

**Explore *The Enchanted Forest* this Fall at The Leaf
— New Display Opens Today —**

For immediate release: Winnipeg, September 12, 2025 – The biomes at The Leaf will re-open today after a scheduled closure during which the Babs Asper Display House was transformed with a whimsical new display. *The Enchanted Forest* runs from September 12 to November 16 and celebrates the magic and majesty of trees and the role they play in sustaining life, inspiring imagination, and connecting us to the natural world.

“*The Enchanted Forest* display beautifully captures the wonder, resilience, and vital importance of trees and forests,” said Gerald Dieleman, Senior Director of Horticulture, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. “Trees purify our air, cool our cities, provide essential habitat for wildlife, and enrich our communities in countless ways. As forests around the world face increasing pressures, this display inspires hope and action, inviting us all to envision and create a greener, healthier future where people and nature flourish together.”

Plant material featured in the display was carefully selected to represent the layers of a forest ecosystem, including:

- Over 30 live trees (elm, oak, birch, lilac, crab apple, pear, Norfolk pine, black hill spruce, Scotch pine, cedar),
- Forest floor plantings (a variety of ferns and shrubs), and
- Bog plantings (Venus flytraps and pitcher plants).

Miniature fairies, glowing mushrooms, and other whimsical details infuse the display with a sense of magic and enchantment. In collaboration with Bonsai Winnipeg, the display will also feature 12 meticulously cultivated bonsai, giving visitors a fresh artistic perspective on the form and beauty of trees.

Another poignant focal point is a cross-section from an elm tree that stood in the Park from 1913 to 2023. Each growth ring marks a year in the tree’s life, creating a natural timeline that spans more than a century. Numbered pins embedded in the rings highlight key historical events and milestones, from the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 to the devastating floods of 1950 and 1997, and the historic election of Wab Kinew, Manitoba’s first Indigenous premier, who was sworn in at The Leaf in October 2023.

The Enchanted Forest display runs from September 12 to November 16 and is included with regular Leaf admission. The biomes at The Leaf are open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. More information about visiting The Leaf can be found at [assiniboinepark.ca](https://www.assiniboinepark.ca).

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