

Progress Report – Legacy Amendment Funding January 15, 2010

Funding from the State Legislature's Legacy Amendment Arts and Culture Heritage Fund for the Lake Superior Zoo is providing critical funds for the programmatic development of the zoo. Founded in 1923, the Lake Superior Zoo has been an important part of the cultural fabric of our region. In March 2009, the Lake Superior Zoological Society assumed full management of the zoo operation in an attempt to revitalize and preserve the zoo for future generations. Funding from the Legacy Amendment is greatly assisting in this endeavor.

The first year's Legacy Amendment funding, in the amount of \$111,375, has been earmarked for the following projects:

First Year:

\$ 60,400	New Master Plan
\$ 15,000	Exhibit Restoration Project
\$ 29,500	Zoo Science Experience
<u>\$ 6,475</u>	Zoo History Project
\$111,375	

In October 2009, the Zoological Society commissioned Studio Hanson/Roberts, Zoological Planning & Design Consultants, to develop a new master plan and related business plan for our zoo! The planning process began the week of November 16th, with a week-long on-site Vision Workshop that included a thorough facility assessment and meetings with staff and community members to gather ideas for the development of the zoo. The Master Plan will also include a Business Plan that compliments the programmatic facility development and a strategy to regain accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The final draft of the planning document is due February 1, 2010.

The Master Plan will be revealed at the Zoological Society's gala fundraising event, *Paw de Deux*, on February 13, 2010. Legacy Amendment funds, in the amount of \$60,400, helped to pay the Master Plan consultant fees which totaled approximately \$90,000. The remaining balance has been paid out of the Zoological Society's funds. The completion of the Master Plan is on schedule according to the timeline described in our Legacy Amendment proposal dated August 21, 2009.

This spring, the Zoological Society will begin the restoration of the old deer yard into a new exhibit that will be ready for the 2010 summer season. An architectural firm has been consulted and schematic drawings are being developed. Zoo staff are working with the Minnesota Science Center to acquire three wolves for the exhibit. Timing of the acquisition will coincide with the completion of the exhibit as weather allows. Marketing materials will be developed in March 2010.

With Legacy Amendment funds, the Zoological Society launched a pilot program called *Zoo Science Experience*. This program provides free zoo admission for area third grade classrooms, a 30-minute educational program titled, *Zoo ABC's (Animals, Biodiversity & Conservation)* and a memento water bottle with a conservation message for the students to take home. The program was advertised to area teachers in December 2009 through a colorful direct mail piece (sample enclosed with this report) sent to area schools. To date,

twenty-five classrooms have made reservations for their out of the classroom *Zoo Science Experience* program. Six programs were conducted in December 2009, which were very well received by students, teachers and parents. A survey received from one of the teachers and several thank you letters from students are included with this report.

In concert with the Zoo Master Plan, the Zoological Society will begin a community-wide research project of its history by inviting community members to share photos, stories and artifacts related to the Lake Superior Zoo's 87-year history. The zoo, founded by West Duluth businessman Bert Onsgard, rallied the community to develop the zoo for educational and recreational purposes. The zoo has seen times of great community interest and support, and it has weathered the depression years. Legacy Amendment funds will provide for research services to collect appropriate information that will be gathered for a new Zoo History Exhibit to be developed on the zoo grounds next year. Zoo historical information will also be used to identify past supporters of the zoo and will enhance the development of a capital campaign strategy.

The Lake Superior Zoological Society extends its appreciation to the State Legislature for including the Lake Superior Zoo as a recipient of the State Legislature's Legacy Amendment Arts and Culture Heritage Fund. Your support has already made a difference in the development of the Lake Superior Zoo, as it is available and accessible to the residents of Northern Minnesota.

NEW and Exciting Opportunities for Your Classroom!

The Lake Superior Zoological Society announces several **NEW** and exciting opportunities for your classroom - funding to help off set your transportation costs and a **NEW** program for area 3rd grade classrooms! These **NEW** programs complement our regular Zoomobile outreach program and the fieldtrip experience for you at the zoo. We hope to remind you that the Lake Superior Zoo is a valuable educational resource for your classroom and that this is the year that you should connect with the Zoo. **Don't wait, make your reservation now!**



The Lake Superior Zoo is a place where animal connections inspire global action.

Yellow Bus Fund!

Thanks to the Donald Weesner Foundation, funding is available to cover the cost of your bus transportation to the Lake Superior Zoo for your school field trip! Yellow Bus Funds are available to schools within one hour of the zoo and will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. This is a tremendous opportunity for a cost-effective field trip experience for your students. Please inquire about funding eligibility - some restrictions apply.



Zoo Science Experience For Area 3rd Grade Classrooms!

Program offered January, February, March & April

Announcing a **NEW** pilot program called **Zoo Science Experience** which includes **FREE** zoo admission for the students and teacher; a 30-minute educational program entitled, **Zoo ABC's (Animals, Biodiversity & Conservation)** and a memento water bottle for each student to take home. The program will be fashioned after similar, successful programs at other zoos and it is designed to enhance your 3rd grade science curriculum. This program, made possible with funding from the State Legislature's Legacy Amendment Arts and Culture Heritage Fund, will provide a **Zoo Science Experience** for 100 area 3rd Grade classrooms!

The zoo's Education Department has been working to incorporate the **2009 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science** into all education (in-house and outreach) programs. Specifically, **Zoo Science Experience** meets all four strands of the third grade curriculum standards in the **2009 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science**:

1. The Nature of Science and Engineering
2. Physical Science
3. Earth and Space Science
4. Life Science

Funding for the **Zoo Science Experience** makes this program available at no cost for 100 area 3rd grade classrooms. **Program reservations must be made in advance. You MUST schedule your Zoo ABC's program when you make your group reservation.**



Zoo ABC's water bottle for each 3rd grade student!



An Animal Encounter will Enhance your Visit!

The Lake Superior Zoo has an amazing teaching staff (of all shapes and sizes) including lions, tigers and bears! Using the diverse resources of the zoo, our education staff will provide an Animal Encounter that will expand on what you are teaching in the classroom. Your students will have the opportunity to connect with live animals and learn how their actions, whether harmful or helpful, drastically impact animals and their habitats around the world.

Animal Encounters are approximately 30-minutes in length and can be designed around animal biology and husbandry, environmental conservation, or another topic that ties into your science curriculum. We look forward to discussing program options so that we can make your zoo field trip an even better learning experience. Schedule your encounter at least one month in advance of your visit, as our schedule fills quickly. The program fee is \$20 per classroom, in addition to your regular group rate zoo admission.



Winter Zoomobile Visit!

Connecting with nature is more than reading text books and looking at pictures. Winter is the perfect time to bring life to your lesson plan with a visit from the Zoomobile. We'll bring a few of our animal ambassadors to your classroom for an exciting encounter! You may choose from



chinchillas and hedgehogs, desert tortoises and snakes, or bugs and birds. Your students will learn about the visiting zoo ambassadors and how we care for them. Students will also benefit from a hands-on learning with a conservation message.

All of our programs are aligned with 2009 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science to add real educational value to your curriculum. We can

custom design a program for your needs or you may choose from popular Zoomobile programs like:

- Creature Categories
- Birds of a Feather
- Bats - Myth and Reality
- Web of Life
- Creatures of the Night.

Allow about 45 minutes for a Zoomobile program. Fees are based on your distance from zoo.

Winter Zoo Fieldtrips

Winter is a great time for experiential learning and an out-of-the classroom activity at the Lake Superior Zoo! The zoo is open from 10am to 4pm, seven days a week, with a full schedule of daily animal enrichments. Your classroom qualifies for the group rate (10 or more paying guests) for schools:

- \$3 for children ages 3 – 12 years of age
- \$7.50 for students age 13 and up or for teachers/chaperones
- 1 free chaperone for every 20 students present

• Free admission for all bus drivers
To receive your group rate, you must make a reservation 24 hours in advance of your visit and pay for your group's admission in one payment by check, credit card or purchase order.

More to See; More to Do at your Zoo!

'Oh Fur Fun' activity schedule

ZOO

Sunday	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
	10:30	11:00	10:30	11:00	10:30	11:00	10:30	11:00	10:30	11:00	10:30	11:00
	Bat Breakfast	Nocturnal Feeding	Bat Breakfast	Nocturnal Feeding	Bat Breakfast	Nocturnal Feeding	Bat Breakfast	Nocturnal Feeding	Bat Breakfast	Nocturnal Feeding	Bat Breakfast	Nocturnal Feeding
	12:00		10:30		10:30		10:30		10:30		12:00	
	Tiger Time!		Bat Breakfast		Bat Breakfast		Bat Breakfast		Bat Breakfast		Polar Bear Chat	
	3:00		11:00		11:00		11:00		11:00		1:00	
	Snake Feeding in the Griggs		Nocturnal Feeding		Nocturnal Feeding		Nocturnal Feeding		Nocturnal Feeding		Visit with the Barnyard Animals	
			12:00		12:00		12:00		12:00		3:00	
			Melon Madness with the Brown Bears		Melon Madness with the Brown Bears		Melon Madness with the Brown Bears		Melon Madness with the Brown Bears		Snapping Turtle Surprise	
			3:00		3:00		3:00		3:00			
			Snapping Turtle Surprise		Snapping Turtle Surprise		Snapping Turtle Surprise		Snapping Turtle Surprise			
	10:30											
	Bat Breakfast											
	11:00											
	Nocturnal Feeding											
	2:00											
	Primate Enrichment											

The "Oh Fur Fun" schedule is a collection of planned activities all around the zoo that are fun, educational and free to zoo visitors that will make every visit to your zoo personal and exciting. Don't miss the "Wild Times" happening at your zoo!

Call the zoo education office at (218) 730-4510 to schedule or inquire the Yellow Bus fund, Zoo Science Experience for 3rd Grade Classrooms, Winter Zoomobile Programs, Animal Encounters, or a custom program for your classroom. Group reservations for your classroom field trip can be made by calling (218) 730-4500.



Lake Superior Zoo Program Evaluation

Thank you for inviting us to your facility. The Lake Superior Zoo strives to provide quality programs, and we welcome your feedback. If you have any comments that you would like us to know about, please take a moment to fill out this evaluation. You may print it out and mail it in to:

Lake Superior Zoo
Education Office
7210 Fremont St
Duluth, MN 55807

Or just fill it out electronically and forward back to us: edu2@lszoo.org

Date of presentation: 12/2/09

The Lake Superior Zoo was easy to contact.

☒ Agree ☐ N/A ☐ Disagree

The program scheduler took good care of me.

☒ Agree ☐ N/A ☐ Disagree

The presentation kept students' and visitors' attention.

☒ Agree ☐ N/A ☐ Disagree

The presentation was fun!

☒ Agree ☐ N/A ☐ Disagree

I learned something new about animals and conservation.

☒ Agree ☐ N/A ☐ Disagree

The material was at a good level of understanding.

☒ Agree ☐ N/A ☐ Disagree

The presentation was a good length.

☒ Agree ☐ N/A ☐ Disagree

I would recommend this program.

☒ Agree ☐ N/A ☐ Disagree

And additional comments would be appreciated.

Well done ~ we had a wonderful day!

Would you like to be added to our mailing list?

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone:

Email:



Dear Heidi & Zoo Staff,
Thank you again for hosting
our 3rd Graders at the
Lake Superior Zoo last Wed.

Your presentation was very
informative & appropriate for
our students. They had many
stories to tell of the animals
and "encounters" while on our
visit. Thanks too to Deanna
for letting us know about this
wonderful opportunity early on.

Happy Holidays & Merry
Christmas to you
& your staff (and animals)

Mr. K.

* The "treat" bags were also
a big hit!

Dear Heidi,

Thank you Heidi. Thank you
for the program. I think
that it was good teaching us
about the endangered animals. Thank
you for letting us pet Mary.
Thanks for teaching us about
habitat, biodiversity and ecosystem. Eco
system is the background. Habitat is
where they live. Biodiversity is
how many animals. I am thankful
for the free goody's.

Your friend,

Adam Lavigne

Dear Heidi,

Thank you
for the show. I learned
to keep the world clean
and to reuse, recycle, and
reduce. I learned about
the animals. Thank you
for the present.

From
Craig

Dear Heidi,

Thank you for having us to the zoo. I had a really good time. I learned that you can recycle cell-phones and it helps gorilla's. I also learned that a lot animals are endangered and some are even extinct. My favorite animal was the polar bear. I am really greatful for the present. Thank you so much

from,
Jackson
Brull

Dear Heidi,

Thank you for teaching us about habitats and endangered animals. I learned that people are ruining animals' habitats. I also learned that animals are more active in the winter than in the summer. My favorite animals were the polar bear, the snow leopard, and the snow owl. Two words I learned were ecosystem and biodiversity. Thank you for the lion, the postcard, the water bottle, and the bag.

Sincerely,
Heidi Gondik