



Nature Preserve Program Overview

Open Space in Andover

Andover is blessed with an abundance of natural open spaces. More than 30% of the City remains undeveloped. This is a true community asset; since access to natural areas is becoming less available in our society. Additionally, local and national research has shown that natural areas positively affect home values and consistently rank high on lists of homebuyer preferences.

The Open Space Advisory Commission (OSAC)

In 2006, the residents of Andover passed a levy to establish a \$2 million dollar fund to purchase land specifically to set aside as open space or “preserve” land. The Open Space Advisory Commission was formed to evaluate opportunities to preserve these areas and make recommendations to the City Council on land purchases.

Since forming, the Commission has evaluated undeveloped areas owned by people looking to sell land to the city, defining criteria to evaluate potential acquisitions, and recommending land for purchase. This group also investigates grant opportunities to maximize the limited funds available.

The Commission meets on an as needed basis-typically at 6:00 on Wednesdays at Andover City Hall. Members of the public are welcome! Agendas are posted on the City’s webpage.

In August of 2015, the last preserve was purchased. In total, 168 acres of land was purchased with the \$2 million dollar funds. The properties purchased are listed below.

Preserve Highlights

Martin’s Meadows

A 38 acre site in the northwest corner of the city was purchased in 2009 from the Luedtke Family. Martin’s Meadows is located on the Rum River, a designated “Scenic and Wild River”. Access is gained to the site from Navajo Street NW. The City obtained an \$117,000 grant along with its partner, the non-profit organization Great River Greening (GRG), for buckthorn removal, timber-stand improvement (TSI), prairie restoration and plantings. This work will be completed by June 30, 2018.

The property has an elaborate trail system and it circumvents through the wetland, woodland, floodplain and prairie areas. This property is truly diverse and dynamic; get out there and enjoy!

North Woods Preserve

This 20 acre site located north of 161st Avenue NW and east of Hanson Boulevard NW was purchased from Larry Emmerich in 2010.

In January of 2014, an additional 26 acres was purchased from Donna and Richard Aasness. The property is located immediately north of the original North Woods Preserve bringing the total acreage to 46 acres. The City constructed a vehicle access and small parking area at 16347 Hanson Boulevard NW to provide public access.

When visiting North Woods Preserve, look for the blossoming apple and wild plum trees, enjoy walking the trails along the prairie area and take in the beauty of the deciduous and evergreen forests!

Maple View

In November 2014, the City closed on a 30 acre purchase of land from James Selmer and Hazel Blanchette. In March 2015, the City closed on the purchase of 14 acres from Dennis Kuiken located immediately north of the Selmer/Blanchette property bringing the total acreage of this open space to 44 acres. This property is located about a 1/3 of a mile north of North Woods Preserve.

The public access is located in the Country Oaks North 2nd Addition development adjacent to the new Maple View Park, which is east of Hanson Boulevard NW off of 167th Avenue NW. A nature trail was installed in December 2016 and loops thru the fern ridden, mature deciduous forest, along the edge of the large wetland complex and thru the hazelnut thicket.

Dalske Woodlands

In August 2015, the City closed on the purchase of 40 acres of land from Alfred Dalske. This property is located at 400 181st Avenue NW. Current access to the site is off the end of 181st Avenue NW. A future parking area is being considered along with passive walking trails, vegetation management and a bridge/boardwalk over the County Ditch.

Website Resources

Go to www.andovermn.gov and the links “Your Government” “Boards and Commissions” “Open Space Advisory Commission” to get access to additional resources including the list of Commission members, meeting agendas and minutes, maps, pictures of the sites and more.

Do you have questions on the nature preserve program?

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