

Continued Beautification of Rotary Duck Pond made Possible by Funding from CFPD

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Island Park—a Manitoba Star Attraction

In 2019, the Manitoba Government, along with Travel Manitoba, designated Island Park in Portage la Prairie as a ‘Star Attraction’. This park is indeed a source of pride for local community members, and a destination spot for many Manitobans, with its walking paths, duck pond, deer pen, playground, picnic areas, pickleball and tennis courts, bandstand, Splash Island Waterpark, Stride Place Recreation Complex, and an 18-hole golf course.



Rotary Duck Pond an Oasis on the Island

The duck pond has been a highlight of Island Park for over 100 years, being a natural source of beauty and tranquility—somewhere to sit and watch waterfowl swimming peacefully, dragonflies flitting about, and frogs hopping

along the shores. In winters past, it also used to be a fun place to skate in the winter. But the pond was eventually in need of some maintenance, and in 2019 the Rotary Club of Portage la Prairie established an agreement with the City of Portage la Prairie to rehabilitate and maintain the duck pond.

CFPD Grants Helped Make Duck Pond Restoration Project Possible

Through grants obtained by CFPD in both the spring of 2020 and 2024, the Rotary Club was able to partially fund their multi-year project that sought to refresh and rejuvenate the Island Park duck pond. The Club reworked all the flower beds, fixed the waterfall, added 3 water fountains, built an observation deck, installed lampposts surrounding the pond, added bump-outs around the pond, and installed a separation wall between the south and north duck ponds (with the former being left in its natural state for wildlife). CFPD partially funded the observation deck, lampposts (including wiring and installation), concrete bump-outs, and a brick veneer separation wall—making a significant impact to the rejuvenation project.

CFPD Funding Benefits Community

Parks and recreational spaces are incredibly important features of any thriving community, giving people a place to visit and enjoy nature, engage in physical activity, and meet with

friends and family for picnics, walks, or other types of get-togethers. The benefits of having beautiful spaces to engage in leisurely activities are numerous, impacting positively on physical and mental health, as well as fostering connectedness in individuals and the community as a whole. Beautifying public spaces also tends to reduce crime and increase safety, as well as increase tourism and the resulting economic benefits derived from that. We encourage everyone to get out and take a stroll around the duck pond, or simply rest on one of the benches and take in the beauty and tranquility of it all.

If you wish to support projects like these, please select “Smart & Caring Community Fund” from the drop-down of our website at www.cfpdi.ca/makeadonation by clicking the “Donate Online” button.



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Thanks to the ongoing support from Southport, the Community Foundation of Portage & District is able to share this grant story and show how your donations make an impact on Portage la Prairie & area.