

Anderson Park

Irving & John Anderson County Park – 27201 Furman St NE, North Branch

Park Update

Native Prairie Plantings

After a wet spring, the fields in the park are now covered with lush, native prairie grasses and wildflowers.



Approximately 66 acres have been seeded into native prairie vegetation. An excursion to the park to see the diversity of these plants is a real delight.

Dominating the scene right now are several different kinds of Sunflowers, Black-eyed Susans, Yellow Cone Flowers, and cheerful Ox-eye Daisies.

Purple Cone Flowers are among many flowers blooming in the rain gardens. Goldfinches love their seeds!



A common wildflower is the sweet-smelling Queen Anne's Lace (below), which is enjoyed by bees, moths and butterflies. After blooming, the flower folds inward into a "nest" that shelters the plant's fruits.



Boardwalks

The longest boardwalk is completed. Two smaller boardwalks and an observation platform are scheduled for completion this fall. The canoe access near the picnic shelter is also finished. So bring your canoe soon for a leisurely trip around Horse Leg Lake.

Park Visitors

Anderson Park appears to have a relatively high number of park users based on data collected starting in May 2011. Due to the natural attractions of the park, it is proving to be one of Isanti County's most visited parks.

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Editors: Tami Buetow & Lee Kingsbury

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Upcoming Events

August 6 9 am – Noon Summer Volunteer Day

Meet by the picnic shelter to help install the children's natural play area. Children can help too!

September 24 9:30 am – 1:30 pm Community Picnic

Hay rides, an amphibian and reptile program and special activities for kids and families are planned to celebrate National Public Lands Day. Bring a potluck dish to share. We will provide beverages. Everyone is invited.

Minnesota's only Hummingbird



The ruby-throated hummingbird is Minnesota's only hummingbird. The smallest of all birds, the males look like tiny, glittering jewels when the sun catches their iridescent green and reddish-pink feathers.

Fun Facts about Hummingbirds

- Their hearts can beat up to 1200 times per minute.
- They fly straight and fast, can stop instantly, hover, move up, down, or backwards.

- Their wings beat up to 80 times per second when moving forward.
- Ruby-throat nests are made of thistle or dandelion down held together with strands of spider silk and sometimes pine resin, with bits of lichen and moss on the outside.
- Females lay two M&M-sized eggs.
- They migrate to Central America, often flying non-stop across the Gulf of Mexico.
- The oldest known Ruby-throat was 9 years and 1 month old.

Look for hummingbirds in the park's rain gardens around the picnic shelter or along the edge of woods. They'll be gathering nectar from red and orange tubular-shaped flowers (like columbine and honeysuckle) or plucking tiny insects from the air or from spider webs.

What Can Kids Do At the Park?

You can find additional information and ideas like these in a new brochure now available at all Isanti County Parks.

"Children need time to wander, to be outside, to nibble on icicles, watch ants, to build with dirt and sticks in the hollow of the earth, to lie back and contemplate the clouds..." Nabhan & Trimble, *The Geography of Childhood*

Nature is the ultimate playground.

Here are just a few simple, fun things kids can do in the park:

Hike a trail

Balance on a log

Go fishing

Build a fort

Follow an animal trail

Dig in the sand

Gather acorns

Watch for butterflies

Smell the flowers

Find a feather

Look for spider-webs

Listen to the frogs



Meet Barry Wendorf, Isanti County's Parks Director



“My lifetime passion is working in the great outdoors.”

Growing up in New Germany, Minnesota, Barry spent his time roaming the woods, hunting, fishing, camping and swimming. These activities instilled a love of the outdoors that later led him to earn degrees in Natural Resources and Management, and Parks and Recreation. After completing an internship with the Corps of Engineers as a Park Ranger, he worked for 4 years in California as a fulltime Park Ranger. Returning to Minnesota, Barry was hired as the Isanti County Parks Director in April 2008.

Under his leadership the Parks department has made tremendous strides and enjoyed a burst of growth. The development of two parks, Vegsund and Anderson, has been on a fast track because of his successful grant-writing. All six of the county's parks have flourished from his hands-on approach. On a given day you might see him laying out new trails, designing play areas, mowing trails, or meeting with the Park Board or a group of regional parks directors. To help get things done, Barry has successfully built partnerships with a variety of organizations. Through his involvement and leadership in regional organizations he has ensured the county is well-connected to state initiatives.

Barry considers his position here a “great job” and he enjoys working with all sorts of groups and people. His wife Michelle, and children Jackson, 5 and Brook, 2, like attending programs in the parks and have been a part of the inspiration for the planned “natural” children's play area at Anderson Park.



New Volunteer Diane Bennett

Diane Bennett recently retired from General Mills as an Administrative Assistant. Retirement, however, finds her active at many levels and one of them is involvement with Anderson Park. Diane was born in Mora, lived in Coon Rapids for many years and in 2005 she and her husband moved to Isanti County. (A promise fulfilled by her husband that they would eventually move back to the country.)

With Diane's energy come many passions, especially her love of the outdoors and horses. Diane's great compassion for giving back to the community is evident in her volunteer work at the hospital, her church, the Human Rights Commission and now the Friends of Anderson Park Leadership Board.

Welcome Diane - you bring a breath of fresh air and energy to us all!

WISH LIST

Anderson Park has a "wish list". If you can help with any of the needs below, please contact Lee Kingsbury at 651-462-2015 or steveandleekingsbury@frontiernet.net

1. Trees and bushes (no more than 3 feet) for shelterbelts:

Silver Maple	Black Walnut	Red Plum	White Pine
Hackberry	Poplar	Red Osier Dogwood	White Spruce
Burr Oak	Yellow Birch	Gray Dogwood	Tamarack
Male Boxelders	Black Cherry	Juneberry	Jack Pine
Hawthorn	Choke Cherry	High Bush Cranberry	Red Cedar
American Hazel	Bitternut Hickory	Red Pine	

2. Volunteers to weed rain gardens 1x/month
3. Soft ball size rocks to line the rain gardens
4. Additional memorial benches - \$350.00 each
5. An old tractor for the children's play area

Irving & John Anderson
County Park
27201 Furman St NE,
North Branch

Email: andersonparkfriends@
frontiernet.net



Our mission is to preserve the natural beauty and primitive nature of Anderson Park and to assist with the planning and development of its facilities.

We're on the Web!

[http://andersonparkfriends-
isanti.org](http://andersonparkfriends-isanti.org)

Become a FRIEND of Anderson Park now!

All donations are tax deductible and 100% of the donations will go toward the development of Anderson Park

- Individual Friend - \$25 /year
- Family Friend - \$50/year
- Business Friend - \$50/year
- Add an additional \$10 and be a member of MN Parks & Trails

Make check payable to: Parks and Trails Council of MN (write "Anderson Park" in the memo line)

Mail to: Friends of Anderson Park

C/o Diana Horrigan
27440 Vassar St. NE
Stacy, MN 55079

The park is located in the southeast corner of Isanti County. It lies on both sides of County Road 18, a quarter mile north of County Road 9 and two miles south of County Road 5.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events and check our website (www.andersonparkfriends-isanti.org) or call Lee at 651-462-2015 for additional details

- **August 6** - Our summer volunteer day will be from 9 - 12 on August 6th. Please come and help install a children's natural play area near the picnic shelter. Children welcome!
 - **September 24** – Don't miss the *National Public Lands Community Picnic*. 9:30 – 1:30 on September 24th. Bring the whole family. Celebrate with a hay ride, a "live" amphibian and reptile program (at 10:30), nature hikes, a canoe ride and special activities for kids and families. Bring a picnic lunch. Beverages will be provided.
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