



News From

Cheryl Dinolfo

Monroe County Executive

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DINOLFO BREAKS GROUND ON SENECA PARK ZOO MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS

Transformative Project will Invest \$13.5 Million in the Popular Attraction & Local Economy while Creating 200+ Jobs for Area Workers over Construction Period

County Executive **Cheryl Dinolfo** today joined Monroe County Parks, Seneca Park Zoo officials and Landmark Society Officials, as well as a locally-based construction team, to break ground on the first phase of the much anticipated Seneca Park Zoo Master Plan improvements. This phase includes an African savanna exhibit (featuring giraffes, zebras, rhinos and ostriches), a Cold Asia exhibit (featuring snow leopard and red panda) and a passenger tram with on-off stations at the south (front entrance plaza) and north (Africa) ends of the Zoo.

“You can feel the excitement growing throughout our community as this transformative project moves ever closer to becoming a reality,” said **Dinolfo**. *“Our \$13.5 million investment in the Seneca Park Zoo and the local economy will create more than 200 jobs for area workers over the 13-month construction period. Over the long term, our investment in a world class Zoo will pay dividends for years by contributing to our community’s overall quality of life, attracting both jobs and job seekers to Monroe County.”*

Dinolfo was joined by the following local firms, which were awarded the prime construction contracts for the project through a competitive bidding process: Crane-Hogan Structural Systems, Inc. for General Construction; Crosby-Brownlie, Inc. for Mechanical Construction and Plumbing Construction; and Schuler-Haas Electric Corporation for Electrical Construction.

Additionally, Dinolfo recognized two additional local firms that have been hard at work throughout the design phase of the project and will continue to play important roles during the construction phase: Clark Patterson Lee for Architect and Engineering Services and LeChase Construction for Construction Management Services.

The first phase of the Zoo Master Plan improvements is expected to take approximately 13-months to complete, with an anticipated summer 2018 opening. The project is a public-private venture and will be funded jointly by Monroe County and the Seneca Park Zoo Society.

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Still to come during the first phase of the project is a new main restaurant funded by the Zoo Society. This restaurant will be located adjacent to the current Eagle's Landing pavilion. The restaurant is currently in design and will be bid separately this year. It is planned to open in summer 2018, as well.

The first phase of improvements will conclude with the demolition of the Main Zoo Building, which is crucial to the Zoo's continued accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and served as the impetus for the 2015 Seneca Park Zoo Master Plan and Strategic Plan.

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