



Assiniboine Park Kicks off the Holiday Season This Weekend with the Opening of Zoo Lights and the *Luminous* Holiday Display at The Leaf

For immediate release: Winnipeg, November 21, 2025 – It has been all hands-on deck this week as the Assiniboine Park Conservancy prepares to welcome visitors to holiday events at Assiniboine Park Zoo and The Leaf.

“This is such a special time of year at the Park. Whether you’re wandering through the dazzling displays at Zoo Lights or embracing the welcoming warmth of the biomes at The Leaf, there’s a sense of joy and togetherness that people of all ages can feel,” said Laura Cabak, Senior Director of Marketing & Communications, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. “We’re excited to welcome everyone to The Leaf and Zoo for a magical and memorable start to the holiday season.”

ZOO LIGHTS – OPENS TONIGHT

Zoo Lights presented by Red River Co-op opens tonight at Assiniboine Park Zoo. The beloved annual event will run over the course of 30 nights until Thursday, January 1, 2026.

Visitors can look forward to:

- More than 1.75 million lights and displays along a two-kilometer walking loop in the Zoo.
- Frosty fun and games such as LED hula hoops, Manitoba’s largest light maze, skeeball, and new activities like croquet, box hockey, and snowshoeing.
- Photos and visits with Santa Claus (until December 23).
- Cozy fire pits and indoor warm-up spots.
- Roving carolers and LED light performers.
- A delicious selection of seasonal treats, snacks, meals, beverages, and Beavertails (\$).

Special programming includes:

- Sensory Night (December 3) – Adjustments will be made to provide a more comfortable experience for guests with sensory regulation or processing needs.
- New Year’s Celebrations (December 31 and January 1) – Ring in the new year on the last evening of 2025. Enjoy a live band, fire dancers, and rolling countdowns throughout the evening. We’ll keep the party going with more festivities on the first evening of 2026.

LUMINOUS AT THE LEAF – OPENS TOMORROW

The biomes at The Leaf will re-open Saturday after a scheduled closure during which the Babs Asper Display House was transformed for the holiday season. Our new display – *Luminous: A Celebration of Light, Wonder & Botanical Glow* – runs from November 22 to January 11, 2026.

Luminous explores how light transforms nature – both literally and symbolically – becoming a source of joy, warmth, and wonder during the darkest season. With imaginative lighting and festive colour, the exhibit reveals light as a magical force that influences both plant life and human traditions, creating a holiday experience that is whimsical and heartwarming.

Luminous is included with regular Leaf admission. Visitors are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance to ensure availability, especially on weekends.

For more information about Zoo Lights and the Luminous display at The Leaf, visit assiniboinepark.ca.

For interviews and information requests, please contact:

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