

Anderson Park News

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What's a Master Plan?

During the summer of 2013, through a partnership between Isanti County Parks, the Friends of Anderson Park, the University of Minnesota's Center Rural Design, the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, and the outstanding work of Intern Jody Rader, a master planning process for Anderson Park was launched. A Master Plan is a working document that includes a vision and a set of goals to guide future development and programming. Master Plans will soon be required in applications for Parks and Trails Legacy Funds and helpful in other grant applications as well.

Community input was gathered through an advisory committee, public meetings, and an online survey. Here are some notable quotes from the online survey that voice the sentiment of the community and helped to define the park's vision and goals.

"I like the low-tech rustic approach the park has right now. I wouldn't want to see a lot more development or it will lose the "wild" feel."

"We need to get kids and families here!"

"I like the passive nature of the park and would like it to remain [focused on] walking, bird-watching, hiking and nothing active or structured."

*"It is important to have some **strong guidelines** to make sure that [the park] doesn't change a lot."*

*This park is a world-class birding spot...
and a huge asset to our community.*



Catbird



Barred Owl



Canada Geese Family Photos: Steve Kingsbury

Read the full Master Plan document at www.andersonparkfriends-isanti.org.

A Vision and Set of Goals for Anderson Park

(The following information is taken directly from the Master Plan document.)

With input gathered at public meetings, and through an interactive and iterative process with the Anderson Park Master Plan Advisory Committee, a vision statement was created which reflects the existing values embraced at Anderson Park. The vision is:

The Stewards of Anderson Park will continue to...

Preserve the ecological integrity of the park,

Restore its native habitats, and

Connect people with the natural world through innovative outdoor experiences.

Preserve

Preservation of the ecological integrity of the Park is important for the future of Anderson Park, Isanti County, and the Central Region of Minnesota. Today, most of the area surrounding the park is dedicated to agricultural or residential uses, and projections show this area increasing in development. The park serves as a means to protect ecologically sensitive and invaluable areas, not only for our enjoyment, but also for the vitality of plants and animals.

Restore

Preservation alone cannot repair ecosystems and return them to functioning, healthy places for wildlife to thrive. Restoration implies an active approach to researching history of the land, and strategically utilizing accepted best practice methods to create verdant and lively habitats.

Connect

Preservation and restoration plans are only as effective as the people who are able to implement these measures. By connecting people to the natural world, via innovative outdoor experiences, generations of visitors, community members, and outdoor enthusiasts from across the region will continue to practice stewardship and find inspiration in the park, and ultimately, in all natural places on earth.



Nature-based education activities at the park

Photos: Marlene Yenish and Barry Wendorf

Goals

Anderson Park's Master Plan identifies a set of five goals, each with short-term, mid-term and/or long-term objectives to further define the goals and actions necessary to reach them. The five goals are:

1. **Increase the publicity and the number of visitors who frequent Anderson Park.**
2. **Increase the quality and availability of a variety of recreational opportunities, along with associated facilities as needed.**
3. **Make the park enjoyable and accessible for people of all ages and capabilities.**
4. **Expand educational opportunities throughout the park.**
5. **Seek additional land acquisition of adjacent properties for the purpose of increasing the potential for high-quality wildlife habitat and additional natural resources.**

Read the full Master Plan document at www.andersonparkfriends-isanti.org.

2014 Calendar Will Benefit Anderson Park

Local nature photographers Steve Kingsbury and Joe Sausen have teamed up to produce a 2014 calendar. Full of beautiful photos of the scenery and wildlife in Anderson Park, the calendar is available now, just in time for the Holidays. A tax-deductible donation of \$15.00 – \$20.00, or any affordable amount, is requested.

Order now by calling Steve at 651-462-2015 or Joe at 651-674-8119.



All proceeds will go toward erecting an osprey nesting platform at the park.



Osprey on Nesting Platform

Photo: Joe Sausen

News from Other Isanti County Parks

In July 2013, the first disc golf course in Isanti County opened at Springvale County Park. Disc golf is similar to traditional golf in how it is played, but instead of using a ball and club, the golfer uses a flying disc. The object of the game is putting the disc in the hole (basket) in as few throws as possible. A map of the course and score cards are available at hole #1.

Disc golf provides a fun, inexpensive experience while getting exercise outdoors. Since the 12-hole course opened, people of all ages, and from as far away as the Twin Cities, have been playing at Springvale County Park. Funding for the course, as well as 1.5 miles of paved trail, a log picnic shelter, drinking fountain, and interpretive signs was provided through a Park Legacy Grant Award.

Springvale County Park is located in Springvale Township on the north side of State Highway 95, approximately seven miles west of Cambridge and two miles east of County Road 47. It is Isanti County's largest park with 211 acres. The park has over four miles of trails which offer great opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, geocaching, cross country skiing, and mountain biking. Springvale also offers a canoe access to Johnnie's Lake and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of paved trails.



Playing Disc Golf

A 9-hole disc golf course was also recently completed at Isanti Middle School where students will be able to play during some of their physical education classes. The course is open to the public before and after school hours and on weekends.

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



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.

Email: andersonparkfriends@frontiernet.net



DID YOU KNOW?

Screech Owls often roost in wood duck houses in the winter.

Gray squirrels may also use wood duck nesting boxes for winter shelter.

