

Birdsong & Boughs: A Holiday Migration **Opens Today at The Leaf**

For immediate release: Winnipeg, November 23, 2024 – The biomes at The Leaf will re-open today after a scheduled closure during which the Babs Asper Display House was transformed for the holiday season. The new *Birdsong & Boughs: A Holiday Migration* display, which runs from November 23 to January 12, draws a parallel between holiday travelers returning home and migrating birds seeking warmth and refuge.

“Our new holiday display celebrates the holiday season and incorporates nature to create a beautifully festive experience to enjoy with your friends and family,” said Gerald Dieleman, Senior Director of Horticulture, Assiniboine Park Conservancy.

This display change was an enormous undertaking for the horticulture team, who worked for five days straight. The change included the dismantling of the *Yasuragi: Gardens of Japan* display, reconfiguring the space by moving over 18,500 kilograms of bricks, and lots and lots of planting.

The new display features 750 poinsettias, 500 decorative birds, and 45 birdhouses, some of which were built by the APC’s talented and tireless volunteers. When the display ends, the beautiful birdhouses will be distributed throughout the Park. The display will also feature 14 creatively decorated trees, including trees made from tropical plants and birdhouses. All the trees are centred around the bird theme.

Highlights of the *Birdsong & Boughs: A Holiday Migration* display:

- The Hartley and Heather Richardson Tropical Biome symbolizes a natural forest where birds migrate in the winter, filled with birds decorated in holiday lights.
- The entrance of the Display House will feature holiday wreaths made entirely of succulents.
- The display will feature bird-friendly plants and imaginative miniature habitats.
- The beautiful origami paper cranes from *Yasuragi: Gardens of Japan* have been repurposed for the new display.

Birdsong & Boughs: A Holiday Migration is included with regular Leaf admission. Tickets are time and date specific, with capacity limited in each time slot. Visitors are encouraged to plan ahead and purchase their tickets in advance, especially on weekends. Hours of operation and other helpful information can be found at [assiniboinepark.ca](https://www.assiniboinepark.ca).

-30-

For interviews and information requests, please contact:

Laura Cabak

Director, Public Relations & Communications

Cell: 204-795-0091

Email: lcabak@assiniboinepark.ca