

Anderson Park News

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

Community Elder Shares Memories

Gordy Peterson is a walking example of the Swedish immigrants who settled in this area. Anderson Park has been the backdrop of work and play for him. Born in 1928 and raised on the land surrounding Anderson Park, Gordy holds a wealth of historical facts and memories of the transition of the park land from farming to recreational.

Gordy Peterson



Gordy's hand-written notebook of recorded family genealogy includes the dates of the founding of our area's churches, cemeteries, school districts, post offices and township maps dating back to 1898.

Original Buildings

Gordy's family built the buildings which originally stood on what are now Anderson Park grounds.

Erich (John) Anderson bought those buildings and farmed the land.

Work and Play

Money was difficult to find, so members of the close-knit community traded work. Gordy remembers working potato and grain harvests. He also remembers sleeping over in the farmhouse with his buddy, Wayne Anderson. (Wayne's descendents donated the park bench that overlooks Horseshoe Lake.)

Besides working in the fields, Gordy and Wayne also spent time hunting deer and squirrels together.

Land Stewardship

Anderson Park is a tribute to the good stewardship of the land that is the heritage of this region.

If you are lucky, you might catch Gordy at a park event. His wit and lucid mind attest to the strength of his value of hard work and his ability to enjoy the great outdoors.



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Nature Notes for March, April and May

Marsh marigolds bloom sunny yellow (by the boardwalks).

Pussy willows form furry catkins.

Maple tree sap flows.

Chipmunks come out.

Lake ice melts. (Mid-March to Mid-May in East Central MN lakes)

Blue birds return.

Black bears leave dens.

Spring peepers call in marshes.



Trumpeter Swans

Trumpeter Swans may be seen year round at Anderson Park. The park's lakes and wetlands are ideal habitat for them. Trumpeters are one of North America's rarest native birds and the largest waterfowl, with a wing-span of 6–8 feet.



Two adult (white) Trumpeters and two cygnets (gray).

Trumpeters are the embodiment of grace, beauty, and unspoiled wildness, but they are also a reminder that species close to extinction can be saved.

Once common in Minnesota, Trumpeter Swans had disappeared from the state by the 1880s. But since recovery efforts began in the 1980s, an incredible comeback has occurred – now more than 2,400 birds call Minnesota home. Due to continuing threats to their survival, they are still listed as threatened. Listen carefully for their trumpet-like call when in the park; it is the sound of success!

Trumpeters have strong family bonds. They may live 20 – 30 years in the wild. Pairs mate for life and return each year to the same nesting wetland, sometimes even arriving before lake ice is gone. The male swan is called the Cob. He typically weighs more and looks larger than the female (the Pen). Young-of-the-year swans are a light gray color and called Cygnets. Just before freezing temperatures arrive in the fall, cygnets follow their parents to the family wintering site and stay with them through the winter. This allows them to learn migration routes and the best food resources.

Be cautious and respectful when watching wildlife. For birds like Trumpeter Swans, continual disturbance during critical months (winter and spring) can lead to increased deaths from stress-induced disease and can result in nesting failure.

The four biggest threats to Trumpeter Swans recovery in Minnesota are **fatal lead shot poisoning** when swans swallow pellets found in soil and lake bottoms where shooting activities have occurred; **loss of wetland habitat**; **illegal shooting** usually by vandals rather than hunters; **power line collisions** that injure or kill swans, and **lack of funding** to provide long-term habitat protection.

Anderson Park 2012 Program Schedule

Save These Dates!

Family-friendly Walks for the Curious

4th Annual Spring Bird Walk – May 12th, 8 am

Anderson Park's Wetlands – June 2nd, 9 am

Community Picnic and National Public Lands Day Celebration

September 15th, 9:00 – 2:00

Work Days

May 5th, 9:00 am – 12:00

September 15th, 9:00 am – 11:00



Work Days are Fun!

Volunteer Opportunities

(For more information call Lee at 651/462-2015)

Chimney Swift Project

(1 hour at dusk, you choose the night, May 15th to June 1st)

Help Weed the Prairie Gardens

(2 hours/month in summer)

Irving & John Anderson
County Park

27201 Furman St NE,
North Branch



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>

Become a Friend of Anderson Park

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

- Individual Friend - \$25 /year
- Family Friend - \$50/year
- Business Friend - \$50/year
- Add \$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

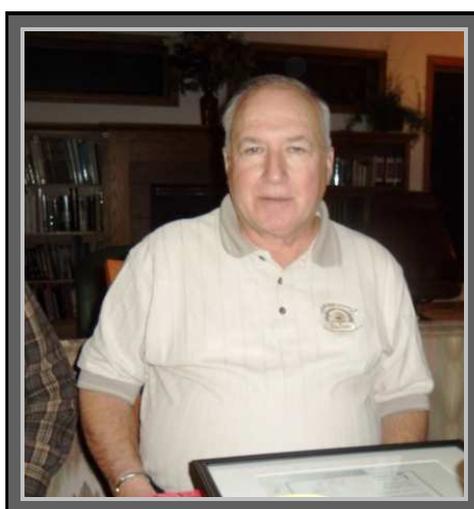
27440 Vassar St. NE

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.

andersonparkfriends@frontiernet.net

Special Thanks to Bill Bowlin for his years of service to the Friends of Anderson Park and to the development of the Park.



Bill at a dinner celebrating his service to Anderson Park...
