as Minnesota’s natural heritage, current wildlife conservation issues, global sustainability, and the development of math and science skills. The Zoo

connects with its guests through daily onsite programming and through expertly created classes designed for school groups. In a typical year, the Zoo reaches most counties across Minnesota with the traveling Zoomobile program.

The Minnesota Zoo maintains a strong commitment to welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds, and ability levels. The Free to Explore Program ensures the Zoo admission is free for Minnesotans who qualify for assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, and MinnesotaCare. The Zoo Explorers Fund provides financial assistance to under-served schools throughout the state so that all students can experience the awe of a close encounter with a wild animal.

Further, the Zoo offers programs targeted to serve communities with special needs with various programs. Recent examples include autism camps, MNZoo4All autism app, American Sign Language (ASL) days at the Zoo, Dream Night for children with chronic healthcare needs, and early access to special events for those requiring a less crowded and stimulating environment. The Zoo bridges additional access barriers by providing maps of the campus in ten foreign languages, ASL interpreters, sighted guides, and tactile tours. The Minnesota Zoo implements these programs and many others so that a zoo experience is never limited to someone based on economic, cultural, physical, geographic, or other factors.

## STRATEGIES

The COVID-19 pandemic has required the Minnesota Zoo to revise strategies as it navigates a long-term recovery phase. Over the course of the next two years, the Minnesota Zoo will:

1. Reimagine a staffing model that supports the Zoo's mission and reflects changing communities prioritizing people's well-being and safety.
2. Revise, define, and implement animal welfare and animal collection plans modeling current best practices across the zoo industry while continuing to prioritize safety.
3. Pilot nature programs, products, and onsite experiences free of accessibility barriers; ultimately attracting new audiences.
4. Develop education, events, and unique experiences with a focus on nature, animals, equity and conservation to all of Minnesota.
5. Reimagine the daytime zoo experience and create a plan to expand capacity in afternoons and evenings, to include season exhibit experiences, four annual special events, and the opening of the Treetop Trail.
6. Maximize earned revenue growth via a diversified and sustainable business model.
7. Continue proactive and transparent communication with zoo stakeholders.

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See Minnesota Statutes Chapter 85A <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=85A> for an overview of the Minnesota Zoo's purpose, organization, and authority.

**AT A GLANCE**

The COVID-19 pandemic has required the Minnesota Zoo to revise strategies as it navigates a long-term recovery phase. Over the course of the next two years, the Minnesota Zoo will:

- Reimagine a staffing model that supports the Zoo’s mission, reflects the state’s changing communities, and prioritizes people’s well-being and safety.
- Revise, define, and implement animal welfare and collection plans modeling best practices across the zoo industry while continuing to prioritize safety.
- Pilot nature programs, products, and onsite experiences free of accessibility barriers, which will attract new audiences.
- Develop education, events, and unique experiences with a focus on nature, animals, equity, and conservation.
- Reimagine the daytime zoo experience and create a plan to expand capacity in the afternoon and evening, which will include seasonal exhibits, four annual special events, and the opening of the Treetop Trail.
- Maximize earned revenue growth via a diversified and sustainable business model.
- Continue proactive and transparent communication with zoo stakeholders.

The Zoo’s capital priorities are determined against these strategic goals. The priority projects are designed to:

- meet the maintenance needs of a 40-year-old facility.
- enhance the guest experience to keep the Zoo on a financially sustainable path.
- ensure quality animal care and welfare standards for the next 40-years.

The Zoo’s capital plan leverages private funding sources whenever possible, in line with the Zoo’s business model of being a public/private partnership.

**Factors Impacting Facilities or Capital Programs**

Major factors impacting the Minnesota Zoo’s facility and capital projects are:

- **An aging facility.** Minnesota’s “New Zoo” is over 40 years old. The Zoo has increasing repair needs to maintain the existing site. Such repairs and investments are essential to the safety, security, and well-being of the Zoo’s 1.3 million annual guests and 4,900+ animals. Maintaining the Zoo’s site is also essential to the Zoo’s business in meeting guests’ expectations.
- **Guest expectations.** Over half of the Zoo’s operating revenue comes from earned income sources such as admissions, membership, and education programs. To maintain and grow these revenues, the Zoo must meet increasing guest expectations for exhibit quality, new technology, guest amenities, and animal care. Our guests expect to have extraordinary, new experiences when they visit the Zoo. The Zoo’s priority capital projects are chosen with these guest expectations in mind.
- **Animal care and welfare standards.** Standards for animal care and welfare have evolved and increased in the 40 years since the Zoo was built. As a result, some of the Zoo’s facilities do not meet current animal care standards. Priority capital projects such as the remodeling of our current animal hospital are designed to bring the Zoo facility up to current standards.

**Self-Assessment of Agency Facilities and Assets**

The Minnesota Zoo has completed a full Facilities Conditions Assessment (FCA) of the Zoo site, which has identified over \$48 million in asset preservation needs throughout the site. Of that total amount, around 35

percent are found in buildings or structures that are in crisis or poor conditions. This assessment is used in setting priorities for large capital and maintenance projects.

### **Agency Process for Determining Capital Requests**

Zoo management prioritizes capital requests based on the strategic and master plans. A master plan toolkit helps to guide the Zoo's capital projects for the next ten years.

The Minnesota Zoo Board has fiduciary responsibility for the Zoo and approves the capital project priorities through its oversight and approval of the Zoo's strategic and master plans.

### **Major Capital Projects Authorized in 2020 and 2021**

The Zoo used asset preservation funds appropriated during the 2018 legislative session for projects, such as:

- Completion of the Zoo's fish holding floor and facility, which was critically close to failing/collapsing prior to construction.
- Improvements to the Tiger Lair exhibit including replacement of a retaining wall and rockwork.
- Replacement of aviary mesh enclosure necessary to protect the Zoo's aviary collection in the Tropics Trail.
- Lower plaza improvements to address cracked concrete and uneven pathways.
- An animal hospital HVAC and heat exchanger replacement.

## Renovate Animal Hospital

**AT A GLANCE**

<b>2022 Request Amount:</b>	\$8,000
<b>Priority Ranking:</b>	1
<b>Project Summary:</b>	Design, construct, furnish and equip a major renovation of the nearly 50-year-old animal hospital to support modern veterinary care and 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 veterinary medicine and animal care.

The project will:

- **Create industry-standard facilities:** an intensive care unit and a large animal surgical suite where Zoo veterinarians can properly care for sick, injured, or orphaned animals no matter their size or medical needs.
- **Install modern veterinary equipment:** necessary equipment and electrical services for Zoo veterinarians to perform clinical analysis and procedures in-house—avoiding costly external contractors and delays or transfers that can further compromise an animal's health.
- **Provide proper infection control:** updated holding facilities, areas for biosecurity control, and renovated HVAC systems for proper isolation of quarantined animals to prevent spread of infection.
- **Better protect animal and human safety:** add a garage to minimize the risk of animal escapes and to protect sensitive species from Minnesota weather when transferring animals to the hospital; install industry-standard equipment to safely lift and move animals through the facility.
- **Improve animal diets:** create a nutritional laboratory for animal diet analysis and preparation to ensure over 400 different species receive the right diet to maximize their health.
- **Complete long-overdue building updates:** repair the deteriorated exterior structure, update workspaces, provide storage for specialized vehicles and valuable medical equipment, and co-locate compatible animal programs to extend the useful life of the nearly fifty-year-old building.
- **Support veterinary education:** add conference and education space for visiting veterinarians and professional education programs to help train the next generation of zoological veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

**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. Our animal collection is put at risk when we cannot provide the type of care needed in a timely fashion.

### **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 safely and efficiently and bring in-house many procedures that currently require costly external contractors. Updating the oldest facility on the campus will reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

None.

### **Project Contact Person**

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### **Governor's Recommendation**

The Governor recommends \$8 million in general obligation bonds for this request.

(\$ in thousands)

**Renovate Animal Hospital**

**PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES**

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2022	FY 2024	FY 2026
<b>State Funds Requested</b>				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 0	\$ 8,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Funds Already Committed</b>				
<b>Pending Contributions</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 8,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

**TOTAL PROJECT COSTS**

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2022	FY 2024	FY 2026
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 830	\$ 0	\$ 0
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 5,369	\$ 0	\$ 0
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 720	\$ 0	\$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 1,081	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 8,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

**IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS**

Cost Category	FY 2022	FY 2024	FY 2026
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0

**SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS**

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 8,000	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %



**STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

<b>Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?</b>	Yes
<b>Pre-design Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):</b>	
Does this request include funding for pre-design?	N/A
Has the pre-design been submitted to the Department of Administration?	N/A
Has the pre-design been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
<b>Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?</b>	Yes
<b>Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 &amp; 6)?</b>	N/A
<b>Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?</b>	Yes
<b>Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?</b>	Yes
<b>Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?</b>	No
<b>Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2026?</b>	Yes
<b>M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required</b>	Yes
<b>M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project</b>	
Is this a Guideway Project?	N/A
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A

## Asset Preservation

**AT A GLANCE****2022 Request Amount:** \$17,000**Priority Ranking:** 2**Project Summary:** Asset preservation to maintain the Minnesota Zoo's over 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 the main building. Based on the engineering report, the Zoo implemented a load limit on the lakeside plaza and may need to further restrict guest and staff access if conditions worsen. The lakeside plaza is a key pedestrian thoroughfare and serves as outdoor seating for the main concession area—therefore further restrictions or a full closure would have a major impact on the guest experience.

In response to the engineering report, the Zoo developed a plan to:

- Repair and stabilize parts of the structure that can be fixed, including portions of the concrete support structure and related footings, foundations, and retaining walls.
- Replace what cannot be fixed with new infrastructure better suited to the freeze-thaw cycle and swampy conditions:
  - Replace the slab-on-grade foundation and cantilevered walkway with infrastructure that is more flexible and drains better.
  - Replace the existing ramp and stairs between the upper and lower plaza with ADA-compliant walkways while improving views of the lake and the snow monkey exhibit.
- Remodel the interior spaces below the plaza, which are nearing the end of their useful life, have been damaged significantly by water leaks caused by the failing infrastructure, and are only accessible for substantial remodel when the plaza surface is removed:
  - Remodel the snow monkey holding area to repair water damage, install better waterproofing and drainage, and reconfigure to reflect modern animal care and staff safety standards.

- Remodel mechanical rooms below the plaza to provide better access for future repair/replacement of critical mechanical systems without needing to tear through walls or ceilings and to replace some end-of-life system components that are too large to be replaced later even after better access is created.

The Zoo anticipates the lakeside plaza renovation will cost at least \$14 million of the total asset preservation request.

Other priorities for asset preservation include:

- Replace Tropics building skylights and sun reflectors, which provide appropriate habitat for animal and horticulture collections and cost-efficient lighting for guests.
- Continued systematic replacement of mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems that are mostly original to the over 40-year-old Zoo with modern technology to maximize efficiency and minimize operating cost while ensuring the comfort and safety of animals, staff, and guests.
- Replace or substantially renovate aged and deteriorated roads, bridges, and pathways throughout the Zoo site.
- Substantially renovate animal exhibits and holding areas to reflect updated animal welfare standards, address animal and staff safety issues, and improve the viewing experience for guests.

### **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

### **Project Contact Person**

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952-431-9299  
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### **Governor's Recommendation**

The Governor recommends \$12.6 million in general obligation bonds for this request. Also included are budget estimates of \$12.6 million for each planning period for 2024 and 2026.

(\$ in thousands)

## Asset Preservation

## PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2022	FY 2024	FY 2026
<b>State Funds Requested</b>				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 0	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000
<b>Funds Already Committed</b>				
<b>Pending Contributions</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 17,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,000</b>

## TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2022	FY 2024	FY 2026
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 17,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,000</b>	<b>\$ 17,000</b>

## IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2022	FY 2024	FY 2026
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0

## SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 17,000	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

**STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

<b>Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?</b>	Yes
<b>Pre-design Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):</b>	
Does this request include funding for pre-design?	N/A
Has the pre-design been submitted to the Department of Administration?	N/A
Has the pre-design been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
<b>Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?</b>	Yes
<b>Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 &amp; 6)?</b>	N/A
<b>Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?</b>	Yes
<b>Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?</b>	No
<b>Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?</b>	No
<b>Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2026?</b>	Yes
<b>M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required</b>	N/A
<b>M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project</b>	
Is this a Guideway Project?	N/A
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A

**Reopen the Nocturnal Trail****AT A GLANCE**

<b>2022 Request Amount:</b>	\$6,000
<b>Priority Ranking:</b>	3
<b>Project Summary:</b>	Design, construct, furnish, and equip a major renovation to 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**

### **Project Contact Person**

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Director of Board and Legislative Relations  
952-431-9299  
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### **Governor's Recommendation**

The Governor does not recommend capital funding for this request.



(\$ in thousands)

Reopen the Nocturnal Trail

**PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES**

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2022	FY 2024	FY 2026
<b>State Funds Requested</b>				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 0	\$ 6,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Funds Already Committed</b>				
<b>Pending Contributions</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 6,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

**TOTAL PROJECT COSTS**

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2022	FY 2024	FY 2026
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 593	\$ 0	\$ 0
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 4,250	\$ 0	\$ 0
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 110	\$ 0	\$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 1,047	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 6,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

**IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS**

Cost Category	FY 2022	FY 2024	FY 2026
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0

**SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS**

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 6,000	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

**STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

<b>Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?</b>	Yes
<b>Pre-design Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):</b>	
Does this request include funding for pre-design?	N/A
Has the pre-design been submitted to the Department of Administration?	N/A
Has the pre-design been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
<b>Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?</b>	Yes
<b>Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 &amp; 6)?</b>	N/A
<b>Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?</b>	Yes
<b>Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?</b>	No
<b>Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?</b>	No
<b>Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2026?</b>	Yes
<b>M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required</b>	Yes
<b>M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project</b>	
Is this a Guideway Project?	N/A
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A