

Seneca Park Zoo, 2222 St. Paul St., Rochester

[www.senecaparkzoo.org](http://www.senecaparkzoo.org)

Contact: Pam Cowan, Public Relations and Marketing Director  
(585) 336-7201 or [pcowan@senecazoo.org](mailto:pcowan@senecazoo.org)



## **African lions are coming back to the Seneca Park Zoo**

Rochester, NY - June 3, 2010 — Bringing African lions back to Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo is almost a reality thanks to two successful challenge grants and a great deal of community support. The Seneca Park Zoo Society is in the home stretch with only \$1.9 million to go.

“I am confident we can raise the remaining money and break ground this fall,” said David Riedman, President of the Seneca Park Zoo Society’s Board of Trustees. “We have a lot of momentum behind us and believe the community will rise to the challenge and help us make this vision a reality.”

The exhibit, the third and final phase of the Zoo’s *A Step Into Africa* capital project, will be more than 8,000-square-feet and home to three African lions with some very unique viewing opportunities that will allow visitors to go nose-to-nose with the King of the Jungle.

“Phase III of *A Step Into Africa* reveals a number of new features that form the heart of the Ngorongoro Crater exhibit,” said Rachel Baker August, Executive Director of the Seneca Park Zoo Society. “We believe this will be something our community will be proud of and most importantly, an incredible, interactive experience for families.”

Two of the lions, one male and one female, will be coming from a rehabilitation facility in Africa. The third lion, another female, will join our Zoo from another U.S. zoo.

“African lions are a flagship species for zoos and for Africa,” said Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director. “The reason we are acquiring the lions from both Africa and the U.S. is to ensure genetic diversity for future generations of lions.”

To learn more about this project, visit [www.senecaparkzoo.org](http://www.senecaparkzoo.org) and type “Capital Campaign” into the search box. There you can read more about the project and watch an informational video.

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Seneca Park Zoo is owned and operated by Monroe County. The Seneca Park Zoo Society is a not-for-profit organization which has, since 1957, provided education, fundraising, special events and public relations support to Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo. The Society offers various levels of membership to the Seneca Park Zoo, which includes discounted and/or free admission to more than 170 zoos and aquariums across the country. For additional information, check us out on the Web at: [www.senecaparkzoo.org](http://www.senecaparkzoo.org).