



Assiniboine Park Cross-Country Ski Trails Open for the Season

For immediate release: Winnipeg, January 12, 2024 – The Assiniboine Park Conservancy (APC) is pleased to announce that the Park’s groomed cross-country ski trails will open today, thanks to the recent accumulation of snow.

“The Park is a winter wonderland and cross-country skiing is a wonderful way to get some exercise and explore the beautiful landscape,” said Laura Cabak, Director of Communications & Public Relations, Assiniboine Park Conservancy “We are very excited to offer visitors new and improved opportunities to enjoy skiing in the Park this winter!”

There are approximately four kilometres of groomed cross-country ski trails in the Park on three designated loops. Trails are groomed for freestyle and classic skiing approximately twice a week, weather permitting.

Recently completed enhancements to the Park’s cross-country ski amenities include:

- **NEW trail map and signage** – In recognition of the Indigenous history of the land we now know as Assiniboine Park, each ski loop has been given a name in English and Ojibwe corresponding to local wildlife: 1) Eagle / Migizi loop, 2) Rabbit / Waabooz loop, and 3) Turkey / Mizise loop.
- **NEW equipment rentals** – The Conservancy has partnered with the Winnipeg Trails Association to offer ski equipment rentals and services. The rental facility will open today and be located near the Riley Family Duck Pond shelter. Services will include ski waxing, ski and kicksled rentals, and some skate rentals (subject to availability). Hours of operation are Fridays from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- **NEW ski racks at the Duck Pond and The Leaf** – Skiers can take off their skis to visit Cargo Bar or the skating shelter at the Duck Pond, or pop into The Leaf to visit the biomes, access washroom facilities, or grab something to eat at the coffee bar or restaurant.
- **COMING SOON, NEW connection to the Bourkevale Community Centre** – When ice conditions permit, APC will begin grooming a trail connecting skiers to the Bourkevale Community Centre’s network of trails along the Assiniboine River. The connection trail will be located near the Wellington Crescent entrance to the Park and open subject to ice conditions on the river.

A trail map can be found on the [Park website](#). Park visitors are asked to refrain from walking, snowshoeing, or cycling on groomed ski trails.

The opening of the ski trails builds on other winter activations in the Park. Visitors can also enjoy sledding at the toboggan hill located behind the Nature Playground and skating at the Riley Family Duck Pond. The skating shelter at the Duck Pond is open daily from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. providing public washroom access and a place where visitors can warm up.

The Cargo Bar pop-up patio, next to the Duck Pond, is open weather permitting on Fridays from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Visitors can gather around cozy fire pits on the licensed outdoor patio and enjoy a variety of hot and cold beverages including hot chocolate, coffee, cider, craft beers, wine, and cocktails.

The Park Café, located in the Qualico Family Centre next to the Duck Pond, is open daily from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and offers full menu dine-in service plus a selection of grab-and-go items at the take-out window. The pathway from the Duck Pond is covered with rubber mats so skaters can conveniently access the take-out window without removing their skates.

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

For more information, please contact:
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