

# Anderson Park

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

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Lori Angeli, Editor

## Isanti County's Newest Park

Isanti County recently acquired parkland from the Irving and John Anderson family. This area of Isanti County has been identified as having the largest, most diverse collection of flora (plants) and fauna (animals) in the county.

Anderson Park is located in Oxford Township and lies on both sides of County Rd 18, a quarter mile north of County Rd 9 & two miles south of County Rd 5.

The park is 173 acres consisting of open fields, woods, and wetlands with frontage on both Horseshoe and Horse Leg Lakes.

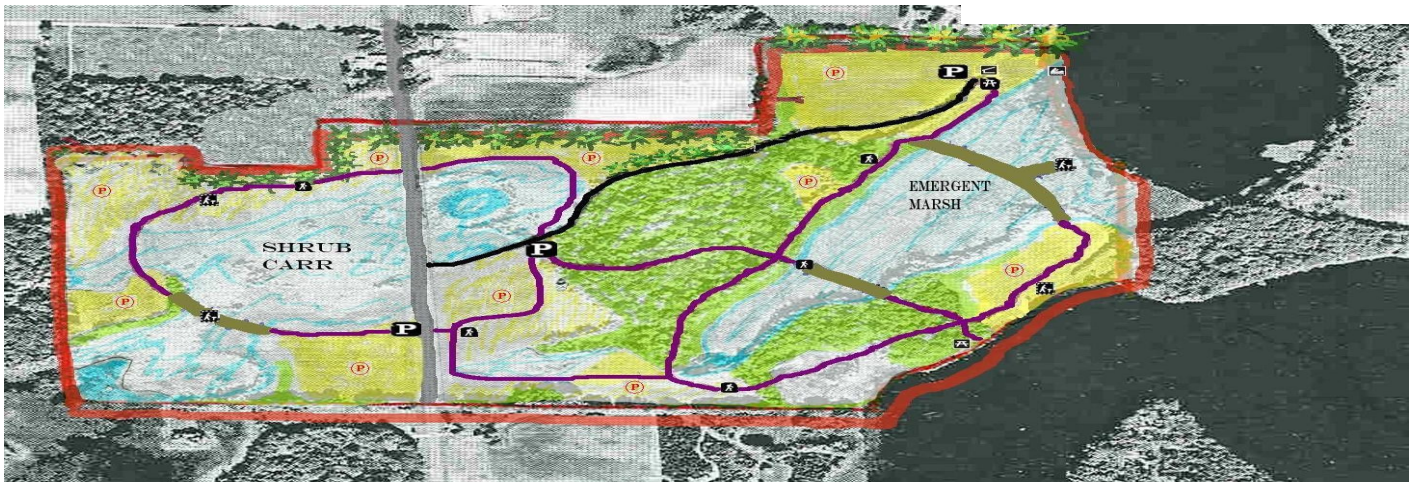
The plans for the development of the park have been approved by the county's Parks and Recreation Commission and the Isanti Board of Commissioners.

The long term plans include parking areas, a roadway which will end at a picnic shelter along Horse Leg Lake, canoe access, over four miles of multi

use trails, observation decks, and boardwalks that will allow access across the park's wetlands.

For your enjoyment the park is open from sunrise to sunset for walking, fishing, birding, and observing nature.

Please remember to pick up after yourself and your pet and that the use of motor vehicles and alcohol are strictly prohibited in the park.



## Friends of Anderson Park

The Friends of Anderson Park group was formed in the fall 2008 to help support and facilitate the development of Anderson Park.

The first Friends of the Park meeting was held on October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Oxford Town Hall. Anderson family members, friends of the Andersons, and neighbors gathered to share their ideas for the park. The main focus of everyone who attended the meeting was to keep the area in its native form, while creating a place where people can gather to enjoy the natural beauty of Isanti County.

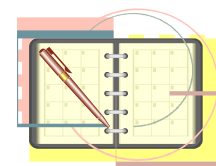
The Friends of the Park plan to meet quarterly to discuss ideas, plan events,

and organize volunteers to help facilitate the construction of the park.

If you or your organization is interested in volunteering, we have some upcoming events planned:

- Burning brush - February 28<sup>th</sup>
- Spring Work Day – April (exact date to be determined). Clean trails, put up wood duck boxes, etc.
- Spring Bird Walk - May 9<sup>th</sup> 8 am. Bring binoculars!

Look for more upcoming events in future issues of the newsletter or contact Lee Kingsbury at 651-462-2015.



**The next *Friends of the Park* meeting will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup> 2009, at the Oxford Town Hall from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**We hope to see you there!**

# Prairie Restoration, Picnicking and

Did you notice the park signs that were recently installed or the seeding that took place this fall? These subtle changes are some of the first steps in the development of Anderson Park.

In the fall, the Isanti County Soil and Conservation district teamed up with Pheasants Forever to begin the prairie restoration on the field bordering the east side of County Road 18. The seeding covered approximately 10 acres. Additional seeding is planned for spring 2009. Eventually, 60 acres will be seeded in prairie plants.

This winter the county also plans on removing Red and Pin Oak trees infected with Oak Wilt in seven sites in the park.

In addition to prairie restoration the first steps in developing the park structures have taken place. Rob Jutz (Friend of Anderson Park group member) researched several picnic shelters and has begun to meet with county officials to discuss shelter options and funding.

Dave Vigstol and his seven brothers have agreed to donate the labor to

complete the picnic shelter which is planned for completion in July 2010.

The Friends of the Park group will be deciding at the upcoming meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> which plans for the picnic structure, picnic tables, and benches to recommend to the Isanti County Park Board.

If you are interested in helping with fundraising for benches, picnic tables and picnic shelter, viewing platforms, call Lee Kingsbury 651-462-2015.

## Join or make a gift now!

The work of Friends of the Park is supported primarily through memberships and individual contributions.

Basic membership is \$25 and family or business memberships are \$50. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, advance notice about natural history and

birding hikes, invitations to special events and opportunities to get involved in park building projects such as prairie and oak savanna restoration, as well as protection efforts.

Members also gain the peace of mind in knowing that they are part of the effort to protect and restore the land and the wildlife living within this very special park.

Contributions to Friends of Anderson Park are tax-deductible because we are affiliated with the Parks and Trails of Minnesota Council.

To make a donation or become a member, please make check out to: Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota. In the memo line write "Anderson Park", and mail to the Friends of Anderson Park Treasurer, Diana Horrigan at 27440 Vassar St. NE. Stacy, MN. 55079.

## Have you seen me?

The Eastern Spotted Skunk is a small (16-23 inches), slender skunk found throughout the eastern United States, but is rare to Minnesota. Because of its declining numbers in MN, the spotted skunk is protected from hunting and trapping, and is classed as a species of "special concern."

The eastern spotted skunk is more weasel-like in shape than the more familiar striped skunk. The Spotted Skunk's stripes have a broken pattern, giving it a "spotted" appearance. They also have an identifying white spot on their forehead.

These skunks have the same predators as other skunks - big cats, bobcats, owls, humans, coyotes, etc.

Spotted Skunks seem to prefer forest edges and upland prairie grasslands, especially where rock outcrops and shrub clumps are present. Woody fencerows, and abandoned farm buildings are also

important habitat for the Spotted Skunk. Since they are expert tree climbers, and have been known to den in hollow trees or attics.

The Spotted Skunks are almost entirely nocturnal and are seldom seen during the day.

Their food habits are largely beneficial to the agriculturist although they can do damage to poultry. Their diet consist of the following: winter - cottontails and corn; spring - native field mice and insects; summer - mostly insects, and some small mammals, fruit, birds, and birds' eggs; fall - mostly insects, and some mice, fruit, and birds.

Mating occurs in March and April. Some females will mate again in July and August producing a second

litter. The gestation period is 50-65 days, and litters range from two to nine, average litter is four or five.



### Eastern Spotted Skunk

If you see the spotted skunk in the area call the DNR's Nongame Wildlife Office ASAP at

(651-297-2277)

(photo & information taken from Wikipedia)