



### Assiniboine Park Duck Pond Opens Tomorrow for Skating

**For immediate release:** Winnipeg, December 20, 2024 – The Assiniboine Park Conservancy is pleased to announce that the Riley Family Duck Pond at Assiniboine Park will open for skating tomorrow, **December 21**. The Park's cross-country ski trails and toboggan hill are also open for the season.

"Assiniboine Park a great place to enjoy a variety of outdoor winter activities from sledding to skating and cross-country skiing," said Georgia Sigurdson, Communications Coordinator, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. "Fresh air, exercise, and time spent in nature is good for us all at any time of year, so we are encouraging Park visitors to bundle up, head outside, and embrace the wonders of winter!"

The **warm-up shelter** next to the Duck Pond 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. Picnic tables are also available outdoors for use by visitors. Beautiful lighting displays create an inviting atmosphere for skating under the stars. Visitors are reminded that hockey sticks and pucks are not permitted and to stay off the ice when plowing and flooding is underway.

The Park's **cross-country ski** network includes approximately four kilometres of groomed trails on three designated loops near the Duck Pond, 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 of 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 full menu dine-in service plus a selection of grab-and-go items at the take-out window. A pathway from the Duck Pond is covered with rubber mats so skaters can conveniently access the take-out window without removing their skates.

The **Cargo Bar pop-up patio**, located next to the Duck Pond, will open for the season on December 27. In winter, the popular gathering space is transformed into a festive retreat, complete with twinkling lights, fire pits, warm beverages, cocktails, mocktails, wine and craft beer.

The **Winnipeg Trails Association** is expected to open for the season on December 27, offering equipment rentals and services at their pop-up next to the Duck Pond. They have equipment for every age and size including cross-country skis, kicksleds, and a limited supply of ice skates. Rentals are offered by donation on a first come, first served basis and subject to availability.

**NEW!** This winter, Park visitors can also enjoy a wintery **Sauna in the Park** experience courtesy of The Backyard Barrel. Located on the Cargo Bar pop-up patio, the community cedar barrel sauna experience offers a cozy, aromatic haven where visitors can unwind and connect with others.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** We will be hosting a **We are Winter Celebration** from January 10-12 and inviting visitors to enjoy exciting outdoor adventures, cozy experiences, and vibrant entertainment, from outdoor movies to ice skating, free hot chocolate, fire pits, and more. Additional details coming soon!

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

You are welcome to use the attached photo of the Duck Pond from last year with credit to APC.

**For interviews and information requests please contact:**

Georgia Sigurdson, Communications Coordinator

Cell: 204-806-3816

Email: [gsigurdson@assiniboinepark.ca](mailto:gsigurdson@assiniboinepark.ca)