

Anderson Park

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



Prairie Display and Rain Garden Planned for the Park

Landscape Designer and Friends of Anderson Park member Marlene Yenish is working closely with Barry Wendorf, the Isanti County Parks Director on the plans for a prairie display and rain garden which will be located on the North and South side of the picnic pavilion.

What Is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a shallow depression filled with flood-tolerant shrubs, flowers and grasses. Its main functions are to collect and filter storm water runoff, but rain gardens also add beauty to the landscape and attract butterflies, birds and other wildlife.

The rain garden planned for Anderson Park will be made up of native plants because they are easy on the environment, require no fertilizing or watering and once established, are low-maintenance. Other benefits of using native plants include:

- Many have deep and extensive root systems that help loosen the soil so water can quickly infiltrate and can tolerate wet, saturated soils.
- Native grasses and wildflowers protect soil with their deep and spreading root systems, helping to prevent erosion.
- Native plant communities are vital components to a healthy and sustainable ecosystem providing food and shelter to birds and animals.
- Native plants provide nectar, pollen, and seeds that serve as food for butterflies, birds and other animals.
- Unlike aggressive introduced plants such as purple loosestrife and European buckthorn, natives will not threaten to take over natural communities.
- Native landscaping generally costs less over time.

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MN facts

- Minnesota has the largest wolf and bald eagle populations in the lower 48 states.
- Bird species in Minnesota: 428
- Bird species that are year-round residents: 44
- Largest waterfowl: Trumpeter swan

Native plants are plants that are indigenous to a particular region. In Minnesota, plants are considered native if they were here at the time of the Public Land Survey (1847-1907), which was conducted prior to and during the early stages of European settlement.

Planning underway for a Rain Garden at the park (cont)

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Some of the native plants planned for the rain gardens at Anderson Park are: purple cone flowers, brown-eyed susans, daisies, liatris, phlox, wild roses, dogwoods, and big and little blue stem grasses.

Although a rain garden might sound like a prime location for breeding mosquitoes, rain gardens do not contribute to the mosquito problem because mosquitoes need 7 to 12 days to lay and hatch eggs, and standing water in the rain garden will last for a few hours after most storms. Also rain gardens attract dragonflies, which eat mosquitoes!

Rain gardens are also becoming very popular as suburbs grow and replace forests and agricultural land. Storm water runoff from developed areas increases flooding; and carries pollutants. While an individual rain garden may seem like a small thing, collectively they produce substantial neighborhood and community environmental benefits because they:

- Increase the amount of water that filters into the ground, which recharges local and regional aquifers;
- Help protect communities from flooding and drainage problems;
- Help protect streams and lakes from pollutants carried by storm water –

lawn fertilizers and pesticides, oil and other fluids that leak from cars, and numerous harmful substances that wash off roofs and paved areas;

- Enhance the beauty of yards and neighborhoods;
- Provide valuable habitat for birds, butterflies and many beneficial insects.

If you are interested in creating a rain garden on your property, check out these links-

http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/components/DD8241_4.pdf

http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/components/DD8241_4.pdf

<http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/DocumentView.aspx?DID=247>

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Donations are needed to purchase seeds and plants for Anderson Park's rain gardens (see page 4, donations).

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the installation of the rain gardens this summer. Call Lee at 651-462-2015 or look for more information in the next newsletter.

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Two Remedies for Nature Deficit, by Tami Butow

Budget deficit! Attention deficit! Nature deficit! Do these words sound familiar? Can we do something about them? YES! The first two loom ad nausea and require a great deal of effort and thought individually and collectively. However, nature deficit could be easily rectified. In fact, one can enjoy and participate in nature on a daily basis right in our own backyard. A walk through Isanti County's Anderson Park and a read of Sue Leaf's recently published book of *Bullhead Queen* (nominated for Minnesota Book Award 2010) are two quick fixes to fill the nature deficit in our lives.

Sue Leaf, President of Wild River Audubon Club, and active environmentalist describes how one can incorporate nature on a daily basis through a series of essays in her latest book *The Bullhead Queen*. Leaf, a former resident of North Branch and author of *Potato City*, who currently lives on Pioneer Lake in Center City, shows us how to enjoy nature. From her home on the lake she observes the daily and seasonal life of nature's habitat, animals, plants, and human interaction; in her essays she reflects on ever-evolving influences and intertwining of religion, philosophy, and nature. Each chapter depicts a seasonal drama of nature as observed and lived by us all – if we took the time. Leaf's lively description draws us into the story and lets us wonder what will happen to the lonely mallard caught in the lake as ice forms, as well as challenges us to consider the role of the "almighty holy snowplow" we revere and how it affects nature. Through her informative and entertaining essays Leaf invites us to join her in not only watching, but participating in nature wherever we are.

End the nature deficit now! Learn and live in health and harmony by reading *The Bullhead Queen* and then create your own story by visiting Anderson Park.

Stacy Lions Donate to Anderson Park

Thank you to the Stacy Lions for generously donating the funding for six picnic tables that we will be constructing at the spring workday on April 17th.

Pay it forward by supporting the Lion's fund raising events such as the Sunday breakfasts held most Sunday's at the Doyle Memorial Building, the Golf Tournament on June 12th at Falcon Ridge, and the Motorcycle Run on June 26th. Your backing will allow the Lions to continue to support the community.

<http://www.lionwap.org/eclub/sites/Stacy/index.php>



White-tailed deer are year-round residents of Anderson Park. They are one of Minnesota's most popular big game animals and the largest native mammal most people ever see. The white-tailed deer is found in every Minnesota county and adapts well to most surroundings. Have you noticed that whitetails have an excellent sense of smell and hearing? Other fun facts:

- The whitetail is a large brown or gray mammal that has a white tail it lifts and waves when alarmed and running.
- Whitetails are 4 to 6 feet long, have a 6- to 12-inch tail and stand 2 to 3 feet tall.
- Males weigh 100 to 300 pounds; females weigh 85 to 130 pounds.
- Their fur is reddish brown in summer and grayish brown in winter.

White-tailed deer eat many foods, such as acorns, corn, soybeans, mushrooms, grasses, tree leaves, buds, twigs and bark, wild grapes, apples and assorted shrubs –which is why some gardeners consider them pests. During harsh winters, deer may also become a nuisance to farmers by eating hay or corn that is stored for livestock.

Mating season for whitetails is from November to early December. During the mating season (rut), male deer (bucks) travel widely in search of females (does). Bucks also scrape small patches of ground on which they urinate. These scrapes may tell bucks that other bucks are in the area.

Their young (often two fawns, weighing eight pounds each) are born seven months later. Fawns have white spots that remain for three to four months. Fawns stay with their mother and nurse for several months. After the fawns are born each spring, there are between 900,000 and 1,000,000 deer in Minnesota. Fall hunting seasons keep the deer population from getting too large. Each year, Minnesota hunters harvest between 150,000 and 200,000 deer.



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 Isanti County 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

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events and check the website for additional details (www.andersonparkfriends-isanti.org)

Spring Workday at the Park – April 17th Volunteers are needed from 9 to noon on April 17th to install trail gates and interpretive signs, clean up trails and roadsides, place new benches, provide wood duck and blue bird house maintenance, construct picnic tables and a bulletin board, stain tables and fences, and clear trails and cut brush. We may also be clearing boardwalk corridors and treating pesky buckthorn brush. So wear work clothes, bring work gloves and join us for a morning of fresh air and exercise! You can also check out the progress on the picnic shelter.

Annual Bird Walk – May 15th at 8 am Join Joe Sausen from the Audubon Society for the Friends of Anderson Park's second annual bird walk. Last year at this event, we saw or heard over 35 different bird species – including a golden winged warbler. Bring a neighbor, friend or grandchild and see how many birds we can identify this year. **Don't forget your binoculars!!**

Picnic shelter roof raising and park kiosk installation – July 5th through 7th The footings are in and Sam Hooper has started to build the picnic shelter. The Vigstol family and other Friends of Anderson Park members will be putting the final touches on the picnic shelter.

Anderson Park Grand Opening – September 25th. Plan to attend the official grand opening celebration for Anderson Park on National Public Lands Day – September 25th.

If you plan on attending any of these events, please contact Lee Kingsbury at 651-462-2015.