



MINNESOTA ZOO BONDING REQUEST 2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HEART OF THE ZOO CONSTRUCTION – PHASE 1

Due to the generosity of the Minnesota Zoo's private partners, the Zoo has completed designs and construction plans for Phase One of Heart of the Zoo and will be "shovel-ready" as soon as state funds are allocated. While the Zoo's original request was for \$18 million in state bonding dollars, we can complete all aspects of Phase One if we receive the Governor's recommendation of \$15 million. If we receive the full \$18 million, the Zoo will begin designing Phase Two of Heart of the Zoo.

Zoo's Request: \$18 million → **Governor's Recommendation: \$15 million**

What will the money pay for?

- Renovation of classrooms, including one specifically designed for pre-school students
- Conversion of underutilized space for a new indoor theater
- Transformation of the old theater into an engaging penguin exhibit
- Making volunteer headquarters more accessible and convenient for volunteers and visitors
- Revitalization of the "Kid's Den," an indoor educational play area
- Improvements to the front entry for guests and members
- At the \$18 million level, the Zoo will begin design of Phase Two of Heart of the Zoo

ASSET PRESERVATION / EXHIBIT RENEWAL

The Minnesota Zoo opened 31 years ago, which means the original buildings, exhibits and equipment are in need of significant maintenance. In fact, the Zoo has more than \$30 million in maintenance needs that must be prioritized each year.

Zoo's Request: \$15 million → **Governor's Recommendation: \$6 million**

What will the money pay for?

- The highest priority safety upgrades and improvements to meet code
- Continued investments in energy efficient buildings and equipment
- Roof repair and replacement
- Renewal and improvement of exhibit areas that require critical maintenance