



News From

Cheryl Dinolfo

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

Thursday, August 16, 2018

VIDEO AVAILABLE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZUK3gMVeVU>

DINOLFO ANNOUNCES OPENING DATE FOR ANIMALS OF THE SAVANNA EXPANSION AT SENECA PARK ZOO

Construction is nearing completion and animals are starting to move into new habitats; Exhibit to officially open to the public on September 13th

Monroe County Executive **Cheryl Dinolfo** today joined officials from the Seneca Park Zoo to announce that the new “Animals of the Savanna” expansion project will officially open to the public on Thursday, September 13, 2018. This is the second major project in Phase I of the Seneca Park Zoo Master Plan Expansion Project.

“With over 15 months of construction and a \$13.5 million investment into our Zoo, we have been able to support 200 local jobs, expand our exhibits, and welcome some exciting new animals to Rochester - including zebras and giraffes!” said **Dinolfo**. *“When we invest in quality of life assets like the Seneca Park Zoo, we are really investing in a vibrant community, a growing economy, and stronger families here. I invite everyone to join us for the grand opening of Animals of the Savanna on September 13th as we celebrate this milestone with our human and animal friends alike.”*

The “Animals of the Savanna” expansion is a new five-acre area of the Zoo featuring animals from the African Savanna, including Masai giraffes, plains zebra, ostriches, a southern white rhino, naked mole rats and over a dozen other species. Coupled with the Cold Asia habitats that opened in June, it represents a \$13.5 Million dollar investment project and has created over 200 jobs.

“The first few animal moves are complete, and others are happening in the coming days,” continued **Dinolfo**. *“Earlier this week we welcomed Kipenzi, a one-year old female giraffe from the Toledo Zoo. She’s currently acclimating to her habitat, which she shares with plains zebras from Hemker Park & Zoo. Kipenzi will be joined by another female giraffe by the time we open, and we plan to add a male giraffe later this fall.”*

In addition to the new habitats and animals, the expansion includes a tram that will take guests from the front of the Zoo to the new area beyond the elephant barn. Additionally, the Savanna Outpost is a new concessions area, and will include an opportunity for guests to feed giraffes in the future.

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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.”*

The new animals will not be viewable by the public until the grand opening on September 13, 2018 in order to give them proper time to acclimate to their new habitats and to each other.

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