



**Council Agenda Item 25-0470R**

**MEETING DATE:** 06/16/2025

**SUBJECT/TITLE:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF AN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM GRANT FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 TO SUPPORT LAKE SUPERIOR ZOO GROUNDS REVITALIZATION.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jessica Peterson - Manager, Parks & Recreation

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve.

**BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** N/A

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:** June 13, 2016 (16-0436R) – City Council authorized a ten (10) year management agreement between the City of Duluth and the Arrowhead Zoological Society, Inc., d/b/a Lake Superior Zoological Society, for the continued management and operations of the Lake Superior Zoological Gardens (“Zoo”). The management agreement describes the collaborative process that is necessary for the proper management and operation of the City-owned Zoo property.

**BACKGROUND:** As a result of direct appropriation from the State legislature, a grant was awarded to the City of Duluth for the Lake Superior Zoo by the Minnesota Urban and Community Forestry Program to support Lake Superior Zoo grounds revitalization. The Zoo is managed and operated by the Arrowhead Zoological Society, which includes landscaping and trees. The City of Duluth would administer the grant from the State of Minnesota and enter a subrecipient agreement, which is also included (Item 25-0471R) for approval at this Council meeting, for implementation of the project. Acceptance of this grant will support the implementation of grant deliverables including tree planting to promote biodiversity and provide natural shade, creation of an animal orchard and browse forest, and educational signage. Combined, this project will improve the visitor experience and enhance animal welfare by providing fresh, natural food sources and improved shaded habitats.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:** If accepted, the grant of \$150,000 will be administered by the City of Duluth on a reimbursement basis for project expenses.

**OPTIONS:** Authorize acceptance of the grant that would support removal and replacement of invasive and diseased trees, as well as the addition of new trees that will benefit animals at the Zoo and improve the visitor experience or forego authorization to decline the direct appropriation and forego landscaping, tree replanting, and functional site improvements.

**NECESSARY ACTION:** Authorize acceptance of the grant.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Exhibit A: State of Minnesota Grant Contract Agreement