



MINNESOTA ZOO

MINNESOTA ZOO 2020 CAPITAL INVESTMENT REQUEST

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

\$11 Million for Treetop Trail

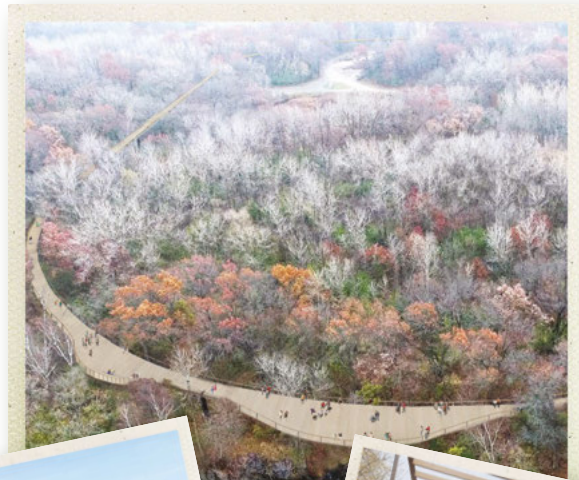
\$5 Million for the Animal Hospital

\$10 Million for Asset Preservation

MINNESOTA TREETOP TRAIL _____ **\$11,000,000**

The Minnesota Treetop Trail will repurpose the closed monorail track to:

- Create a 1.25 mile elevated walking loop through oak forest, wetlands and animal habitats.
- Provide Zoo guests of all ages with new perspectives of the animals and serve as a gateway to undeveloped natural areas on the Zoo campus.
- Offer unique outdoor experiences and programming focused on Connecting to Nature, Health & Wellness, Art & Creative Expression, and Recreation & Leisure.



Treetop Trail at reflection pond



Arts and culture programming



Animal Encounters programming

REVITALIZE THE ZOO ANIMAL HOSPITAL

\$5,000,000

The Zoo's animal hospital, built in 1975, predates the opening of the Zoo and requires significant renovation to meet industry standards for animal care. This project will:

- Replace building HVAC systems, electrical services and repair the building exterior structure; including, adding an ambulance bay for safe animal transport.
- Renovate facilities to support modern veterinary technology and practices.
- Provide educational opportunities for guests to observe and learn about Zoo veterinary care. Co-locate compatible animal programs and update workspaces.



ASSET PRESERVATION

\$10,000,000

Maintaining a zoo the size, age and complexity of the Minnesota Zoo requires ongoing infrastructure investment to keep facilities functional and safe. Priority projects include:

- Replacing roofs and skylights in animal exhibit areas and support buildings.
- Addressing outdated mechanical, electrical and life support systems.



OTHER REQUESTS TO REVITALIZE THE ZOO

REOPEN THE NOCTURNAL TRAIL:

The nocturnal exhibit has been closed for 10 years, leaving a boarded-up hallway in the middle of the Tropics Trail. This \$4 million project reopens the area as a new exhibit that will:

- Immerse visitors in the experience of traveling from ocean floor to treetop canopy.
- Include a kids' play area, much-needed family restrooms, a stage for animal encounters and volunteer space.

REPURPOSE THE THEATER (FORMER IMAX):

The tenant of the large format theater building departed in 2019, returning the building to the Zoo's capital inventory. This \$6.5 million project will transform the building and its scenic, forested hill into:

- A nature adventure hub that positions the Minnesota Zoo as a gateway to nature for all Minnesotans.
- Indoor and outdoor nature-themed challenge courses that will attract new audiences and generate new revenue streams.

Questions? Contact Missy McGrath, Director of Legislative Affairs
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