



News From

Cheryl Dinolfo

Monroe County Executive

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DINOLFO CUTS THE RIBBON ON NEW ANIMALS OF THE SAVANNA EXPANSION AT ZOO

*Five-acre expansion features 20 species, including giraffes and zebras;
New tram launches to shuttle guests to and from Savanna exhibit*

Monroe County Executive **Cheryl Dinolfo** today cut the ribbon on the new five-acre Animals of the Savanna expansion at the Seneca Park Zoo. The brand new Animals of the Savanna Exhibit now features Masai giraffes, zebras, ostriches, the Zoo's southern white rhino, and over a dozen other species.

*“After 15 months of construction and a \$13.5 million investment that supported 200 more jobs and 25 local small businesses, today we are thrilled to officially open the book on the next chapter at our Zoo,” said **Dinolfo**. “Our brand-new, five-acre Animals of the Savanna expansion features 20 exciting species, like giraffes and zebras, and even a new Zoo Tram to enhance the overall visitor experience. To me, this project is really about supporting stronger families across Monroe County, so I welcome residents of all ages to come enjoy our new Zoo soon.”*

The Animals of the Savanna expansion, coupled with the new Cold Asia habitats that recently opened in June, represent the first phase of the Zoo's Master Plan initially approved in 2015. Over the course of 15 months and through a total investment of \$13.5 million, the first phase of the Zoo Master Plan improvements supported over 200 local jobs and featured over 25 local companies participating in the design and construction phases.

In addition to the new habitats and animals, the expansion includes a Tram that will shuttle guests from the front of the Zoo to the Animals of the Savanna area and back. Additionally, the Savanna Outpost is a new concessions area, and will include an opportunity for guests to feed giraffes in the future.

Monroe County is investing a total of \$37.7 million in the Seneca Park Zoo Master Plan Expansion Project, while the Seneca Park Zoo Society has committed to raise \$23 million to support the improvements spanning the next ten years. A \$1.5 million Empire State Development grant supported a component of the Animals of the Savanna expansion. Future Master Plan Expansion improvements at the Zoo include a new restaurant, tropics complex, and guest services complex, among other new exhibits and attractions.

Pamela Reed Sanchez, Seneca Park Zoo Society President and CEO commented, *“Seneca Park Zoo Society is so proud to partner with Monroe County to create first-class zoo experiences for the community. We are thrilled to introduce these amazing animals to the public, and to help guests understand the actions they can do to help save them in their natural range.”*

Seneca Park Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through October 31, and 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. after November 1. Guests who have already entered the Zoo can stay on grounds one hour past closing time. Learn more at senecaparkzoo.org/visit.

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