



Our mission: To provide close-up animal experiences that inspire connections to wildlife and action toward conservation in our region and around the world.

Close-up Experiences

Legacy Amendment Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds have created opportunities for all to meet animals like Sierra the gray wolf and her two sisters. These dynamic experiences help our visitors learn about conservation and foster empathy for wildlife and position the LSZ as a place of gathering in our community.



Education for All

We strive to be a place of gathering for our community and empower our neighbors in conservation. The LSZ is dedicated to a world where learning is an inclusive, all-encompassing, and collaborative environment by providing a safe space for all guests, staff, volunteers, and animals in our care.

Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Inclusion

The LSZ established a DEAI committee along with an associated organizational plan. We are committed to embracing, nurturing and upholding a diverse and inclusive culture for our staff, volunteers, visitors, and community. We strive to enact real change by identifying and developing insightful approaches towards growth within the LSZ and our industry.



Celebrating 100 years in 2023

The LSZ entered its 100th year as a thriving nonprofit organization. We received our renewed AZA (Association of Zoo & Aquariums) accreditation in 2022, have updated our strategic and master plans, and are in the process of building a brand-new world-class red panda exhibit set to open this spring. We continue to accomplish our mission and work towards achieving our vision of a future where all living things thrive together.



**For more information
please contact:**

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2024-2025 Biennium Request:

\$150,000 each year for developing and renovating regionally significant educational programs and native animal exhibits.



Snapping Turtle Habitat



Advanced Exhibit with animal well-being

- Exhibit to feature world-class life support and water quality

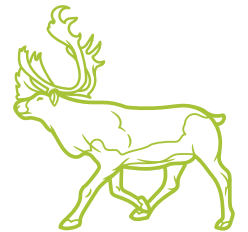
Creating an accessible experience for all

- Immersive viewing window that is ADA accessible

Foster empathy for turtles

- Teach zoo guests about ways they can make a difference for turtles in Minnesota and around the world through educational signage and programming

Caribou Habitat and Research



Returning a native species to their home

- Caribou herds once roamed the wilderness of Minnesota

Field work and research

- Focus research on the reasons why caribou vanished from Minnesota and what the species would face today

Indigenous perspectives and visitor education

- Tell the story of caribou through indigenous perspectives by partnering with local cultural organizations and consultants
- Educate visitors on growing threats to Minnesota wildlife