



News From

# Cheryl Dinolfo

## Monroe County Executive

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### **DINOLFO CUTS THE RIBBON ON NEW COLD ASIA EXHIBIT AT SENECA PARK ZOO**

*Cold Asia features the addition of Red Pandas and the construction of a new habitat for Snow Leopards*

County Executive **Cheryl Dinolfo** today was joined by members of the Monroe County Parks Department, Seneca Park Zoo officials, and members of the public to cut the ribbon on the new Cold Asia Exhibit at the Seneca Park Zoo. The new Cold Asia Exhibit features the arrival of the zoo's newest members, two Red Pandas, named Blaze and Starlight. It also features a new home for the existing Snow Leopards, Kaba and Tamila.

*"For decades, families from across our region have enjoyed time together at the Seneca Park Zoo while learning about conservation," said **Dinolfo**. "The new Cold Asia Exhibit is now home to our newest members of the Seneca Park Zoo family, two Red Pandas named Blaze and Starlight, as well as our resident Snow Leopards, Kaba and Tamila. This investment in our zoo is an investment in our community and local economy. I encourage all families and residents to stop by the new exhibit and help welcome our newest friends of the Seneca Park Zoo."*

For over 100 years, the Seneca Park Zoo has provided the community with opportunities to learn about wildlife and the importance of conservation. The mission and vision of the Seneca Park Zoo is to inspire the community to connect, care for, and conserve wildlife while also serving as a leader in education and conservation for species survival. The Seneca Park Zoo Master Plan seeks to implement the necessary elements in order to provide the inhabitants of the zoo with natural exhibits that closely relate to their natural habitat.

The construction of the Cold Asia Exhibit, the first project with Phase 1 of the Seneca Park Zoo Master Plan, provides a closely related habitat for both the Red Pandas and Snow Leopards, native to the eastern Himalayan and Southwest China regions. A naturalistic habitat with distinctive elevation allows them the opportunity to climb and explore on different terrain the way they would in their natural range. Other design features include a window looking into the Snow Leopard exhibit and an open viewing point for the Red Pandas, enhancing the overall visitor experience.

The efforts to conserve and protect these two species are of the utmost importance to both Monroe County and the Seneca Park Zoo. With both species classified as endangered and vulnerable in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Zoo, in partnership with the Red Panda Network and Snow Leopard Trust, is working within the communities where these animals live to help conserve the species.

The Cold Asia Exhibit is part of the Seneca Park Zoo Master Plan Phase 1, which maintains the mission and vision set forth by Monroe County and the Seneca Park Zoo Society.

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**Media Inquiries, contact:**

Director of Communications Jesse Sleezer at (585) 402-8019  
Department of Communications at (585) 753-1080