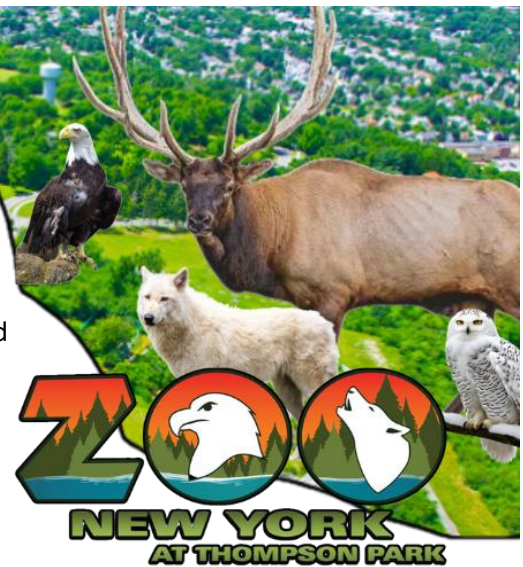


December 2023

Dear Friends of Zoo New York:

As we approach the end of 2023, we wish to **THANK YOU** for your encouraging support, thoughtful praise, and heartening kindness! Autumn has been difficult as we have faced tremendous challenges such as layoffs and closure of the Zoo with no immediate plan to re-open. Our thoughts are with members of our team who are no longer at Zoo New York. We thank them for their hard work and contributions. We have received amazing support from Zoo supporters throughout the North Country and these countless messages have meant the world to the Zoo's staff and the Thompson Park Conservancy's Board.



We are reaching out to let you know that you are a reason why we still have our Zoo, and your continued support will be essential to us finding a path forward. As we move into 2024, please know that animal staff are continuing to provide quality care to the animals, and staff and board are aligned in their efforts to re-open.

We have results from the Center for Community Studies' Survey regarding Zoo New York, and the results are incredible! Our community loves and values the Zoo and wants it to be re-opened. The survey shows that nine (9) out of ten (10) residents hope to see local government funding increased to provide stability to keep Zoo New York operating and growing! These results confirm what we have heard from our supporters... **our community LOVES our Zoo!** Please visit our website to see the survey results at www.zoonewyork.org/jcc-survey-2023.

This month, Zoo New York will again host our annual **Winter Wonder Lights event!** With heartfelt appreciation for our team of volunteers, including guest services staff who have made it possible, we invite you to join us on Friday & Saturday nights throughout December. Please bring your family and friends to the Zoo after dark, grab a hot chocolate from our terrific sponsor Stewart's Shops and stroll the Zoo as it shines with beautiful lights in celebration of the holiday season. Doors open at 5:00pm with the last admission at 7:30pm. Each night, Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus will be joining us!

As we approach the end of 2023, **please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support your Zoo by going to www.zoonewyork.org/winter-appeal-23-24**. We can only reopen with the support and help of our community and monetary contributions will go directly to animal care and efforts to re-open. Just as importantly, please provide your vocal support for re-opening the Zoo! Please share Zoo events on social media, leave comments of encouragement for staff online, and let your City and County leaders know just how much you value our Zoo as part of our quality of life here in the North Country. Now is the time to come together to ensure that Zoo New York returns better than ever and remains here for future generations to enjoy and love. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Dr. Mark Irwin

Mark Irwin

Interim Executive Director
Zoo New York at Thompson Park

