# City Council OKs Zoo Expansion Plan

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**DES MOINES, Iowa --** A $25 million plan to expand the Blank Park Zoo got its first official thumbs up. The Des Moines City Council discussed the new plan on Monday night. The zoo wants to expand into the lake area of the Fort Des Moines Park. In exchange, the zoo will buy land just south of Southridge Mall and make it into a new park. Proposals are currently being accepted for potential new zoo exhibits that align with the Zoo’s mission of raising awareness of the plight of endangered species.

**Why are we doing this?**

Students will develop an understanding of the plight of endangered species and the role of zoos in species conservation. Student groups of four will create and present a proposal for a new zoo exhibit. The final project will consist of three components, an educational display to be posted at the entrance to the exhibit, a persuasive written proposal, and a scale model of the exhibit.

**What materials will we need?**

A folder to keep all handouts together. This will be kept in the classroom

There is a limited budget for materials to build your model.

Rubrics for each of the final products

**What will be graded?**

Project contract

Zoo scavenger hunt

Project management log

Project work report (self assessment)

Peer assessment of educational display

Peer assessment of written proposal

Draft of educational display

Draft of written proposal

Blue print of model

**Zoo model – see rubric for specific criteria**

**Final written proposal– see rubric for specific criteria**

**Final educational display – see rubric for specific criteria**

Participation in gallery walk

Peer reflection

**When is everything due?**

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| **Assignment** | **Due Date** |
| Contract and project management log | **Sept. 19** |
| Scavenger hunt | **Sept. 23** |
| Project work report (self assessment) | **Sept. 27** |
| Draft educational display and written proposal | **Sept. 29** |
| Blue print of model | **Oct. 3** |
| Final educational display, proposal and model due. Gallery walk | **Oct. 11** |
| Peer reflection | **Oct. 13** |

**How will I be graded?**

Your overall grade will comprise of a group grade based on the quality of your final products and an individual grade that will be based upon ongoing assessment of collaboration, work ethic and ability to meet deadlines. On the exhibition day be prepared to explain your entire project to peers, administrator and staff from Blank Park Zoo.

**Resources**

Blank Park Zoo expansion on You Tube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=komVcYiLdn8>

List of endangered species

<http://www.earthsendangered.com/list.asp>