



N E W S R E L E A S E

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Zoo New York at Thompson Park announces closure for the winter and temporary staff layoffs.

Watertown, N.Y. (October 27, 2023)— Thompson Park Conservancy regrettably has made the difficult financial decision to close Zoo New York to the public on Friday, October 27. The Zoo will reopen on Saturday October 28 to celebrate Dia de los Muertos, closing after the event with no reopening date determined. Unfortunately, this will mean the temporary layoff of 5 full-time, 6 part-time and 4 seasonal employees. The Zoo will be cutting back operations and maintaining only essential employees focused on animal care and basic facility maintenance as it heads into the winter season. It will be imperative that we work as quickly as possible with local City and County governments as well as our other community partners to find a path forward.

The Conservancy appreciates the help of The Workplace and the Department of Labor as we work with our employees assist them in transition to other employment.

Zoo New York at Thompson Park (Zoo) has been a vital part of the community since 1921. In 1991, the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc. was formed, and it assumed operation of the City's Zoo with some initial investment from the City in physical improvements, but no operational support. After initial success, it began a slow decline in financial stability after 2003 that was reflected in deferred maintenance issues and gradually increasing financial challenges.

For information about the Zoo New York at Thompson Park, visit www.zoonewyork.org or call (315) 782-6180.

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Zoo New York, by example and action, provides knowledge and motivation for conserving nature in New York State through science based natural and cultural experiences. We envision a future where New York nature is valued and conserved.



**Zoo New York
at Thompson Park**

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