# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2020 Request for Proposals (RFP)

Project Title: ENRTF ID: 143-CH	
Lake Superior Zoo; Water Protection Intuitive Exhibit	
Category: H. Proposals seeking \$200,000 or less in funding	
Sub-Category: C. Environmental Education	
Total Project Budget: \$ 197.500	
Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2022 (2 yrs)	
Summary:	
Create an environmental water protection intuitive exhibit that uses Kingsbury Creek within the Lake Superized to demonstrate the importance and value of buffer areas adjacent to our watersheds.	or
Name: Erik Simonson	
Sponsoring Organization: Lake Superior Zoological Society	
Job Title: <u>CEO</u>	
Department:	
Address: 7210 Fremont Street	
<u>Duluth</u> <u>MN</u> <u>55807</u>	
Telephone Number: (218) 730-4500	
Email esimonson@lszoo.org	
Web Address: http://www.lszooduluth.org	
Location:	
Region: Statewide, Central, Northeast	
County Name: Statewide	
City / Township:	
Alternate Text for Visual:	
The visual is the footprint of the Lake Superior Zoo to include Kingsbury Creek and highlighting the areas to be developed as part of the exhibit.	)
Funding Priorities Multiple Benefits Outcomes Knowledge Base	
Extent of Impact Innovation Scientific/Tech Basis Urgency	
Capacity Readiness Leverage TOTAL%	

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## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2020 Main Proposal Template

### PROJECT TITLE: Lake Superior Zoo; Water Protection Intuitive Exhibit

#### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Minnesota has a long history of being environmentally responsible, and of protecting its waters. With the recent passage of water resources protection standards, it is critically important that examples and intuitive education is readily available for the general public to understand. Most Minnesotans don't know there are water protection standards in place with respect to land adjoining our waterways, and this interpretive exhibit would allow the education of tens of thousands of zoo guests each year as to the importance of "buffers" in protecting our streams.

The Lake Superior Zoo in Duluth, MN is fortunate to have Kingsbury Creek, a tributary to the St. Louis River and Lake Superior, running through its picturesque grounds. We believe this provides us a unique and ideal opportunity to create an educational exhibit and wrap around program that will:

- Identify the importance of public waters;
- Provide real time examples of riparian protection requirements;
- Provide examples of perennial vegetation management practices;
- Provide intuitive education to more than 80,000 visitors annually;
- Include water resources, riparian protection, and its importance to sustainable ecosystems to over 20,000 participants in our educational programs annually.

The Lake Superior Zoo's attendance includes about 30% from Duluth and the immediate surrounding region, another 50% to 60% from all across Minnesota, and the rest from outside our state.

The project itself would include:

- Creation of nearly a full acre of vegetated buffer between guest pathways and several thousand feet of Kingsbury Creek on zoo grounds.
- Planting of appropriate perennial plants within the managed area coordinated with the local SWCD.
- An elevated viewing platform for educational programming/overlook, as well as transparent physical barriers to delineate boundaries.
- Intuitive educational signage strategically located along the physical barrier for visitors to experience.

We believe in our mission here at the Lake Superior Zoo, which includes an intense focus on conservation and sustainability. We also believe that the more of the general public that is exposed to best practices surrounding water management and quality, the more likely we are to create future generations that will provide multiple benefits to our environment and natural resources.

#### **II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

Activity 1 Title: Construct physical barrier and elevated educational/viewing platform.

**Description:** Construct approximately 1,850' of barrier between designated protection areas and visitor pathways. Barrier to comply with Minnesota State Building Code, and will signify the boundary for the managed protection area. It will be non-intrusive, and support installation of educational signage and programming. Plan and construct elevated platform for viewing and for group educational programming.

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# **Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2020 Main Proposal Template**

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 162,500** 

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Finalize boundary of management area with SWCD.	August, 2020
2. Develop and execute RFP for project – Award Bid.	November, 2020
3. Construction and Completion	June, 2021

Activity 2 Title: Complete vegetation management planting.

**Description:** Plant approximately 55,000 square feet of selected perennials in management area(s). Planting would be determined in cooperation with local SWCD.

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 30,000** 

Outcome	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Finalize boundary of management area with SWCD.	August, 2020
2. Develop appropriate plan with SWCD.	December, 2020
3. Prepare area, secure plants, and execute arrangement.	August, 2021

Activity 3Title: Complete intuitive educational components.

**Description:** Plan and develop intuitive educational signage and explanatory material – install.

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 5,000** 

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Design	April, 2021
2. Create	July 2021
3. Installation	September, 2021

#### II. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS:

a. Southern St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District

#### IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

The Lake Superior Zoo will complete the work to incorporate the educational components into its on-site educational programming, as well as develop the instructional methodology that will incorporate the physical exhibit. The Lake Superior Zoo has the capacity to incorporate maintenance of the project upon completion.

### V. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

- A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet
- **B. Visual Component or Map**
- C. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description
- D. Letter or Resolution
- E. Financial Capacity

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Attachment A: Project Budget Spreadsheet Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet

**Legal Citation:** 

Project Manager: Erik Simonson

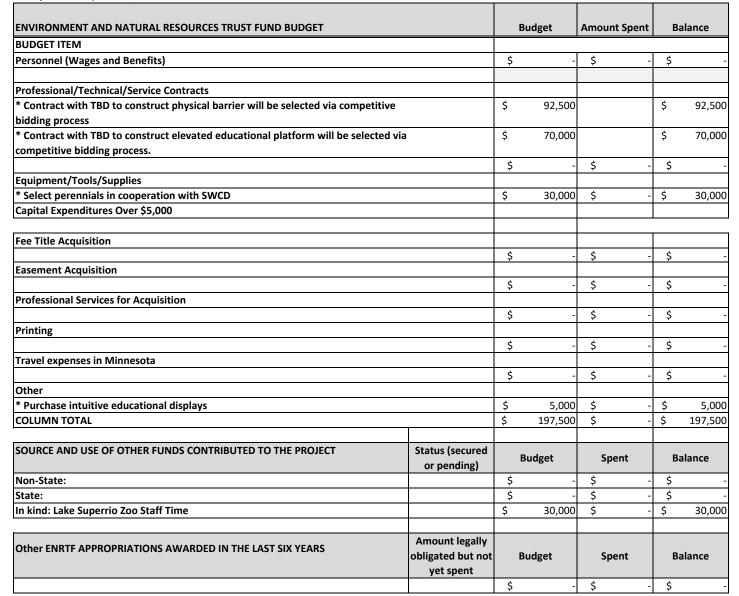
Project Title: Lake Superior Zoo; Water Protection Intuitive Exhibit

**Organization: Lake Superior Zoological Society** 

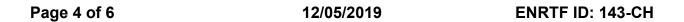
Project Budget: \$197,500

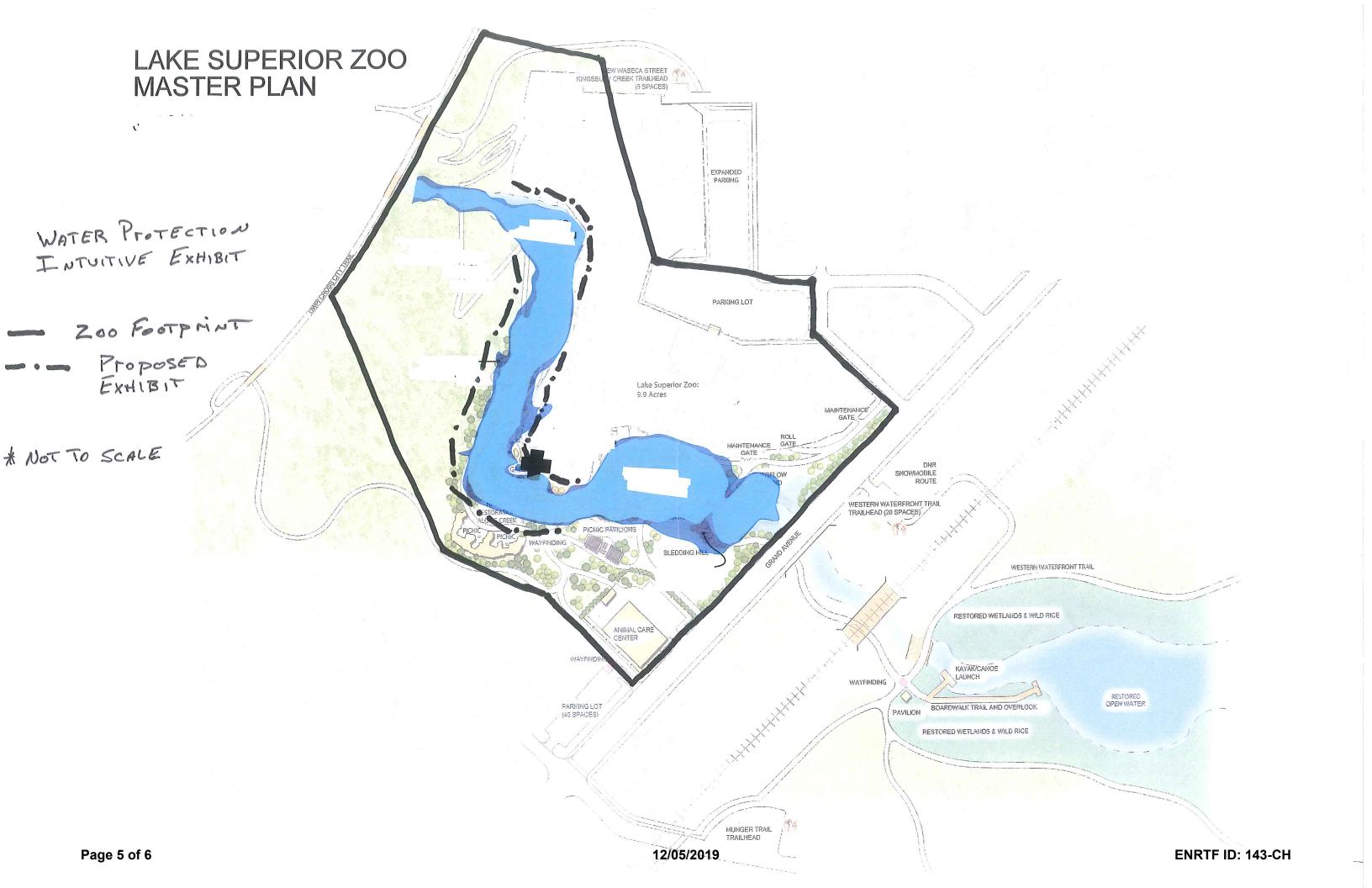
Project Length and Completion Date: 2 years: September 2021

Today's Date: April 15th, 2019



TRUST FUND





The Lake Superior Zoo in Duluth, MN, is the region's wildest place to explore – and be inspired. It is the only zoo in Northeastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin. We have a rich history of providing close-up animal experiences.

Our leadership team is dedicated to carrying out the zoo's mission: providing close-up animal experiences that inspire connections to wildlife including action toward conservation in our region and around the world. We do this through numerous animal exhibits, animal enrichment demonstrations, educational programs and camps, events, and more.

We are located on more than 19 picturesque acres, including rocky hillsides, majestic pines and beautiful Kingsbury Creek. One of only a few Duluth, MN, attractions open year-round, it attracts tens of thousands of visitors annually.

This "Water Protection Intuitive Exhibit" will be managed by Lake Superior Zoo CEO Erik Simonson. His responsibilities include facilities management, and is experienced in managing construction projects as well as in public bid procedures. In addition, other LSZ staff will be instrumental in planning and construction, as well as developing the educational programming to support the completed exhibit.

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