

Zoological Gardens

Projects Summary
(\$ in Thousands)

Project Title	2014 Agency Priority Ranking	Agency Project Request for State Funds (\$ by Session)				Governor's Recommendations 2014	Governor's Planning Estimate	
		2014	2016	2018	Total		2016	2018
Facilities Master Plan	1	\$34,250	\$35,000	\$7,600	\$76,850	\$0	\$0	\$0
Asset Preservation / Exhibit Renewal	2	17,050	16,000	15,000	48,050	0	0	0
Total Project Requests		\$51,300	\$51,000	\$22,600	\$124,900	\$0	\$0	\$0

Facilities Master Plan

2014 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$34,250,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 1 of 2

Project At A Glance

The Minnesota Zoological Garden's request of \$34.25 million for exhibit renewal projects that are part of the Zoo's Facilities Master Plan. These projects include:

- Completing the renovation of Discovery Bay to allow for a new marine mammal exhibit (\$3 million)
- Design and construction costs for the renewal of the Zoo's popular Snow Monkey Exhibit and associated public spaces (\$15 million)
- Design and construction costs for an Asian Highlands exhibit to update and improve the Zoo's existing Northern Trail (\$16.25 million)

Project Description

This request is for \$34.25 million which, together with private funds, will finance the design and construction of the highest-priority exhibits in the Zoo's Facilities Master Plan. The Facility Master Plan---adopted by the Zoo Board and Zoo Foundation Board in 2012--lays out a vision for the future of exhibits and public amenities at the Minnesota Zoo. It is guided by our mission to connect people, animals and the natural world, and is in line with our strategic goals of being both a world-leading zoo and a must-see destination in Minnesota and the Midwest.

Discovery Bay (\$3 million)

A top priority of the Zoo is the completion of the Discovery Bay renovations to permit the opening of a new marine mammal exhibit. The Governor supported our full request of \$7 million for Discovery Bay renovations as part of his original 2012 bonding bill, but the final bill included only \$4 of this request. The additional \$3 million in this request for Discovery Bay will allow us to complete the on-going renovations and open a new animal exhibit that will meet the Zoo's quality standards and public experience expectations.

We are planning to develop an exhibit of endangered Hawaiian monk seals in Discovery Bay. Our current \$4 million budget will not allow us to repair the structural deficiencies in the building and prepare the space to house seals. This request would allow us to complete and open that new exhibit in 2015.

Snow Monkey Exhibit and associated public spaces (\$15 million)

This request will replace aging and failing exhibit and behind-the-scenes facilities, providing a more naturalistic environment for one of the Zoo's most charismatic, social, and popular species. The concept for this exhibit revitalization includes trees, rocks, and ponds, as well as multiple viewing areas for Zoo guests. This request will complete the transformation of the Zoo's Main Building into a modernized complex, which began with the opening of the 3M Penguins of the African Coast Exhibit and Cargill Environmental Education Center in 2011. The project is adjacent to and integral with the Zoo's proposed Upper Plaza Asset Preservation project, and includes major improvements to the primary lower level public gathering spaces. Private funding would be raised to support part of this project. Historically, public funding through bonding and other appropriations has helped us to secure private "matching" contributions. This is one of the ways in which the Zoo works as a public-private partnership.

Asian Highlands (\$16.25 million)

The Facility Master Plan includes the renewal of aging sections of the Zoo's existing Northern Trail exhibit into an immersive new exhibit that will represent the Asian Highlands. The new exhibit complex will build on the Zoo's existing animal collection, including the Red Panda, as well as add new animal exhibits, such as the Snow Leopard. This request includes \$4.25 million for design and \$12 million for construction.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

The Facilities Master Plan is built around enhancing the guest experience at the Zoo, and driving attendance and earned income. Enhancements of existing exhibits, such as Snow Monkeys, would have only minimal incremental costs to the Zoo. The only additional costs for the Snow Monkey exhibit would be that of some possible additional utility expenses, which are expected to be minimal.

Facilities Master Plan

Major new exhibits such as the Asian Highlands would result in incremental costs to the Zoo, through the need for additional staffing, operations, and maintenance. Some additional revenue would also be anticipated as attendance and the resulting revenue would increase. The opening of the Zoo's Russia's Grizzly Coast exhibit is an example of this. After the opening of Russia's Grizzly Coast, Zoo attendance increased by nearly 40% to new levels of about 1.3 million guests per year, and our operating budget and economic impact also increased.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

- \$4 million in asset preservation funds to begin the renovations of Discovery Bay in 2012;
- \$15 million for the new Heart of the Zoo entry and the Environmental Education Center in 2010
- \$20.6 million in 2005 and \$7.6 million in 2006 for Master Plan projects, Russia's Grizzly Coast, and the Central Plaza.

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Asset Preservation / Exhibit Renewal

2014 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$17,050,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 2 of 2

Project At A Glance

Asset Preservation and exhibit renewal funding of \$17.050 million.

Project Description

State funding of 17.050 million is requested to repair, replace, and renew facilities at the Minnesota Zoo.

The Zoo opened 35 years ago, and many of the original facilities are still in use, and are in need of repair, replacement, and renewal. This request is based on our institutional needs and priorities, as follows:

- Upper Plaza repair
- Amphitheater repair
- Road and parking lot maintenance
- Northern trail service building renovations
- Roof repair
- Main aviary repair
- Site Water Management
- Lower Plaza repair
- Site security
- Northern trail maintenance
- Skylight replacement and repair
- Mechanical upgrades
- Tunnel safety and maintenance
- Internal service repairs
- Greenhouse repairs

Asset preservation is an on-going need at the Zoo. Asset preservation funding is part of how the state continues to show its support for the Zoo as

both a public agency and a public-private partnership. Funding for repair and replacements is part of how the state protects its past investments in the Zoo, and ensures that we can continue to build on our successes and increase our education, conservation and economic impact.

The Zoo has spent operating funds on repair, replacement, and betterment of facilities, which has reduced our ability to offer programs. As our facilities continue to age, we are seeing increasingly critical infrastructure concerns that need to be corrected, such as the repair of the Upper Plaza. The main structural membrane of our concrete Upper Plaza is failing, and increasingly becoming a public safety concern.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

Funding this request will preserve the assets and improve safety, service, and operations of the Zoo. If this request is not funded, deterioration and structural decay will continue. The public visiting the Zoo will experience a deteriorating facility and both attendance and revenue will decrease. Delayed repairs are likely to increase in cost the longer they are postponed. Furthermore, we continue to use spend maintenance staff time repairing surface issues that are the result of deeper, structural problems. This appropriation will allow us to address those problems at their core.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

\$8 million in 2012; \$6 million in 2010; \$3 million in 2009; \$2 million in 2008; \$2 million in 2005; and \$3 million in 2002 for asset preservation needs at the Zoo. Examples of projects funded include:

- Beginning skylight repair;
- Minnesota Trail exhibit renewal;
- Roof repairs;
- Replacement of chillers in administrative buildings;
- Improvement to bison and moose holding facilities;
- Inflow and infiltration infrastructure issues.

Other Considerations

The need for asset preservation funding increases as our facility ages. The Zoo is unique in that our primary physical assets are exhibits of living animals

Asset Preservation / Exhibit Renewal

and plants. In many instances, techniques of animal husbandry and display and public interpretation have advanced significantly since the inception of the Zoo, and renovation and renewal of these exhibits is a top priority for the institution. In some instances, renovation is necessary to retain industry accreditation and meet regulatory requirements. Exhibit renewal and asset preservation can also support Zoo attendance and earned revenues.

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