

Assiniboine Park Duck Pond Now Open for Skating

For immediate release: Winnipeg, January 1, 2026 – The Assiniboine Park Conservancy is pleased to announce that the Riley Family Duck Pond at Assiniboine Park is now open for skating. The Park's cross-country ski trails and toboggan hill are also open for the season.

"Winter is a great time to get outside and enjoy everything Assiniboine Park has to offer, from skating and sledding to skiing on our groomed trails," said Lindsay Hughes, Communications Specialist, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. "The Park offers welcoming spaces for people of all ages to stay active, spend time together, and enjoy the outdoors throughout the winter months."

The **Duck Pond shelter** will be open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., providing washroom access and a place for winter enthusiasts to warm up and rest. Visitors are reminded that hockey sticks and pucks are not permitted, and to stay off the ice while plowing and flooding are underway.

The Park also offers approximately four kilometres of **cross-country ski trails** on three loops near the Duck Pond, the Pavilion, and The Leaf. Trails are regularly groomed for freestyle and classic skiing. The **toboggan hill** is located on the north side of the Nature Playground within walking distance from the Duck Pond.

The **Park Café**, located in the Qualico Family Centre next to the Duck Pond, is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and offers a full dine-in menu plus a selection of grab-and-go items at the take-out window. A pathway from the Duck Pond is covered with rubber mats, allowing skaters to conveniently access the take-out window without removing their skates.

The **Cargo Bar** pop-up patio, located next to the Duck Pond, is also open for the winter break. In winter, the patio is transformed into a festive retreat with multiple fire pits. Guests can enjoy a variety of warm beverages, s'more kits, cocktails, mocktails, wine, and craft beer. Open daily 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. until January 4.

For more information, status updates, and hours of operation, please visit the Seasonal Attractions page on the Assiniboine Park [website](#).

More Winter Events and Experiences at Assiniboine Park

- **[Zoo Lights](#) – Until January 3**
This popular seasonal event transforms the Assiniboine Park Zoo into a festive nighttime experience featuring illuminated displays and fun activities for all ages to enjoy.
- **[Luminous](#) holiday display at The Leaf – Until January 11**
Leaf visitors can experience a glowing winter display that combines seasonal plants with colourful light installations, offering a warm and immersive indoor experience.

- **We Are Winter – January 9-11**
Embrace the winter season and enjoy a variety of FREE activities for all ages including outdoor movies, live music, guided snowshoe tours, skiing and skating lessons, and more.
- **Fleurs de Villes WONDER at The Leaf – January 15-25**
This stunning display will feature 15 exquisite fresh floral mannequins created by local floral artists and inspired by nature's most extraordinary marvels.

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For interviews and information requests, please contact:
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