

Prairie Seed Collection @ Anderson Farm Co. Park



Background

Anderson Farm County Park was established in 2014. The Park is approximately 310 acres and is a mix of woodland, agricultural fields, and prairies.

The Park address is in the Town of Oregon at 914 Union Road, Oregon, Wisconsin-just south of the Village of Oregon. The park is named after the Lyman F. Anderson Family farmstead that was founded at the site in 1886.

There is one mile of hiking trails on the north end of the Park in the Arthur Sholts Memorial Woods. Prairie trails are connected to the Woods. There are parking areas off 914 and 804 Union Road. Walk-in entrances are available from the Village of Oregon via South Main Street and Ridge View Lane in the village. Visitors can also walk along field trails that border the agricultural fields. A portable toilet is available at the 914 Union Road parking area and a vault toilet at 804 Union Road.

The Park features two major prairie areas-complete with hiking trails. The Sholts Prairie (off 914 Union Road) is 5 acres and connects to the Arthur Sholts Memorial Woods. The second area is the 35-acre prairie located in the dog park at 804 Union Road. An additional 3-acre prairie will be added in 2022.

The purpose of Anderson Park Friends Inc. (APF) is to support Anderson Farm County Park through programs and activities described in the park's master plan. APF builds positive relationships between people and inspires them to connect with nature. Created in September 2013, our nonprofit charitable organization is recognized by the federal IRS and State of Wisconsin. We actively work on building woodlands, savannahs, prairies, and recreation projects. The Dane County Parks Department provides oversight to all activities.

Volunteering

As a volunteer, you will directly assist prairie building or restoration efforts through planting seed, taking out invasive species (i.e., Queen Anne's lace), or collecting seed from native plants. Volunteer efforts since 2014 have had a significant impact on the success of the park's native prairies, and woodland restorations. Prairie seed is expensive, and you are saving taxpayer dollars.

Custom group or corporate events are available with adequate advance notice. APF can accommodate groups of 10 to 40 people during one event. These events can be scheduled any day during the week. Multiple sessions can be scheduled on the same day. All events are led by a certified APF Land Steward.

Strategies

APF employs two basic strategies for seed collection. They are organized **group events** of 1.5 to 3 hours or **independent collection** on an ad hoc schedule. Independent collectors will coordinate their activities with an APF Land Steward.

Seed collection parking is at 914 Union Road or 804 Union Road, Oregon, WI 53575

Basics of Volunteering

- New volunteers need to sign a “volunteer release” form prior to the volunteer event. APF or Dane County Park (DCP) will provide the form and/or a sign-in sheet at each event.
- Work with your leader to record your volunteer hours.
- Wear closed-toe shoes (leather preferred), No sandals (for safety), long pants and a long sleeve shirt. You will be working “off-trails” in fields of native plants that range from 2 feet to 5 feet.
- Bring drinking water (no alcohol).
- Bring gloves (optional).
- Bring pruning shears if available.
- Collection bags will be provided to volunteers.
- Be prepared for wet ground conditions, mosquitos, and sunny, warm weather.
- Weather decisions are usually made at the work site just before the start time.
- Training and orientation are available at the start of each event. APF will provide gloves, safety glasses, insecticide and manual equipment. All volunteers receive a safety and equipment orientation. All teams are led by an experienced captain. Dress for the weather; wear sun protection. Recommendations: long pants,
- Breaks for fellowship are scheduled with each event.
- Please abide by Dane Co. Park Regulations: Follow all COVID Regulations. DO NOT bring pets or glass bottles to the park.
- Come prepared to learn and have fun!

Schedule

The timing of seed collection is usually between mid-August and mid-October of each year. Collection tasks are usually staggered accord to the species of plant being collected.

Restoring Native Plant Communities

The collection efforts at Anderson Farm County Park are a part of a large cooperative program sponsored by Dane County Parks. Seeds go to a central location for processing in late fall.

Seeds are then available for starting new acreage in the winter. For example, the Anderson dog park prairie was seeded January 10, 2019. Seed was distributed on top of the snow.

Background

APF members partner with the scouts, church groups, businesses, and the Oregon School District to conduct work and educational events. Educational events are sponsored in the spring and each April on Arbor Day.

Other native plant projects include building a demonstration pollinator garden and 3 rain gardens.

Prairies provide ideal habitat for Wisconsin’s native plants, butterflyers, insects, animals, and birds.

Schedule of Events (APF calendar is available on the web site.)

Regular APF workdays are the 2nd Saturday of each month. The timeframe is 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Each event includes a break and time for fellowship

8/10/21

To become a member or supporter,
go to: www.andersonparkfriends.org/.



[Anderson Park Friends on FaceBook](https://www.facebook.com/andersonparkfriends)
