

# Anderson Park

Irving & John Anderson County Park – 27201 Furman St NE

## Anderson Park's New Picnic Shelter

A rustic log picnic shelter at Anderson Park is nearly complete and will be available for use after the park's September 25<sup>th</sup> Grand Opening.



The large structure can easily accommodate 50 or more visitors. It sits in the midst of one of the park's seven areas of prairie, overlooking Horse Leg Lake. Three rain gardens planted with locally grown native flowers and grasses surround the building and a log kiosk in front of the shelter will welcome visitors with information about the park and the Anderson family.



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Lori Angeli, Editor  
Steve Kingsbury, Photographer

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### MN facts

- Minnesota state bird is the common loon.
- MN state flower is the pink & white lady's slipper
- MN has one recreational boat per every six people- more than any other state
- There are 201 Mud Lakes, 154 Long Lakes & 123 Rice Lakes in MN

## Anderson Park's Grand Opening

Mark your calendar for the park's September 25<sup>th</sup> Grand Opening. FREE festivities include hayrides, lunch, and an educational program with live raptors that live in our area. Look for more information in your mail closer to the event. We hope to see you there!

## Picnic Shelter continued...

The picnic shelter project drew donations and volunteers from the community. Many thanks go to Rob Jutz who provided his construction expertise and worked closely with Barry Wendorf on the shelter's design. Rob assisted Barry throughout the planning and construction phases.

The Little Alaska Cabin Company, a North Branch family business owned by Sam and Christina Hooper, was awarded the Isanti County contract for the hand-peeled, locally cut, white pine logs. They volunteered time and equipment to construct the framework.

George Cole supervised Isanti County "Sentenced to Serve" crews in laying the cement floor and staining the picnic tables and log structure.

The Stacy Lions donated the picnic tables.

Local landscape designer, Marlene Yenish, designed the rain gardens and grew many of the plants this summer. She has worked closely with Barry Wendorf to ensure that the plants are all native to Isanti County.

And lastly, many thanks to the self-proclaimed "AARP Crew" Maurie Anderson, Steve Kingsbury and Don Yenish who worked with Barry and Rob to install the steel roof during some of the hottest days of the summer.

## Hognose snakes: the great pretenders

Did you know??? When frightened, a hognose snake will coil and flatten its head and neck two to three times its normal width. Hissing loudly, it will strike repeatedly, looking just like a cobra. If the feared predator does not retreat, the hognose snake will then roll over on its back and "play" dead!



Hognose snakes live on sandy soils near open woodlands or the forest edge and are found right here in the eastern part of Minnesota. It is a medium sized snake that often startles people the first time they see one, but it is not dangerous and will not bite. Unfortunately, many of these harmless snakes are killed by people who believe they are poisonous.

Hognose snakes eat frogs, small mammals, birds, bird eggs (killdeer beware), insects, lizards, other smaller snakes, reptile eggs and bugs. They have many predators to fend off, including hawks and owls, fox and opossum as well as other mammals - including man. In addition to predators, hognose snake numbers decline in areas where there is highway and housing development.

The eastern hognose snake mates in the spring. Females deposit 15 to 25 eggs in a depression under rocks or logs or in sandy soil. Eggs deposited in June or July will hatch in August and September.

Look for these friendly fellows at Anderson Park, you might be lucky enough to see one!

## Twin Lakes Scientific and Natural Area planned for land adjacent to the park

Exciting news! The Isanti County Board approved a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources request for the acquisition of 48 acres to create Isanti County's first scientific and natural area (SNA) right here in Oxford Township. It is located on land adjacent to Anderson Park and across Horseshoe Lake. According to the DNR, the plan will protect and preserve this natural area. It will remain undeveloped, but open to the public for bird watching and hiking.

### Perfect conditions for the second annual bird walk

The sky was clear and the temperature warm as we gathered at the Park for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual bird walk hosted by the Friends of Anderson Park. Audubon Member and bird enthusiast Joe Sausen and attendees identified over 40 species of birds this year. Below are a few photos taken at the park that day.



**Chipping Sparrow**



**Red Headed Woodpecker**



**White Crowned Sparrow**

Special sightings included red-headed woodpeckers, warblers, white-crowned and lark sparrows, and swallows (for a complete list the birds recognized at the park see the Friends of Anderson Park web-site (<http://www.andersonparkfriends-isanti.org/index.html>))

In addition to the birds, many native plants such as Arrow leafed violets; Columbine, Anemones, and Sassafras were in bloom which was an added treat!



**Sandhill Cranes (in August)**



**Chipping Sparrow Nest**



## A community social network: Friends of Anderson Park

By Tamara Buetow

Connectivity, social networking and community building are the buzz words floating in the air these days. And with that in mind: involvement in development of Anderson Park and enjoying the great outdoors right in our own backyard is happening!

### Connectivity

Under the capable leadership of Barry Wendorf, Isanti County Parks Director, Anderson Park has progressed rapidly. He has worked with a growing network of neighbors and friends of Anderson Park to make the park a place to watch wildlife and birds, hike and bike on the trails, explore prairie plantings, or enjoy a picnic overlooking the lake. Blue bird and wood duck houses now house new families, and memorial benches invite one to rest at beautiful spots along trails.

### Social Networking & Community Building

Members of the Friends of Anderson Park contribute their talents and gain benefits too. Active involvement in the organization has established a bit of the "good old days and neighborliness" says Marlene Yenish. "Friendship, the camaraderie and knowing you're doing something for the community" are the benefits she feels she gains from participation. Marlene designed the rain gardens around the picnic shelter, conducted a wild flower walk and documents park events through photographs. Don Yenish posts the photos on the Anderson park website he set up and maintains. Check out [www.andersonparkfriends-isanti.org](http://www.andersonparkfriends-isanti.org). Don said he had in the "past given money and time for parks and trails, but now it's in our own backyard." He also likes the idea of developing and enjoying nature in his own community.

Membership can happen in many ways: pay dues, provide input, volunteer time or expertise or just come and enjoy your newest county park. You will become hooked on this place and network.

### Friends of Anderson Park at the August 21st workday

Many thanks to all the hard-working volunteers who were planting rain gardens, staining, digging post-holes and putting up the tongue and groove ceiling on the picnic shelter.



From back left to right: Noah Olund, Anne Olund, Andrea Chromey, Lee Kingsbury.  
Middle row: Kathy Bowlin, Mike Mueller, Commissioner Susan Morris. Front: Diana Horrigan.

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

## Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

**The Becklin Homestead Park Oak Planting Event is September 18th.** Volunteers are needed to plant 2,500 oak seedlings. Call Barry at 763-689-8220 if you can help out.

**The Anderson Park Grand Opening and National Public Lands Day celebration is on September 25<sup>th</sup>** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are free activities for people of all ages.

### Anderson Park Grand Opening Schedule

- 9:00 -11:00 Volunteer projects
- 11:00 -1:00 Hay wagon rides
- 11:30 - 12:30 Lunch
- 12:00 - 12:30 Anderson Park Dedication Ceremony
- 1:00 - 2:00 Raptor presentation by the Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake (aka wolf refuge) with live birds and other wildlife artifacts.