

World Association of Zoos and Aquariums Welcomes New Members

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) is pleased to welcome Assiniboine Park Zoo as a new Institutional member to the global zoo and aquarium community.

The Assiniboine Park Zoo, located in Winnipeg, Manitoba, was founded in 1904 and is the oldest zoological facility in Canada.

In 2009, the Assiniboine Park Conservancy unveiled a visionary redevelopment plan that laid the groundwork for the revitalization and modernization of Assiniboine Park Zoo. The Zoo has since been transformed into a world-class destination and leader in environmental and wildlife education, research, and conservation. Today, the 32 hectare (80 acre) Zoo is home to more than 180 species with a focus on native and cold-hardy species and the recreation and celebration of Manitoba wildlife, geography, and culture.

Dr Martín Zordan, Chief Executive Officer of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), said: “WAZA’s mission is to be the voice of a global community of high standard, conservation-based zoos and aquariums and a catalyst for their joint conservation action. By having the Assiniboine Park Zoo joining us, we make this mission stronger.”

“We are very pleased to join the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and be part of a global community of progressive zoological organizations that are actively engaged in critically important efforts to protect and conserve wildlife,” said Grant Furniss, Senior Director, Animal Care & Conservation, Assiniboine Park Zoo. “This will present us with incredible opportunities for networking, professional development, and collaboration on international research and conservation projects.”

At Assiniboine Park Zoo, conservation and research go hand in hand. The zoo focuses on conservation in three areas: Arctic and subarctic species, Manitoba species, and international species at risk. With this in mind, the Zoo, with financial support from the Province of Manitoba, opened the Leatherdale International Polar Bear Conservation Centre (IPBCC) in 2012, a hub for wildlife education, research, and conservation. The centre provides a home for polar bears that would not survive in the wild, and houses the Conservancy's Conservation and Research department. This team coordinates and leads wildlife conservation and research projects focusing on many species of importance to both the zoo and its visitors.

The Assiniboine Park Zoo is also committed to education and public awareness. The zoo's mission is to protect and celebrate biodiversity both locally and internationally. Its vision is to have people share the wonders of nature in a way that inspires them to conserve it for the future.

The zoo also has a strong focus on sustainability and works to reduce its ecological footprint as much as possible while protecting natural resources. The zoo's sustainability strategy encompasses various areas of intervention, including waste, water, energy, environmental health, transport, green space management and sustainable procurement.

Assiniboine Park Zoo is also an accredited member of Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

For more information about Assiniboine Park Zoo, please visit their website: assiniboineparkzoo.ca

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Media contacts:

Laura Cabak
Manager, Communications & Public Relations at Assiniboine Park Zoo
E: lcabak@assiniboinepark.ca C: 204-795-0091

Gavrielle Kirk-Cohen
Director of Communications at the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)
E: communications@waza.org

About WAZA:

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) is the global alliance of influential zoos and aquariums around the world. For more information, visit www.waza.org