



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Natalie
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Price
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
Representatives Bierlein and Neyer, along with local elected officials; letters are attached under question #9.
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Detroit Zoological Society
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
8450 W 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI 48067
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
8450 W 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI 48067
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Rep. Natalie Price, 6th House District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
With more than 1.2 million guests per year, the Detroit Zoo is uniquely positioned to foster curiosity about the natural world and help guests build critical learning skills. Opening in 2026, a thrilling new development called Discovery Trails will revitalize 7 acres of the Zoo, provide unique animal encounters and enthralling hands-on learning opportunities.

State enhancement grant funding will be used to develop an area within Discovery Trails, which includes a major renovation of the existing historic barn and expansion of the

barnyard to include an interactive pretend farmers market, garden grove and outdoor classroom. Together, these innovative new features will help guests deepen their understanding of animals and agriculture.

Spanning several acres, this reimagined area will house domestic goats, miniature donkeys, alpacas and chickens. For the first time at the Zoo, guests will be able to enter the goat yard for an immersive learning experience that includes brushing and petting the animals. Zoo goers will also have an opportunity to feed the chickens that will live in and adjacent to the restored historic barn.

Also in this area, a pretend farmer's market will connect children with animals and plants that are integral to Michigan's agricultural landscape. The market will allow guests of all ages and backgrounds to learn how fruits and vegetables are grown and how they journey from the farm to the market, then on to their lunchboxes and dinner tables. The Discovery Trails farmer's market will also help children hone their math skills as they select, weigh and purchase make-believe fruits and vegetables.

In the garden grove, kids will use the tools of farmers and gardeners — building their identity in these roles that shape the food landscape. They will see plants and animals at different stages of growth, from birth or seed through maturity, and relate their own growth and changes to those species.

A dedicated outdoor classroom will allow the Zoo to expand and enhance its already robust educational programming. By providing a covered area for engaging activities designed by the Zoo's professional educators, this space will also support learning by classes, homeschool groups, scout troops, student clubs and other community groups.

Through the existing Day at the Zoo program, thousands of economically disadvantaged students will have the opportunity to become familiar with animals and nature in ways not otherwise available to them — especially when their homes and schools are in densely developed urban areas. Homeschooled children and their families will continue to receive discounted pricing during the Zoo's annual Homeschool Days, where they too can enhance their educational experience by spending time in Discovery Trails.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

1000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Anthony F. Earley, Jr., Chair; Stephen R. Polk and Robert G. Riney, Vice Chairs; John G. Sznewajs, Treasurer; Lloyd A. Semple, Chair Emeritus; Tonya Berry; Denise Brooks-Williams; Dr. William A. Conway; Cynthia Ford; Dr. Terry S. Harvill; Alan Kalter; Alan Kaufman; Bonnie Larson; Thomas Lewand, Jr.; Denise J. Lewis; Shawn Patterson; Dr. Hayley W. Murphy, Executive Director/CEO; BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ismael Ahmed; N. Charles Anderson; Alisha R. Bell; Andrew Blake; Thomas C. Buhl; Sharima Bulchak; Beth Chappell; Dr. Betty Chu; Dr. Beth Daly; Mark Douglas; David E. Duprey; Bishop Charles Ellis; John Erb; Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy; Jennifer M. Grieco; Hassan Jaber; Brandon Kolo; Dr. Isaiah McKinnon; Mario Morrow Sr.; Stuart Robbins; Gino Roncelli; James Rosenthal; Rick Ruffner; Dr. James Sawyer; Shirley R. Stancato; James Tate; Joel D. Tauber; Manny Torgow; Marianne Vidershain; Lawrence A. Wolfe; Stacy Ziarko; CHAIR'S ADVISORY: Lloyd A. Semple, Chair; Lynn Ford Alandt; Mary Kay Crain; Edsel B. Ford II; Allan D. Gilmour; Richard Manoogian; Edward Mardigian; Richard B. Platt; Gail L. Warden; Marilyn J. Way; Jeffrey K. Willemain

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Start: October 1, 2025; End: September 30, 2026

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes



Detroit Zoological Society

DISCOVERY TRAILS

Coming soon to the Detroit Zoo, Discovery Trails will be a dynamic and immersive 7-acre experience dedicated to the wonder of wildlife, the power of education and the joy of discovery.

With new opportunities for up-close animal encounters and hands-on learning, this transformational development will also boost tourism, economic impact and the Zoo's capacity for educational programming.



JONES JONES
ARCHITECTS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
PLANNERS





Within Discovery Trails at the Detroit Zoo, the Farmers Market (above) will encourage children's interest in agriculture and help them learn how produce gets from farm to table through a variety of hands-on experiences.

They will also learn about the life cycle of plants and hone their literacy, math and observation skills.

At the Goat Encounter (pictured at right), guests will be able to brush and pet goats, connecting with the animals in a way never seen before at the Detroit Zoo.



An outdoor classroom will provide additional space for expanding Zoo educational programming, resulting in an estimated 13,000 more children who will experience the Zoo each year through field trips and more.

DetroitZOO

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader
Michigan Senate
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Matt Hall
Speaker of the House
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer, Leader Brinks and Speaker Hall:

I am writing in support of the DZS request for **\$1 million in State funding to support Discovery Trails**, an exciting new 7.5-acre development at the Zoo's main campus.

The DZS is a critical asset for our state, driving recreation and tourism with over **1.2 million visitors and \$168 million in economic impact** in 2024 alone. The DZS proudly welcomes individuals and families from every Michigan county and every U.S. state every year.

State enhancement grant funding will be used to develop an area within Discovery Trails that includes a major renovation of the historic barn and expansion of the barnyard to include an interactive farmers market setting, garden grove and outdoor classroom. Together, these innovative new features will connect guests with animals and plants that are integral to Michigan's agricultural landscape.

The market will allow guests of all ages and backgrounds to learn how fruits and vegetables grow and how they journey from the farm to the market, then on to their lunchboxes and dinner tables. The Discovery Trails farmer's market will also help children hone their math skills as they select, weigh and purchase make-believe fruits and vegetables.

A dedicated outdoor classroom will allow the Zoo to expand and enhance its already robust educational programming. By providing a covered area for engaging activities designed by the Zoo's professional educators, this space will also support learning by classes, homeschool groups, scout troops, student clubs and other community groups.

I am pleased to support DZS as it endeavors to deepen and expand the many educational engagement options available to our community at the Zoo. Thank you for considering this investment.

Sincerely,



Matthew Bierlein
State Representative
House District 97

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader
Michigan Senate
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Matt Hall
Speaker of the House
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909

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I am pleased to support DZS as it endeavors to deepen and expand the many educational engagement options available to our community at the Zoo. Thank you for considering this investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Coulter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Coulter" clearly distinguishable.

David Coulter
Oakland County Executive



MARK A. HACKEL
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MACOMB COUNTY
OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MARK F. DELDIN
CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader
Michigan Senate
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Matt Hall
Speaker of the House
Michigan House of Representatives
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I am pleased to support DZS as it endeavors to deepen and expand the many educational engagement options available to our community at the Zoo. Thank you for considering this investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Hackel".

Mark A. Hackel
Macomb County Executive

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader
Michigan Senate
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Matt Hall
Speaker of the House
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer, Leader Brinks and Speaker Hall:

As the Mayor of Royal Oak, I am writing in support of the Detroit Zoological Society's request for **\$1 million in State funding to support Discovery Trails**, an exciting new 7.5-acre development at the Zoo's main campus.

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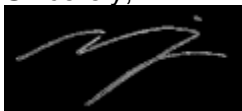
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Sincerely,

A black and white image of a handwritten signature, likely of Mayor Michael C. Fournier, written in ink on a dark background.

Mayor Michael C. Fournier
City of Royal Oak, Michigan



Mayor Robert F. Paul
Mayor Pro-Tem Jules B. Olsman
City Manager Chris Wilson

Commissioner Michelle Elder
Commissioner Joe Rozell
Commissioner Jessica Steinhart

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader
Michigan Senate
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Matt Hall
Speaker of the House
Michigan House of Representatives
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Mayor Robert F. Paul
Mayor Pro-Tem Jules B. Olsman
City Manager Chris Wilson

Commissioner Michelle Elder
Commissioner Joe Rozell
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Sincerely,

Bob Paul
Mayor
City of Huntington Woods

Detroit Zoological Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anthony F. Earley, Jr.

Chair

Stephen R. Polk

Robert G. Riney

Vice Chairs

John G. Szniewajs

Treasurer

Lloyd A. Semple

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Tonya Berry

Denise Brooks-Williams

Dr. William A. Conway

Cynthia Ford

Dr. Terry S. Harvill

Alan Kalter

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Thomas Lewand, Jr.

Denise J. Lewis

Shawn Patterson

Dr. Hayley W. Murphy

Executive Director/CEO

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Stacy Ziarko

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Chair

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Mary Kay Crain

Edsel B. Ford II

Allan D. Gilmour

Richard Manoogian

Edward Mardigian

Richard B. Platt

Gail L. Warden

Marilyn J. Way

Jeffrey K. Willemain

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Matt Hall
Speaker of the House
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader
Michigan Senate
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer, Leader Brinks and Speaker Hall:

As the Board Chair and Vice Chairs of the Detroit Zoological Society, we are writing in support of the DZS request for **\$1 million in State funding to support Discovery Trails**, an exciting new 7.5-acre development at the Zoo's main campus.

The DZS is a critical asset for our state, driving recreation and tourism with over **1.2 million visitors and \$168 million in economic impact** in 2024 alone. The DZS proudly welcomes individuals and families from every Michigan county and every U.S. state every year.

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We are pleased to support DZS as it endeavors to deepen and expand the many educational engagement options available to our community at the Zoo. Thank you for considering this investment.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Earley".

1CE3D1544C6E44C...

Anthony F. Earley, Jr.
Chair

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Polk".

14FE380B1A994FD...

Stephen R. Polk
Vice Chair

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Riney".

B120290493724FC...

Bob Riney
Vice Chair



MACOMB, OAKLAND AND WAYNE COUNTY ZOOLOGICAL AUTHORITIES

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader
Michigan Senate
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Matt Hall
Speaker of the House
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer, Leader Brinks and Speaker Hall:

As the Chairs of the Zoological Authorities, we are writing in support of the DZS request for **\$1 million in State funding to support Discovery Trails**, an exciting new 7.5-acre development at the Zoo's main campus.

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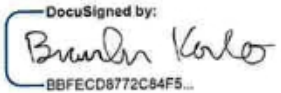
We are pleased to support DZS as it endeavors to deepen and expand the many educational engagement options available to our community at the Zoo. Thank you for considering this investment.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

5581709AE0D7410...

Dr. James Sawyer
Chair, Macomb County Zoological Authority

DocuSigned by:

BBFEC08772C84F5...

Brandon Kolo
Chair, Oakland County Zoological Authority



Alisha Bell
Chair, Wayne County Zoological Authority



MACOMB, OAKLAND AND WAYNE COUNTY ZOOLOGICAL AUTHORITIES

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader
Michigan Senate
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Matt Hall
Speaker of the House
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer, Leader Brinks and Speaker Hall:

As the Chairs of the Zoological Authorities, we are writing in support of the DZS request for **\$6 million in State funding to support urgent infrastructure improvements to the Detroit Zoo's iconic Rackham Fountain.**

The DZS is a critical asset for our state, driving recreation and tourism with over **1.2 million visitors and \$168 million in economic impact** in 2024 alone. The DZS proudly welcomes individuals and families from every Michigan county and every U.S. state every year.

For nearly a century, the DZS also has provided extensive educational programming to thousands of Michigan school children while connecting all DZS members, guests and program participants with the natural world and wildlife conservation strategies.

The DZS needs additional investment to replace antiquated components of Rackham Fountain. The DZS has conducted extensive analysis exposing undersized and failing infrastructure that poses a significant risk to the fountain and the Zoo's Central Mall.

Funding will support design, planning, and construction needed to waterproof the fountain structure and reduce water loss from leaks. Additionally, funding will allow the DZS to make repairs to the fountain's underground infrastructure and evaluate options to reduce water consumption and incorporate stormwater Best Management Practices.

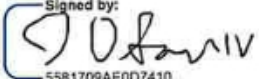
The immediate benefits of investment in Rackham Fountain include:

- Furtherance of the State's previous investment in the Zoo's multi-phase water infrastructure improvement plan
- Resolution and prevention of leaks, floods and sinkholes on the Zoo's historic campus
- Demonstration of responsible stormwater management to more than a million visitors every year
- Progress toward several Net Zero water goals at DZS, a best practice strategy for water supply, on-site treatment and reuse

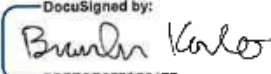
The benefits of investing in DZS infrastructure extend beyond the Zoo's borders. Once the Zoo's Net Zero goals are fully realized, **runoff volume to George W. Kuhn retention basin will be reduced**. Volume reduction to that sewer shed could feasibly reduce operating costs for Oakland County and partner communities in the sewer district. **Basement backups and on-street flooding will be reduced in the City of Royal Oak**, especially near the buried Allen Branch of the Red Run. Ongoing **investment also contributes to delisting the Clinton River watershed as an Area of Concern** by the Environmental Protection Agency.

We are pleased to support DZS in addressing these urgent infrastructure challenges while implementing best practices in sustainable stormwater management. Thank you for considering this investment in our community.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

5581709AE0D7410...

Dr. James Sawyer
Chair, Macomb County Zoological Authority

DocuSigned by:

BBFEC08772C84F5...

Brandon Kolo
Chair, Oakland County Zoological Authority



Alisha Bell
Chair, Wayne County Zoological Authority