



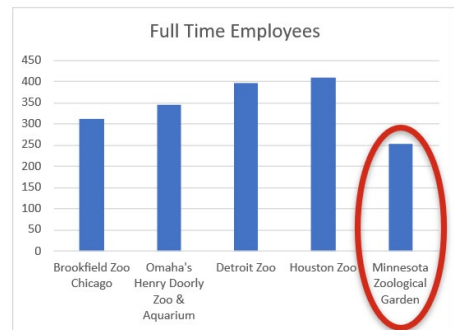
Governor’s FY27 Supplemental Funding Recommendation: \$3.8M

We are grateful for the Governor’s Recommendation. The \$3.8 million supplemental funding request will be used to address an operating deficiency.

Why This Request Is Needed Now

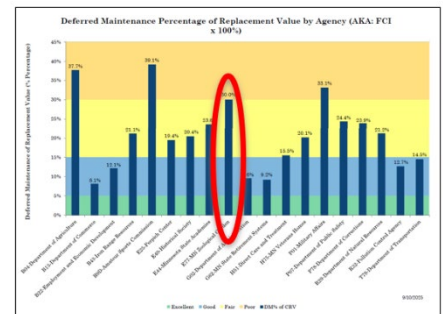
1. Workforce Challenges

- Compared to peer zoos, the Minnesota Zoo has the **largest campus with the smallest staff size** according to data from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums 2024 Benchmark Report
- The Zoo has the **worst incident rate of all state agencies** according to the Department of Administration’s MnSAFE FY26 Q1 Report



2. Aging Campus

- The Zoo is **among the worst facility condition ratings of all state agencies** according to the Department of Admin’s 2025 Facility Condition Assessment Report



3. Unique Zoo Challenges

In 2025, factors entirely outside the Zoo’s control **disrupted more than half of our peak visitation days**. When the Zoo loses attendance during peak season, there is no opportunity later in the year to make that revenue back.

- 32 days of rainfall disrupting 52% of peak visitation days in May/June
- 13 days (21%) of record-breaking heat (85+ degrees) in May/June
- 22 days (36%) of moderate to unhealthy air quality rating in May/June
- Additionally, Major hwy 494/62 road construction impacting travel for our member base from the western suburbs

The Minnesota Zoo is a **beloved statewide asset that serves over 1 million visitors** and reflects Minnesota’s values. This supplemental funding request will help bridge the Zoo’s current operating needs as we work toward long-term stability in the next budget cycle.

Questions? Contact Kayla Wallace, Director of Administration: 715-450-1840 or Kayla.Wallace@state.mn.us