



# City Council

## Agenda Item

**Subject:** Authorization to proceed with bidding the Wolf Exhibit Renovation project and accept a donation from LAZS in the amount of \$431,431.94.

**Meeting:** City Council - Mar 03 2025

**From:** Dusty Rodiek, Director of Parks, Recreations & Forestry

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Bramble Park Zoo has discussed renovating the wolf habitat for several years. It was placed in the City's budget for 2024. The Lake Area Zoological Society (LAZS) started raising funds in October 2023 for a new wolf habitat. The funds were raised during events at the zoo, our end of year giving letters, grants, and local businesses. Currently LAZS has raised \$231,431 and they are donating \$200,000 of their saved funds to raise the total amount to \$431,431. Between the City's contribution and LAZS contributions we have \$703,431 to put toward the wolf project.

A wolf renovation project is needed due to the current building being too small for a wolf pack and it does not have adequate utilities such as running water or heat. This project will save staff time, we will be able to maintain the habitat more efficiently, and it will make the habitat more economical. The new building will allow staff to lock the wolves inside, so it will make yard maintenance more efficient. The new building will have running water, so everything that is needed to clean the building will be easily at hand and won't cause a tripping hazard due to hoses on the pathways. Since we will have running water in the building, we are adding a heating system to the building. This will be more safe and efficient than the current space heaters.

We will also improve the fencing and the viewing area for guests. The new viewing area will help people feel immersed in the habitat and allow them to see firsthand the impressive size of the wolves. We will perform keeper talks and training sessions for classes and guests, so they understand the specialized care our wolves receive at Bramble Park Zoo. The new viewing area will allow guests to better connect with the wolves, leaving a positive lasting impression.

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### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The 2024 budget amount of \$300,000 will be carried over to 2025 during the carryover process in April. The donation will go toward offsetting the budget shortfall, the project construction estimate is \$700,000.

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### **OVERSIGHT / PROJECT RESPONSIBILITY:**

Stacy Plocher, Zoo Superintendent  
Dusty Rodiek, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director

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### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION / SUGGESTED MOTION:**

I move to approve the authorization to proceed with bidding the Wolf Exhibit Renovation project and accepting a donation from LAZS in the amount of \$431,431.94.

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