

# Friends of Anderson Park News

<http://andersonparkfriends-isanti.com>

## Signs of Spring

The sights and signs of spring are truly a delight for the senses.

Listen for the unmistakable chorus of spring-peepers. About the size of a paper clip, these tiny, well-camouflaged amphibians are rarely seen. But in early spring the crescendo of nighttime whistles from amorous males is a sign that winter is over.



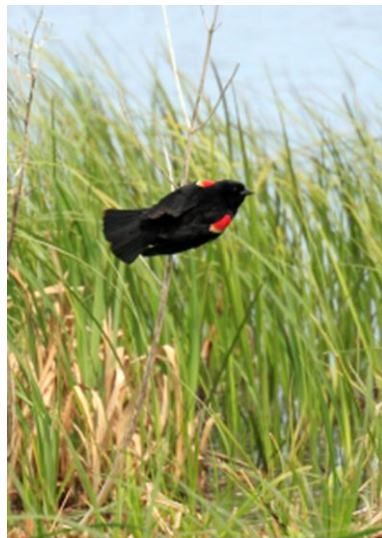
Spring Peeper

Look for those cute, active, acrobatic, social black-capped chickadees singing, "fee-bee, fee-bee" as they seek out the seeds they have hidden throughout the woods.

Each chickadee can remember thousands of hiding places! Most of the singing is by the males, but females sing, too.

It is impossible to miss the sound of that most abundant of birds, the red-winged blackbird, back from its 800 mile migration.

During their mating season the fierce male red-winged black birds can be seen perched on a cattail stalk singing their hearts out. The males have even been known to defend their territory by chasing a horse or a person!



Red-winged Blackbird

Is there anything better than the fresh smell of spring rain or the soft fragrance of spring flowers in April and May?

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Steve Kingsbury, Marlene Yenish,  
Photographers

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Take time this year to enjoy the many awakening signs of spring at Anderson Park, for as songwriter Paul Simon said, "These are the days of miracle and wonder..."

*"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."*

Rachel Carson

## Farewell Lori

Lori Angeli, member of the Friends of Anderson Park Board and this newsletter's founding editor, is stepping down.



Lori has been invaluable to the rapid development of Anderson Park and the Friends of the Park organization.

From the very beginning Lori contributed creative ideas and energized our fledgling organization's marketing plan with her professional skills.

Lori spent many hours writing and publishing our quarterly newsletters.

She promoted the park through her involvement in the North Branch Chamber of Commerce and the Stacy Lion's Club. She successfully solicited donations from local businesses and associations.

Lori brought her expertise, enthusiasm and endless energy to park projects - right down to every detail. She leaves having made an indelible impression of quality work, energy and professionalism on us all.

Thank you for your many contributions, Lori!

### “Go Outside and Play!”

Most of us remember hearing these words when we were children. Years ago, our many hours of outside play provided powerful learning experiences and precious memories of exploration through simple things like taking a hike, climbing a tree or finding a bird's nest.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, “Kids today are spending half as much time outdoors as they did 20 years ago. Today's kids spend six and a half hours a day plugged into electronic media.” (*Connecting Today's Kids with Nature - A Policy Action Plan*, May 2008).

The Friends of Anderson Park and the Isanti County Parks Department are committed to reconnecting kids with nature. This summer “natural play areas” will be created at the park. There will be open fields to run through, small hills and rock piles to climb, a “dig to China” sand pit, forts to build, feathers to find, trails to bike and more.

Check out Anderson Park's kiosk for outdoor play activities kids of all ages will enjoy.



## Friends of the Park Invest Sweat Equity



Tons of sweat equity, bundled bodies, and the penetrating winter sun mitigated the freezing cold on our January work day. The warmth and camaraderie of many hard-working volunteers made clearing and burning brush for a board walk trail at Anderson Park enjoyable. Deliciously decadent homemade cookies and hot cider provided by Marlene Yenish were everyone's well-deserved, welcome rewards.



*Members of the Friends of Anderson Park logged over 2,000 volunteer hours and raised or donated approximately \$5,500 for park projects in 2010.*

Braving the cold and deep snow was both exhilarating and rewarding.

Thanks for a job well done everyone!

## Sandhill Cranes Common Sight in Anderson Park

Did you know that sandhill cranes are one of the largest bird species in Minnesota? They stand about five feet tall and have a seven-foot wingspan. Look for them in the park's prairie areas eating a variety of animals including frogs, small mammals, insects, snakes and small grains.

Adults have a distinctive bowing courtship ritual. Females lay two eggs in a nest built of grasses and other vegetation on the ground or in shallow water. Both sexes care for and defend the young.



Photo taken near the picnic shelter at Anderson Park

The sandhill crane's flight is graceful; it stands erect when feeding in a field or marsh, and its echoing call is simply unforgettable. (MN DNR Website)

## Boardwalk Update

A 950-foot boardwalk trail, located near the picnic shelter, is now under construction. Two 250-foot boardwalk trails will also be built this year and next year an observation platform will be erected—affording views of both Horseshoe and Horse Leg lakes.

The boardwalk trails provide access across wetland areas while minimizing damage to their fragile habitat. Eventually, interpretive signs placed along the board walks will help visitors appreciate the "hidden" world of wetlands, their beauty and function.

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# Become a member of Friends of Anderson Park now!

E-mail: [andersonparkfriends@frontiernet.net](mailto: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>

**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

Anderson park is located in the SE 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

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**Mark your calendars for these upcoming events.**

**Check [www.andersonparkfriends-isanti.org](http://www.andersonparkfriends-isanti.org) for additional details.**

- **March 26 9 am – noon Spring Workday** Help install one of the boardwalks or clean up hiking trails. Refreshments provided.
  - **April 30<sup>th</sup> Install the Chimney Swift Tower** To help call Steve at 651-462-2015.
  - **May 14<sup>th</sup> 8 am – noon Spring Birding Tour** Join expert birders Joe Sausen and Tom Anderson as they explore the park for spring migrant and returning resident birds.
  - **June 11<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 11 am Nature Tour** Learn about the natural history, wildlife, and wildflowers of Anderson Park. Led by Tom Anderson, naturalist and family member of the former owners of the property.
  - **August 6<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 1 pm Summer Work Day and Potluck** Meet by the picnic shelter to help build natural play areas for children. Bring a potluck item to share.
  - **September 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am – 1:30 pm Community Picnic** Celebrate National Public Lands Day with hay rides, nature walks and special outdoor activities for kids and families.
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