

# Anderson Park News

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

## Autumn is here

Summer seems to fly by quicker than usual this year, and the unusually warm September along with an extraordinarily dry summer may not be the best ingredients for a remarkably vibrant fall. However that is no reason not to get out and enjoy the beautiful autumn days.

Have you been to the park lately? Although many of the seasonal birds have started their journey's south there are still many birds, animals and fall foliage to view and enjoy. The hiking paths at Anderson Park are mowed and ready for your enjoyment. Did you

know that horses and leashed dogs are also permitted at the park? Although hunting is not permitted in the park, hunting season has officially started so be cautious and wear bright colors so that you can be easily identified by hunters.



October, 2009  
Volume 4  
Lori Angeli, Editor

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#### Activities Include:

Canoeing/Kayaking  
Cross Country Skiing  
Dog Walking (leashed)  
Fishing  
Hiking  
Picnicking

#### Unacceptable Activities:

Camping  
Campfires  
Hunting  
Littering  
Possession of Alcohol  
Motorized Vehicles

## Park progress continues

### Construction starting on the picnic shelter -

The Friends of Anderson Park have secured funding for a picnic shelter which will be built in the summer of 2010. Rob Jutz and Dave Vigstol have been working closely with Sam Hooper of Little Alaska, a local log building construction company, who has volunteered to help design the shelter. In addition to Rob, Dave and Sam, the Friends of Anderson Park would like to recognize Oxford Township Board and the Isanti County Board, who approved the allocation of funds needed to build the picnic shelter. **Many thanks to everyone who has made this possible in these difficult economic times.**

The picnic shelter will be a beautiful rustic log structure that will accommodate more than 50 people. The plan is for the footings to be poured in October and the 40 X 55 concrete slab will be poured in the spring. Once the concrete has cured, the structure will be erected by volunteers.

### Prairie Seeding

You may soon notice that some of the Park's land is being plowed. This is in preparation for seeding by the end of October as part of the park's prairie restoration plan. Special thanks to the Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation District for making this possible.

## 2 The call of the wild

Even if you have not seen them you have probably heard the coyotes howl. That is because in autumn, coyotes are vocal. They howl (or bark) alone or in groups. Younger coyotes have higher pitched voices than adults. A coyote's yipping sounds can be heard for miles.

Did you know that the coyote is Minnesota's most abundant large predator usually preying on small mammals? Eating rabbits, mice, voles, skunks, muskrats, ruffed grouse, small or weak deer, grass, and berries. Which is why there may be so many in the area. If given the opportunity, coyotes will also kill domestic sheep and poultry.

Like their cousins, the timber wolf, coyotes tend to mate for life. Pairs usually mate in February and have litters with five or six pups which are born in April.

The coyote resembles a small German shepherd with a bottle-shaped tail. It has a shaggy,

grayish coat which turns white at throat and belly. Adult female coyotes average about 25 pounds and males about 30. Several 50-pound coyotes have been rumored, but the largest on record weighed just 42 pounds.



Most coyotes live less than two years in the wild, though one animal is known to have reached 13 years of age.

## Memorial benches

Are you looking for a way to memorialize someone special or at a loss on what to buy that someone who seems to have everything for Christmas, a birthday, or an upcoming anniversary or other milestone? Have you considered a park bench? It is the gift that keeps giving, and we have found a better price!

As we continue to work on the miles of trails planned for Anderson Park we would like to start installing benches along the trails for hikers to stop and rest and enjoy the sights and sounds of the prairie, lakeshore, and bogs. But we need your help. We are looking for individuals or businesses to donate benches which will be located throughout the park. The benches are six feet long, made of recycled material, are maintenance free, and will last for many many years. In acknowledgement for your donation, the Isanti County Parks Department will provide an engraved bronze-plated plaque for each bench that is donated.

The benches are \$350, and can be considered a tax deductible charitable contribution.

If you are interested in donating a bench please contact Lee Kingsbury at 651-462-2015 or send a check for \$350 to Friends of Anderson Park treasurer Diana Horrigan. Checks should be made out to: The Parks and Trails Council of MN (write Anderson Park in the memo line). Send the check to Diana at 27440 Vassar St N.E, Stacy, MN 55079. Please include what you would like engraved on your plaque and a number where we can reach you if we have questions.



Irving & John Anderson  
County Park

27201 Furman St NE, Stacy

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 of its facilities.

We're on the Web!

<http://andersonparkfriends-isanti.org>

## Become a member of Friends 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 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

## Fall work day planned for October 24th

The Friends of Anderson Park is partnering with Isanti County to complete some projects before winter sets in. Please join us on Saturday, October 24th from 9 - 12 for another work day at the park. To sign up contact Lee Kingsbury at 651-462-2015

We've accomplished so much at our previous work days. Please come meet your neighbors, enjoy the camaraderie and light refreshments, and help us to improve the Park.

Although prior turnout has been great we are always looking for more volunteers so feel free to invite your friends and neighbors.

If we have enough volunteers, we'll have 3 teams working:

\* One beautifying the Park entrance with a split rail fence and planting 4-6 ft. spruce trees;

\* One clearing a new footpath through a section of woods, and

\* One identifying and removing buckthorn.



### **Why is buckthorn such a problem?**

- It is a nonnative shrubs or small trees that crowds out native plants;
- It out-competes native plants for nutrients, light, and moisture and degrades wildlife habitat;
- Threatens the future of forests, wetlands, prairies, and other

*natural habitats;*

- *Contributes to erosion by shading out other plants that grow on the forest floor;*
- *Serves as host to other pests, such as crown rust fungus and soybean aphid;*
- *Forms an impenetrable layer of vegetation and*
- *Lacks "natural controls" like insects or disease that would curb its growth.*

