



## Indian Rhinoceros

(*Rhinoceros unicornis*)

**Geographical Range:** The Indian rhinoceros was once extensively distributed throughout most of India. Now its range is limited to northern Assam, northern Bengal and eastern Nepal.

**Habitat:** Though it prefers to live in swamps and grass areas, the Indian rhino can also be found in wooded jungle, ravines and low hills.

**Exhibit Location:** The Zoo's Indian rhino exhibit is located between the M & T Bank Rainforest and the giraffe house.

**Physical Characteristics:** The Indian rhino is the largest of the rhinos found in Asia. Male rhinos may reach heights of six feet at the shoulder and may weigh up to 4,000 pounds. Both males and females have large, singular horns on their nose that have been known to grow as long as 24 inches. Their bodies are long and boat shaped. They possess an ungainly head and thick skin with numerous folds. The skin of this massive creature is divided into great shields by heavy folds, creating the impression of armor plates; folds of thinner skin allow body movement and flexibility. On the flanks, shoulders and hindquarters, the skin is studded with masses of rounded tubercles (a small raised area).

**Diet:** This herbivore eats mainly grasses. In captivity they are fed alfalfa hay, grasses and greens.

### Did you know?

- Despite its weight, the Indian rhino can reach speeds of 30 mph when charging.
- The Buffalo Zoo has had recent success with breeding this species. Thus far Hank and Tahsi have produced two offspring.

**Status:** Endangered or threatened internationally. Listed on CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species), US Endangered or threatened, and Species Survival Plan. Their population hit a low point in 1970 at 900.