

Anderson Park

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

Anderson Park Grand Opening

On September 25th over 120 people attended the first official community event at Anderson Park. In addition to community members and county, township and park board officials, the grand opening celebration also drew celebrants from as far away as Texas!

For the Anderson family, it felt like a family reunion with aunts and uncles and cousins from several states coming together to see how the family farm had been transformed.

The Andersons clearly approved the rustic theme of the new park and enjoyed reminiscing, seeing the Anderson family photos and history description on the kiosk, and hiking to special places on the property.

While folks enjoyed delicious picnic food made by Kathy and Bill Bowlin, others hopped onto a hay wagon pulled by an antique tractor driven by Rob Jutz, for a tour of the park's trails.



Karen Anderson Sundberg shared stories of the family farm and the family's joy in seeing park's progress.



County Commissioner Susan Morris acknowledged the many volunteers and organizations that have supported the Park's development. She cut the ribbon, officially opening the park.



Adults and children alike were captivated by a live bird program put on by the Wildlife Science Center.



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Lori Angeli, Editor
Steve Kingsbury, Photographer

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Recent Press Releases

Not only was the Grand Opening a huge success it also made the front page of County Star on October 7th. In addition to our own Rob Jutz, the 'Super Volunteer', whose picture was featured guiding the hayrides at the grand opening, he was also featured in an article in the Isanti County News on October 20th for his volunteer efforts and leadership skills, which contributed to the design and completion of the beautiful picnic structure. If you happened to miss the article it can be found on our web-site <http://andersonparkfriends-isanti.org/>

Chimney Swifts Project at the Park*

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Did you know that chimney swifts:

- Are among the fastest fliers of the bird world?
- Feed exclusively on flying insects, such as mosquitoes, gnats and small flies?
- Are unable to perch on a branch or wire?
- Spend all day in the air and come to rest only at night?
- Gather twigs for the nest in flight, breaking them off as they fly by?
- In “flocks” are also known as a “box” or a “screaming frenzy” or a “swoop” of swifts?

To encourage people to come to Anderson Park for bird-watching and to help a threatened bird species with necessary habitat, the Friends of Anderson Park is participating in Audubon Minnesota’s Chimney Swift Conservation Project.

Anderson Park will be included in a new Wild River Audubon Club grant proposal to build 4 chimney swift “towers” (nest structures) in area parks and schools.

The Friends of Anderson Park will provide matching funds to build and install one of the towers at the park. We hope hundreds of swifts will roost in the tower during the non-breeding season and especially during migrations.

According to the Audubon Society, chimney swifts have declined by over 50 percent in the last 40 years. They had adapted to using chimneys for nesting but changes in chimney construction (such as placing caps on chimneys) have greatly reduced nesting and roosting sites for the swifts.

Volunteers are needed to help build and install Anderson Park’s chimney swift tower before the bird’s arrival around May 1st. If you would like to volunteer, please call Lee Kingsbury at 651/462-2015.

*Information in this article is adapted from the Audubon Minnesota Chimney Swift Conservation Project Brochure.

Cross Country Ski Trails Coming Soon!

Looking for a way to get out there and enjoy all this snow? The Isanti County Parks Department is purchasing a groomer that will be used to maintain cross country ski trails at the park allowing visitors to enjoy all the park has to offer year round.



Look for groomed trails to be ready soon.

\$1,000 Donation Received in Tribute to Lee Kingsbury

By Tami Buetow

Community building, enjoying the beauty of the great outdoors, bringing out the best in people and making the world a better place to live defines Lee Kingsbury. As the idea of forming a friends group for Anderson Park emerged, Lee agreed to organize the new, all-volunteer effort.

Having just retired from a successful career in public health, Lee not only agreed to head the Friends of Anderson Park, but also continued to facilitate the Emerging Leadership Network (ELN), a statewide public health leadership development program she helped create eight years ago.

In tribute to her work with emerging public health leaders, the ELN board recently awarded Lee a \$1,000 donation for the Friends of Anderson Park.

Thanks Lee for not only sharing your leadership abilities, but also showing how the circle of community building evolves. Lee walks the talk. Join her walking the trails, watching birds or just plain soaking up nature.

A Year in Review and What's Ahead?

Although the past few years have been difficult economically, the partnership between the Friends of Anderson Park and the Isanti County Parks Department has proven to be very successful. The construction of a beautiful picnic structure, a kiosk and park signs, a road, parking areas, and a fenced entrance are all completed. Rain gardens, 30 white pines, 100 burr oak trees, and approximately 80% of the park's prairie areas have been planted; old trails have been refined, new trails established, and benches, blue bird and wood duck houses installed.

All of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the donations we have received from Little Alaska Cabin Company, Stacy Lions, Isanti County's Sentence to Serve Program, Commissioner Susan Morris and her dad, North Branch County Market, the Anderson family and many individual donors and volunteers.



The community has been truly blessed with what we have been able to accomplish in such a short period of time and we look forward to making continued progress in 2011. Plans include completing the board walks and viewing platforms, installing a Chimney Swift tower, watching the rain gardens flourish, hosting nature programs and a community picnic in the fall.

Bluebird Houses in the Park

By Noah Olund (age 9)

This past summer I checked the bluebird houses in the park with my Dad. The first time we went we cleaned them out. Then we would check them every 4 – 5 days. Each time we would walk a different way to the houses so animals wouldn't follow our path and get the birds.

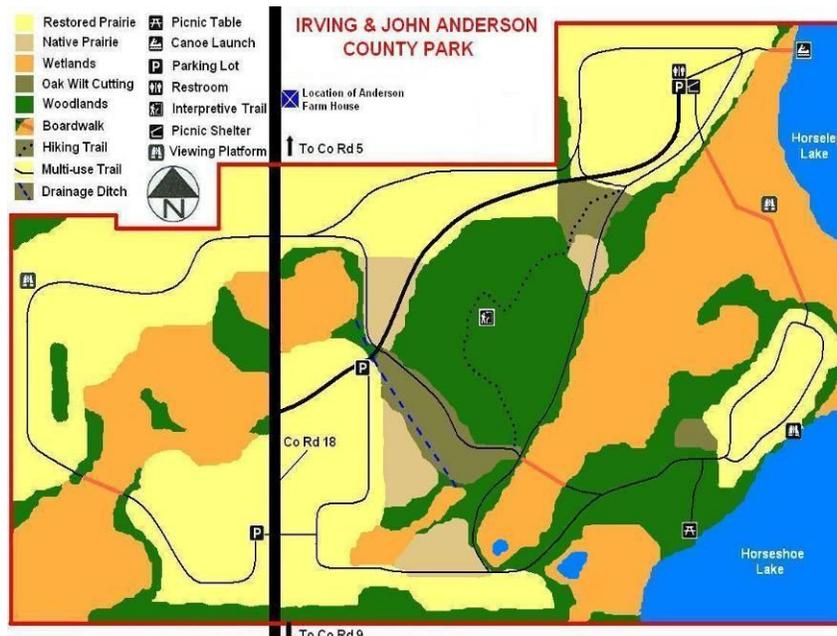
One time I knocked on the house and a bluebird flew right out at me and scared me! We saw 3 greenish-blue eggs inside. Another time we went we saw a deer. We also picked up garbage in the ditch in front of the park. It was a lot of fun checking the bird houses. It was peaceful and quiet. I am very glad we live close to the park!



Legacy Grant Approved to Build Boardwalks in 2011

In line with its goal of providing recreational opportunities and access to natural areas, Isanti County Parks received a Legacy Park Grant to construct three boardwalks and one wildlife viewing platform at Irving & John Anderson County Park. The longest boardwalk, at 950', will be located near the newly constructed picnic shelter allowing access to the disabled to the park's large wetland complex located on the south west end of Horseleg Lake. Here an 8' high elevated wildlife viewing platform will allow park users an opportunity to observe the park's many wildlife inhabitants.

The second boardwalk, 250' in length, will allow accessibility for all park users to a picnic area and view of Horseshoe Lake in the southeast section of the park. The third boardwalk, totaling 250' in length, will provide park users a trail connection between the northern 20 acre prairie and the southern 12 acre prairie sites creating a mile long ADA accessible interpretive trail loop on the west side of county road 18. The construction of these three boardwalks is a vital piece of the park's three mile long trail system and will allow access to the park's natural areas that would not otherwise be possible. Please join us in thanking Barry Wendorf for his successful grant application!



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 and check the website for additional details (www.andersonparkfriends-isanti.org)

- **January 22** – A winter work day is planned for January 22nd from 9 to noon. We are looking for volunteers to help clear and burn brush for the installation of the board walks. So come out for some fresh air and exercise, without the bugs!
- **March 26-** Save the date! Weather permitting we will be looking for adult volunteers to begin the installation of the board walks.
- **Late March/early April** – Help build and install the chimney swift tower (dates to be announced).
- **May-** Join us for the 3rd annual bird walk (dates to be announced).
- **June-** Wild flower and bird walks are being planned (dates to be announced).
- **August 6-** Our summer work day and potluck will be at 9 on August 6th.
- **September 24-** Don't miss the Community Picnic celebrating Public Lands Day with special activities for kids and families.