

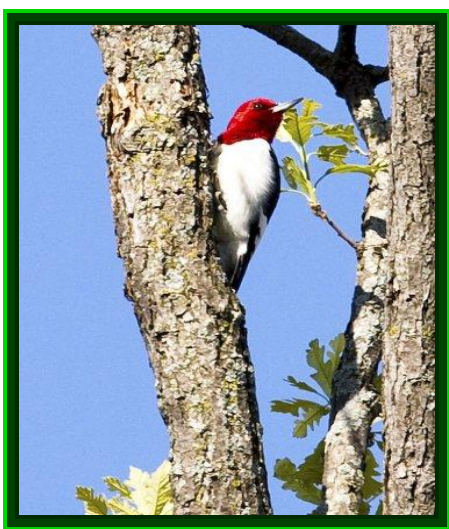
Anderson Park News

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

Visit the Park in Winter

The 2011 fall was spectacularly long. Visitors to Anderson Park reported sighting Trumpeter swans as recently as Thanksgiving Day. Now as the days grow shorter and the temperature drops, the winter wildlife is becoming active.

Juncos and snow buntings, chickadees, several kinds of woodpeckers, and eagles are among the bird species to look for while hiking, skiing or snowshoeing the trails.



If lucky, one might even catch a glimpse of the red-headed woodpecker's vivid red head against a bright blue sky.

The sighting of a cardinal on a snow-covered spruce bough in the deep winter or spotting a white-tailed buck

bounding through the marsh with leaps spanning thirty feet adds to the magic of being outdoors in Anderson Park's winter wonderland.



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Tami Buetow, Lee Kingsbury,
Editors
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Photographer

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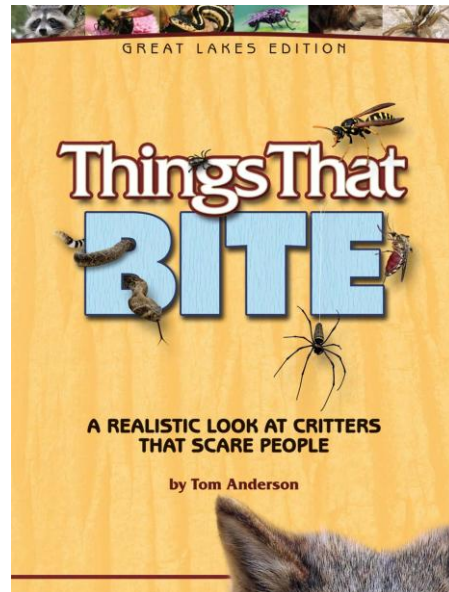
Winter Activities at Anderson Park

- Watch the birds
- Cross country ski
- Snowshoe
- Walk your dog (leashed)
- Hike
- Photograph winter scenes
- Build a fort with branches in the play area
- Enjoy the wonder and stillness of the outdoors
- Find bird nests (please leave them untouched so others can find them too)
- Build a snowman or snow fort
- Have a winter picnic
- Look for tracks of wild turkeys, deer and more...



Holiday Gift Idea

A book by local author Tom Anderson



Tom Anderson, grandson to Irving Anderson, namesake to Anderson Park, has had a long, close relationship with the land that was a family farm and is now Anderson Park. Throughout years of rambling this rich land Tom unwillingly shared his blood with scores of biting critters like ticks, mosquitoes and deer flies. Consequently it is only natural that he should write a book called, *Things that Bite: A Realistic Look at Critters that Scare People*.

Tom's thirty years as a professional naturalist brought him into contact with thousands of children and adult learners. He witnessed first hand the discomfort and fears that people have regarding those insects and animals that bite or might bite humans.

How afraid do we really have to be?

The book, published by Adventure Publications, looks at approximately twenty-five critters "that bite" found in the Great Lakes region. In addressing each species, he briefly covers the natural history, benefits of each critter (yes, he says, there are benefits to ticks, mosquitoes, deer flies and skunks!), why they bite, how they bite, prevention and treatment of bites and then answers the question, "How afraid do we really have to be?"

Anderson loves telling folks about when he asked an emergency room physician friend, "Of all bites, which give you the greatest concern?" The immediate answer was "humans." It turns out that each of us has a very unique colony of bacteria that live between our teeth and if those bacteria make their way into another person's bloodstream, there can be major problems.

Tom is quick to point out that the book is not intended to strike fear into folks, preventing them from getting outside. He hopes that folks are simply more aware of potential problems. He feels the benefits of getting outdoors far outweigh the hazards found indoors, such as watching too much television or too many visits to the refrigerator.

This is a very handy guide for hikers, picnickers, campers and for folks who live in areas where "biting might occur." Besides the Great Lakes edition, he has written similar editions covering the Gulf Coast, Rocky Mountains and the Southwest. He is currently working on the Northeast edition.

Books purchased will benefit Anderson Park

Through the end of January 2013, Tom is offering the book for sale to members of the Friends of Anderson County Park at a reduced price of \$10 per book. For every book sold he will donate \$2 to the Friends of Anderson Park. To assure a donation, buy books directly by contacting Tom at [651/408-8403](tel:6514088403).

The book is also available at most area bookstores and through Amazon.com. It would make a fine Christmas stocking stuffer!

Black-capped Chickadees

Black-capped chickadees are common in our area throughout the year.



Chickadees are small, social, energetic (even acrobatic!), cheerful birds that are fun to watch. They will even accept seeds out of the hand of a person with patience.

The call of the chickadee is quite complex. Just a slight variation in the "*chick-a-dee*" can act as an alarm call, a contact call, or to relay information when they recognize another flock.

Chickadees hide seeds and berries in crevices of tree bark and under leaves. They can even remember where they have hidden their stored foods for up to a month.

Black-capped chickadee pairs stay together for years and may remain together for life. The female builds the nest in abandoned woodpecker cavities or nesting boxes and the male feeds her while she is making the nest and sitting on the eggs. Both parents help feed the 6–8 young.

Irving & John Anderson
County Park

27201 Furman St NE, Stacy

Join the Friends of Anderson Park now!

E-mail: andersonparkfriends@
frontiernet.net



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

We're on the Web!

<http://andersonparkfriends-isanti.org>

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 in Minnesota. 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.

Breaking News ...

Thanks to the hard work of Isanti County's Sentence-to-Serve crew two 250 foot boardwalks are now complete. Next time you visit the park, be sure to try them out. One is in the main part of the park and the other completes a new loop trail on the west side of County Road 18.
