



Legacy Amendment Arts & Cultural Heritage Grant

Lake Superior Zoo
FY 2011 Report

January 15, 2011 – January 15, 2012



Funding from the State Legislature’s Legacy Amendment Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund for the Lake Superior Zoo made through an appropriation on July 1, 2009, provided \$222,750 for the programmatic development of the Lake Superior Zoo. This report covers activity occurring in FY 2011 on the following five projects funded through this grant:

2010:

- New Master Plan
- Exhibit Restoration Project
- Zoo Science Experience
- Zoo History Project

2011:

- Zoo History & Heritage Center

1. Project Name & Description: A New Vision & Master Plan

The first project completed with Legacy Amendment funding was the completion of a new Master Plan for the Lake Superior Zoo. The project began in November 2009, with consultants from Studio Hanson/Roberts, Main Street Design and Shultz & Williams – all well known in the business of developing zoos and aquariums. In February 2010, the final plan was approved. All Legacy Amendment funding for this project was spent in FY 2010.



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Lake Superior Zoological Society
7210 Fremont Street
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Funding & Year Appropriated: \$60,400 Appropriated in FY 2010: Project Complete -- \$0 Spent in FY 2011

Additional Funds: \$30,000 in funding from Lake Superior Zoological Society reserve funds in 2010

Duration: Project completed in FY 2010

FTEs: 0

Direct Expenses & Administrative Costs:

Direct Expenses = \$60,400
Administrative Costs = \$1,510

Measurable Outcomes:

- Master Plan – a comprehensive plan that depicts a renewed vision for the programmatic development of the Lake Superior Zoo.

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2. Project Name & Description: Exhibit Restoration Project

This project developed a new exhibit for gray wolves in a vacant exhibit, which was unsightly and had erosion problems that produced runoff and impacted the St. Louis River, via Kingsbury Creek. During the exhibit construction, landscaping and the installation of drain tile resolved the runoff problem. The addition of appropriate fencing and a man-made wolf den have created a pleasant habitat for three wolves that now reside there. Legacy funding helped to produce advertising materials, graphics and signage to promote the new gray wolf exhibit. Legacy funding helped to leverage a grant from a Minnesota foundation to construct an interpretive kiosk and a children's parallel play area to enhance the educational value of this exhibit.



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Funding & Year Appropriated: \$15,000 Appropriated in FY 2010: **\$5,500 Spent in FY 2011**

Additional Funds: \$20,000 – Private Foundation Grant

Duration: Project began in FY 2010 and was completed in FY 2011

FTEs: 0

Direct Expenses & Administrative Costs:

Direct Expense = \$15,000
Administrative Costs = \$375

Measurable Outcomes:

- Guest evaluations – Surveys indicate that zoo visitors are enjoying the new gray wolf exhibit and appreciate the opportunity to see and learn more about this illusive species.
- Staff evaluations – Zoo staff have reported positive feedback from zoo visitors as they interact with guests during a special keeper chat or while going about their regular zoo business.
- Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accreditation – AZA approval of the new gray wolf exhibit, which was developed to make good use of an underperforming, empty exhibit that had been cited as deficient during a previous AZA inspection.

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3. Project Name & Description: **Zoo Science Experience**

With seed money from the Legacy Amendment funding, a pilot program for area third-grade elementary school children called *Zoo Science Experience* was developed, which provided free zoo admission for the students, teachers and chaperones; a 30-minute conservation program titled, *Zoo ABC's (Animals, Biodiversity & Conservation)* and a memento for the students to take home. This program was designed to meet all four strands of the third grade curriculum standards in the *2009 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science*.



The *Zoo Science Experience* program had strong participation in its first year (FY 2010). However because of staff changes in the zoo education department in early 2011 and weather conditions that same year, participation in all zoo education programs were reduced, including participation in *Zoo Science Experience*. With new staff aboard, we anticipate a strong finish by June 30, 2012.

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Funding & Year Appropriated: \$29,500 Appropriated in FY 2010: **\$7,744 Spent in FY 2011**

Additional Funds: \$0

Duration: Project began in FY 2010 and will continue to June 20, 2012

FTEs: 0

Direct Expenses & Administrative Costs:

Direct Expenses = \$29,500
Administrative Costs = \$737

Measurable Outcomes:

- Student evaluations – students indicate an increased understanding about wild animals and the need for conservation of wild places
- Teacher evaluations – area teachers have returned in subsequent years to expose their classrooms to the zoo's environmental education program

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4. Project Name & Description: **Zoo History Project**

The history of the Lake Superior Zoo, formerly the Duluth Zoo, has been researched and compiled for future use. Two contract employees were hired to research news articles from local newspapers, Duluth City Hall, the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center located at the University of Minnesota Duluth, and at the Minnesota Historical Society in the Twin Cities. Additionally, the



community was asked to share stories, photographs and artifacts for this project. All information has been organized in binders and in electronic format for preservation and use in the creation of an exhibit in the zoo's history. All funds have been expended and this project has been completed.

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Funding & Year Appropriated: \$6,475 Appropriated in FY 2010: **\$211 Spent in FY 2011**

Additional Funds: \$0

Duration: Project began in FY 2010 and was completed in FY 2011

FTEs: 0

Direct Expenses & Administrative Costs:

Direct Expenses = \$6,475
Administrative Costs = \$162

Measurable Outcomes:

- Qualitative and quantitative information – the number of photos, stories, artifacts that have been documented and organized for future use.

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5. Project Name & Description: **Zoo History & Heritage Center**

In accordance with the zoo's new Master Plan, this project will develop a Zoo History & Heritage Center on the zoo grounds. At the time of our application for Legacy Amendment funds in 2008, our intention was to build a new structure for this center. During the Master Planning process, it was determined that restoration of an existing Picnic Pavilion, built in the 1930s during the Works Progress Administration (WPA) era, would be a more cost effective strategy that would also develop zoo programs. Once renovated, the Pavilion will not only provide an appropriate space for the Zoo History & Heritage Center, but will offer much needed program space for zoo education and conservation programs. Additionally, the Pavilion will offer three-season, multi-purpose space that can be used by community members and organizations for various cultural events and education programs. It also will provide revenue-generating, rentable space for public use.



Some of the Legacy Amendment funds have been expended for architect fees, surveys, variance fees, and fencing. The design phase is now complete and the project will go out for bid at the end of February, 2012. Construction will begin as soon as the spring weather permits to replace the roof, tuckpointing, install windows and doors, add restroom and kitchen facilities, finish electrical and HVAC installation. The goal is to complete the project in 2012.

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Funding & Year Appropriated: \$111,375 Appropriated in FY 2011: **\$23,907 Spent in FY 2011**

Additional Funds: \$82,425 – Lake Superior Zoological Society fundraising

Duration: Project began in FY 2011 and is currently ongoing through FY 2013 with subsequent funding

FTEs: 0

Direct Expenses & Administrative Costs:

Direct Expenses = \$111,375

Administrative Costs = \$2,784

Measurable Outcomes:

- Renovated Pavilion – timely completion of the project within budget
- Zoo Programs – new and innovate education and conservation programs
- Cross-cultural Events/Programs – new partnerships and new participants benefiting from the unique setting at the Lake Superior Zoo
- Participant Surveys – feedback from program participants and facility users about the renovated Pavilion.

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