

**New Exhibits Coming to Assiniboine Park Zoo This Summer  
– Xtreme BUGS and Defenses of the Animal Kingdom open Saturday, May 18 –**

**For immediate release:** Winnipeg, May 3, 2024 – The Assiniboine Park Conservancy is thrilled to announce that two new seasonal exhibits will open on Saturday, May 18 at Assiniboine Park Zoo. The exhibits will be included with regular Zoo admission and open this summer only from May 18 to early September.

**Xtreme BUGS presented by Steinbach Credit Union** will feature 19 giant, animatronic bugs along a forested trail inside the Zoo, transporting visitors into a vivid, dynamic, and awe-inspiring new environment where they can experience how the world would appear from a bug’s point of view and enjoy an up-close look at the physical characteristics of these usually tiny creatures. The larger-than-life insect infestation includes a 21-foot Japanese hornet, a 13-foot praying mantis, and a honeybee that is 18-feet long and 8-feet high! Xtreme BUGS first appeared at the Zoo in 2018.

**Defenses of the Animal Kingdom** will feature a variety of fascinating creatures and interactive multimedia displays exploring some of the animal kingdom’s strangest methods of self-defense, which can include size, claws, teeth, venom, poison, and more. Species featured in the indoor exhibit will include a variety of insects, arachnids, and reptiles along with the four-toed hedgehog, three-banded armadillo, and Linnaeus’s two-toed sloth. While slow-moving sloths won’t out-run any predators, they make up for their lack of speed with camouflage, sharp teeth, surprising strength, and long claws. Visitors will be able to learn more about sloths and the other species in the exhibit during scheduled Zoo Chats held daily at 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.

“We are really excited to share these new, family-friendly experiences with Zoo visitors,” said Dr. Chris Enright, Senior Director of Zoological Operations, Assiniboine Park Zoo. “These are engaging, interactive exhibits that inspire curiosity about the natural world and an appreciation for all the charismatic creatures – large and small – with whom we share the planet. They’ll be a great addition to the Zoo this spring and summer.”

All active Zoo, Inspire, and Inspire Conservation members are invited to enjoy a members-only preview of the new exhibits during regular Zoo hours of operation on Friday, May 17 prior to the public opening. Members will be asked to show their member ID card to gain entry to the new exhibits during the preview. Memberships can be purchased online or in person at the Zoo.

Please visit the Zoo website for more information about [Xtreme BUGS](#) and [Defenses of the Animal Kingdom](#).

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