



Assiniboine Park is Ready for Winter - Riley Family Duck Pond to Open Thursday for Skating -

For immediate release: Winnipeg, December 23, 2020 – The Assiniboine Park Conservancy is pleased to announce that the Riley Family Duck Pond in Assiniboine Park will officially open for skating tomorrow (Thursday, December 24) giving Park staff time to clean and prepare the ice after last night's snowfall and today's high winds. In compliance with current public health orders, the warming shelter located adjacent to the Duck Pond will remain closed. Picnic tables and portable washrooms are available outdoors for use by visitors. The Duck Pond is surrounded by beautiful light displays, permitting skating under the stars.

"Assiniboine Park remains a place where people can safely enjoy fresh air and physical activity, experiences that are so important to our health and well-being," said Laura Cabak, Manager of Communications & Public Relations, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. "When visiting the Park and enjoying these activities, please remember to follow public health orders and do your part to help reduce the risk of community spread of COVID-19."

Under current public health orders, people may engage in individual or family outdoor recreational activities such as skating, tobogganing, and skiing as long as they maintain required physical distancing and avoid gathering with people outside their household. Specifically, people must maintain a separation of at least two metres from people outside their household and must not engage in activities as part of a group of more than five people, unless they all reside at the same residence. No organized practices, games or competitions of any kind are permitted. Hockey sticks and pucks are not allowed. Visitors are asked to stay off the ice when plowing and flooding is underway.

Park visitors can also enjoy sledding at the toboggan hill located between the Duck Pond and the Nature Playground and take in the serene beauty of the Park on cross-country skis. Regular grooming of designated ski trails will get underway in the next day or two and continue as needed depending on snowfall. Roads and pathways throughout the Park are cleared of snow regularly, allowing runners, walkers and cyclists to enjoy the Park all winter long.

The Park Café, located in the Qualico Family Centre next to the Duck Pond, is open for take-out daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and offers a variety of delicious grab-and-go items. The pathway from the Duck Pond is covered with rubber mats so skaters can conveniently access the take-out window without removing their skates. Please note, the Park Café is closed on Christmas Day (December 25).

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

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For interviews and information requests, please contact:
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