



REPORT FOR ACTION WITH CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT

Polar Bear Life Support System (LSS) and Redirection of the Tundra Trail - Project Update and Additional Scope

Date: September 30, 2025

To: Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo

From: Leona Mitchell, Director, Capital Program & Sustainability

Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The attachment to this report contains *financial information*, supplied in confidence to the Board of Management, Toronto Zoo, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization.

SUMMARY

This report recommends an amendment to increase the budget for the Polar Bear Life Support System (LSS) and Redirection of the Tundra Trail project (RFT#70) to complete additional work. Confidential Attachment 1 also provides an update on the status of the Life Support System (LSS) work with Pine Valley Corporation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Capital Program & Sustainability, Toronto Zoo recommends that:

1. The Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo adopt the Confidential Instructions to Staff in Confidential Attachment 1.
2. The Toronto Zoo Board of Management direct that the confidential information contained in Confidential Attachment 1 remain confidential as it contains financial information which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of Toronto Zoo Board of Management.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the 2025 capital budget resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report as any increase in spending can be supported through the existing approved Capital Works Plan. This includes working with the City to reallocate available funds from other 2025 capital projects based on nine month projected spending.

DECISION HISTORY

On June 13, 2025, the Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo were informed of the Zoo's decision to suspend a portion of the project including all on-site construction activities related to the Life Support Systems (LSS) building, due to reasons identified in Confidential Attachment 1 to ZB16.6 - Project Update - Polar Bear Life Support System (LSS) and Redirection of Tundra Trail

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.ZB 16.6>

On July 19, 2024, The Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo approved the award of RFT 70 following the report ZB11.3 - Construction of the Polar Bear Life Support System (LSS) and Redirection of Tundra Trail Project

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.ZB 11.3>

COMMENTS

The Zoo is seeking authorization from the Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo as the proposed increase to the budget for the Polar Bear LSS and Redirection of the Tundra Trail project (RFT#70) exceeds the financial authority of the Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Zoo. The increase to project budget is required to accommodate several unforeseen and necessary enhancements to the project scope. This includes addressing unexpected site condition impacts, implementing improvements to the water filtration system, new scope of work and advancing operational efficiencies.

Of note, in collaboration with the Toronto Transit Commission, the Toronto Zoo is incorporating a retired Scarborough Rapid Transit (SRT) car to add Scarborough community nostalgia as part of our thematic and interpretive programming, which is outside the scope of the original Agreement. Additional scope also includes enhanced landscaping to improve guest accessibility and experience. Toronto Zoo is evaluating the inclusion of pool coating scope, which will reduce project phasing and minimize the downtime of our main pool, thus minimizing impact on the Polar Bears in our care.

CONTACT

Leona Mitchell
Director, Capital Program & Sustainability
lmitchell@torontozoo.ca
416-392-5985

SIGNATURE

Leona Mitchell
Capital Program & Sustainability

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 - Polar Bear LSS and Redirection of the Tundra Trail - Project Update and Additional Scope