



A History of the Land: Anoka-Ramsey Community College Cambridge Campus

By Vicki Larson

This project was originally started in Spring 2015 by myself, Sarah Larson, Charles Larson, and Ashley Hunting. We were interested in learning more about the history of the land that the Anoka-Ramsey Community College Cambridge Campus is built on.

It all began with The Olson Family Homestead, which was part of the 90 acres of land donated to the city to be used for the college.



The house, barn, and silo are still here, but may be torn down soon.



Here, you will see a few photographs taken during a visit to the old farm:







The silo is a reminder of the time farmers discovered that the “silage” or fermented feed seemed to tantalize the taste buds of the livestock. The silage was stored in the silo, and was one more source of food for the farm animals besides hay and dry grain.



The “Outdoor Kitchen”, which was once on the farm, was donated to the Isanti County Historical Society in 2006, where everyone can enjoy it.



Take a walk inside and go back in time as you see the old kitchen stove...



Metal milk cans, cooking utensils...



Steamer trunks and an old washing machine.



The old stoves became popular in the late 1800s. It was heated with wood. Not only was it used for cooking, but also for heating the house, and it had a covered reservoir which kept water warm for heating.



To bring some of the historic items back to the land they came from, an exhibit was built.

The tools were laid out...



Fence posts were put in...

Prairie grass was cut and replanted...



And lastly, the old farm items were added.



“Barbed Wire” for fences was first used around 1880. It solved the problem of using smooth wire, which the cattle discovered they could step through.



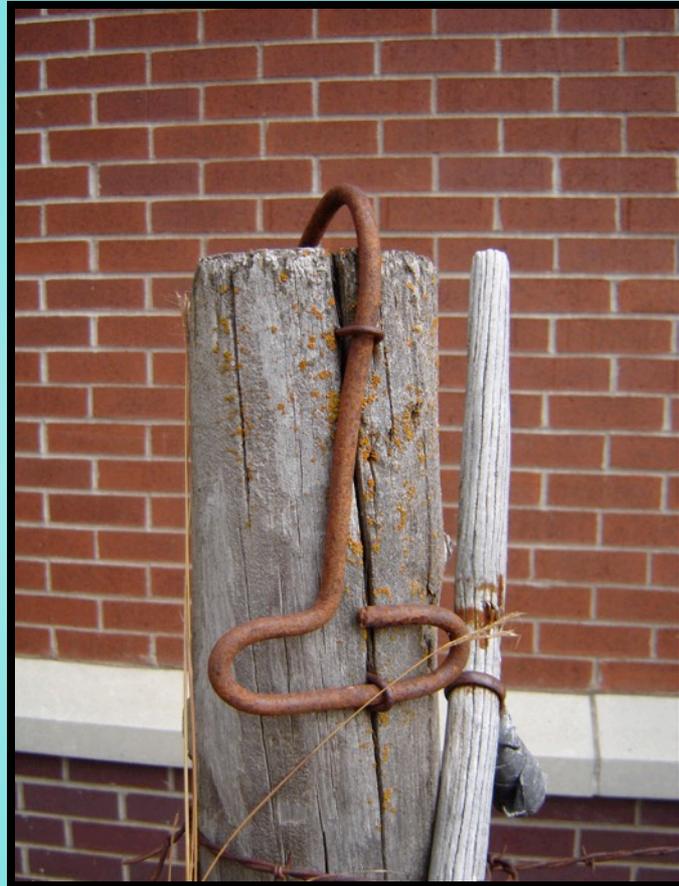
Early Farmers in Minnesota depended on wild grasses to provide winter feed for their animals. They used a “scythe” to mow the prairie grasses. After it dried, it was raked and stacked.



When farmers started growing hay as a crop, they bought horse-powered mowers and rakes. This is a blade from the mower.



When the hay baler was invented at the turn of the 20th century, it made hauling and storing hay much easier. One of the tools used to lift the cumbersome bales was a “hay hook”. The handheld hook easily grabbed on to the hay bale which made it much easier to carry and load on a wagon. It was then taken from the field to the barn.



More items similar to these were brought indoors and shown in the library.



And today, the prairie has been restored to how it may have looked many years ago. It is now home to thirty-eight species of forbs and eight species of grasses.



Big Bluestem



Little Bluestem

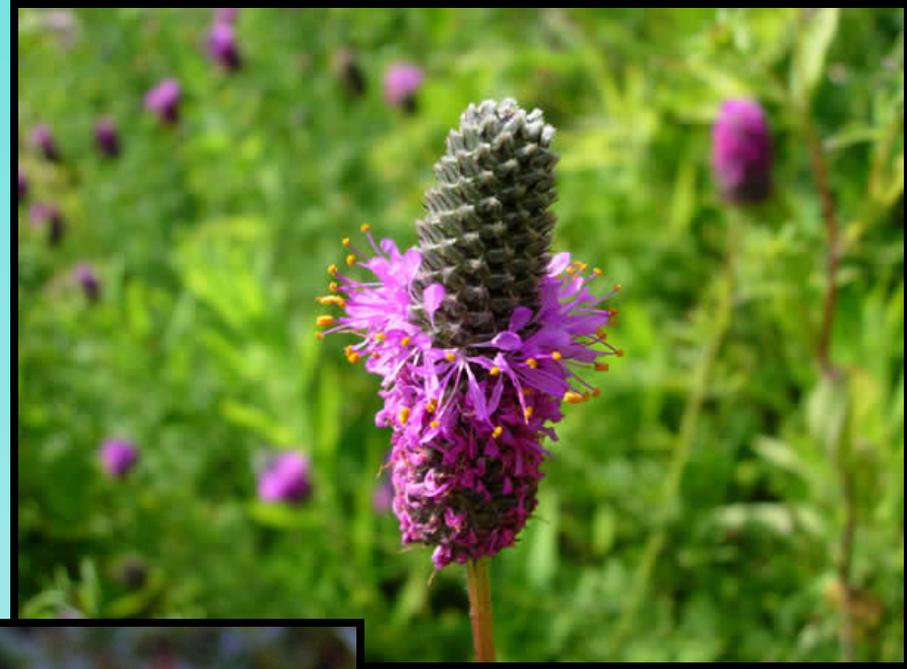


Round-headed Bush Clover

Other plants you can find in the prairie are:



Sideoats Gramma



Purple Prairie Clover



Evening Primrose



Stiff Goldenrod



New England Aster



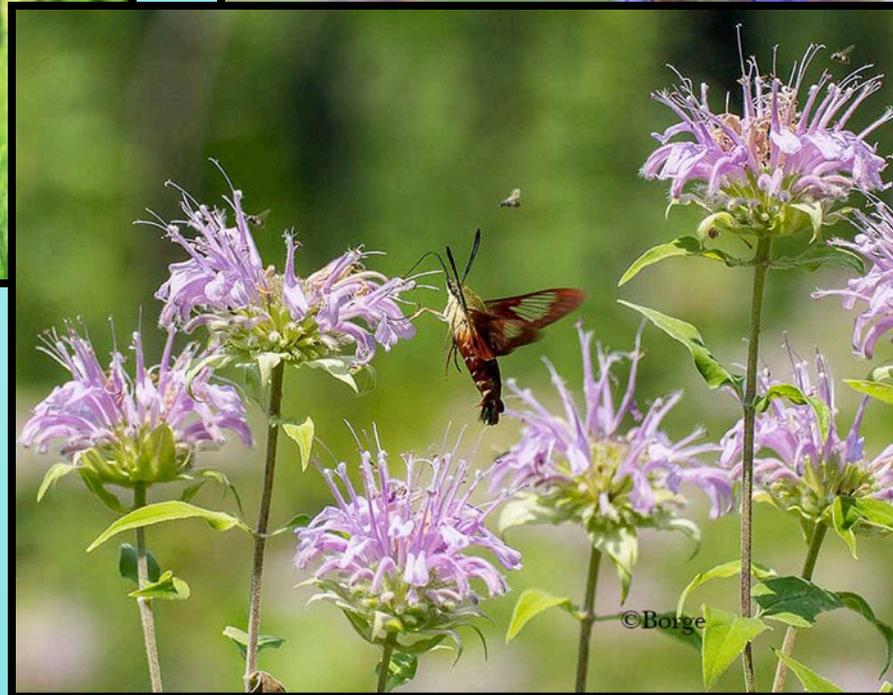
Switchgrass



Prairie Blazing Star



Leadplant



Wild Bergamot

Other species include:

Blue Grama

Canada Wild Rye

Indian Grass

Prairie Cord Grass

Alum Root

Butterfly Weed

Yarrow

Common Mullein

Sneezeweed

Canada Tick Trefoil

Ironweed

Common Milkweed

Disturbance to these prairie plants is necessary for their healthy growth. Originally, this occurred mostly by bison trampling, but now the prairie is disturbed by controlled burns.



These images were taken in April of 2015.

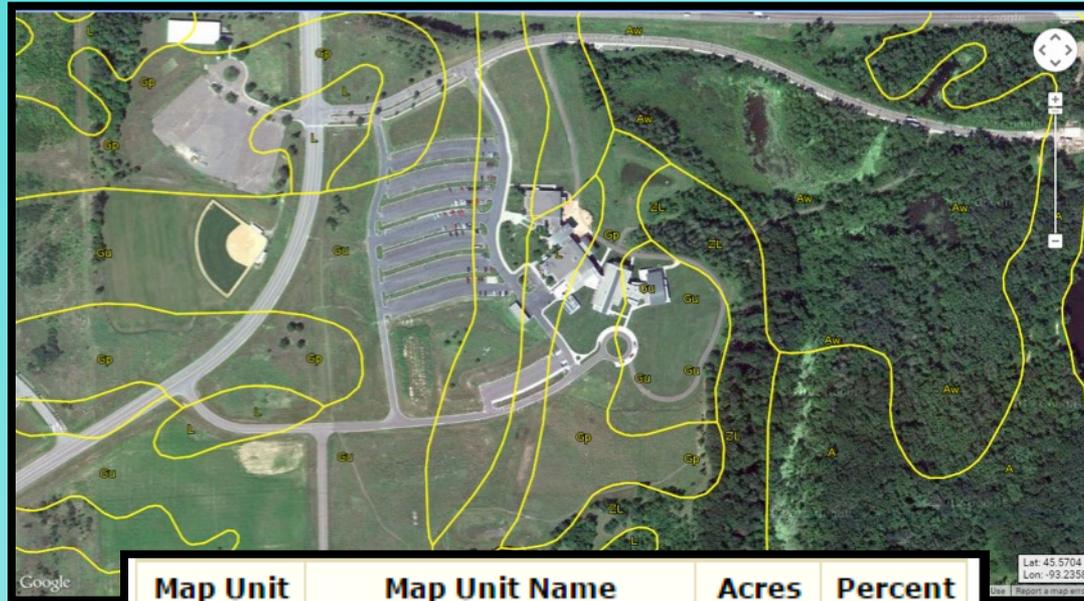
In addition to being a habitat for prairie plants, the land is also home to many types of animals.



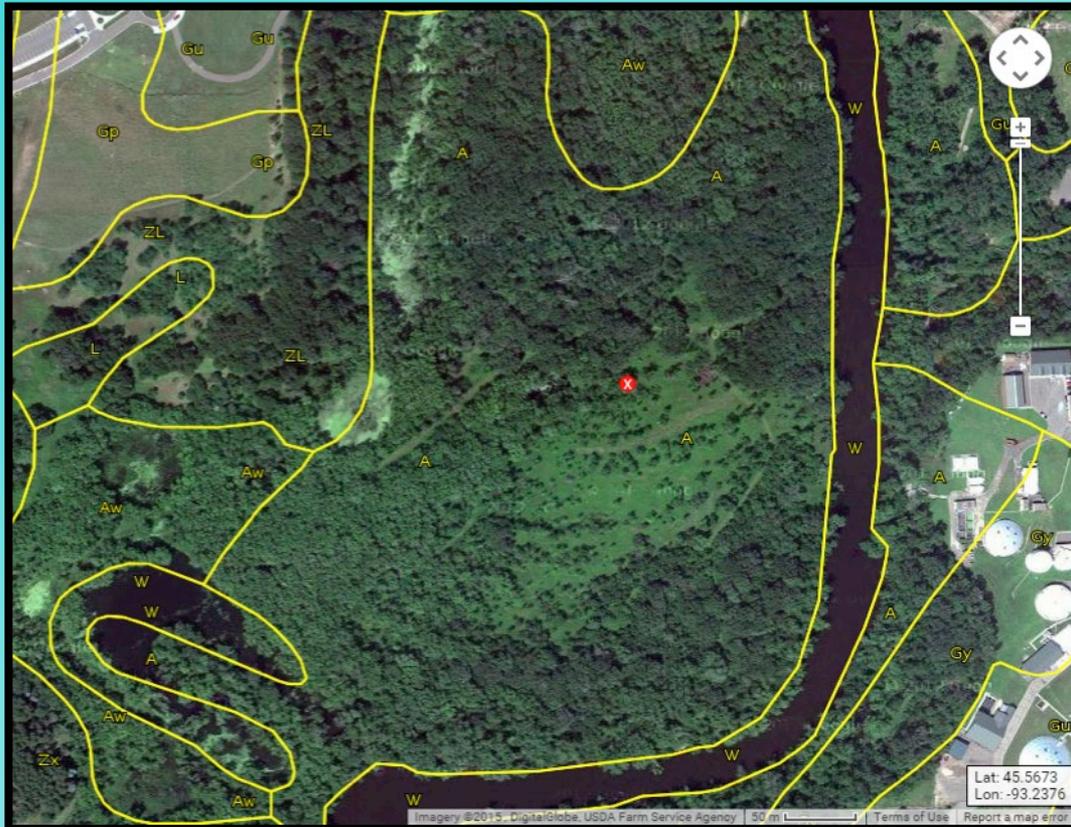
Canada Goose nesting in a lake on the campus land

This image was taken in April of 2015.

In the following slides you will find information about what the land is made of.



Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
A	Alluvial land, well drained	20.7	15.6%
Aw	Alluvial land, poorly drained	28.2	21.3%
Gp	Anoka loamy fine sand, 7 to 12 percent slopes	28.4	21.4%
Gu	Anoka loamy fine sand, 2 to 7 percent slopes	31.3	23.6%
L	Lino loamy fine sand	11.7	8.8%
W	Water	0.9	0.7%
ZL	Rough broken land, zimmerman material	11.4	8.6%
Totals for Area of Interest		132.6	100.0%



Map Unit Name: Alluvial land, well drained	Symbol: A
▲ Map Unit Composition	
95% - Alluvial land Geomorphic Position: <i>flood plains / Summit</i>	
5% - Alluvial land, poorly drained Geomorphic Position: <i>flood plains</i> Horizon data <i>n/a</i>	
▲ Map Unit Data	
Map Unit Key: 398326	
Type: <i>Consociation</i> ?	
Farmland Class: <i>Not prime farmland</i>	
Available Water Storage (0-100cm): 9 cm	
Max Flood Freq: <i>Occasional</i>	
Drainage Class (Dominant Condition): <i>Moderately well drained</i> ?	
Drainage Class (Wettest Component): <i>Moderately well drained</i> ?	
Proportion of Hydric Soils: 5% ?	
Min. Water Table Depth (Annual): 97 cm	
Min. Water Table Depth (April-June): 97 cm	
Min. Bedrock Depth: <i>n/a</i>	
Survey Metadata: <i>mn059 [NRCS Export: Sep 23 2014]</i>	

A: Alluvial land: well drained, occasionally flooded and similar soils.



Map Unit Name: **Alluvial land, poorly drained** Symbol: **Aw**

▲ **Map Unit Composition**

95% - **Alluvial land**
Geomorphic Position: *flood plains*

5% - **Alluvial land, well drained**
Horizon data *n/a*

▲ **Map Unit Data**

Map Unit Key: 398328

Type: *Consociation* ?

Farmland Class: *Not prime farmland*

Available Water Storage (0-100cm): *15.69 cm*

Max Flood Freq: *Frequent*

Drainage Class (Dominant Condition): *Very poorly drained* ?

Drainage Class (Wettest Component): *Very poorly drained* ?

Proportion of Hydric Soils: *95%* ?

Min. Water Table Depth (Annual): *n/a*

Min. Water Table Depth (April-June): *n/a*

Min. Bedrock Depth: *n/a*

Survey Metadata: *mn059 [NRCS Export: Sep 23 2014]*

Aw: Alluvial land, poorly drained, frequently flooded, and similar soils.



Map Unit Name: Anoka loamy fine sand , Symbol: Gp 7 to 12 percent slopes
▲ Map Unit Composition
95% - Anoka Geomorphic Position: <i>outwash plains / Backslope</i>
5% - Isanti Geomorphic Position: <i>swales</i> Horizon data <i>n/a</i>
▲ Map Unit Data
Map Unit Key: 398353
Type: <i>Consociation</i> ?
Farmland Class: <i>Not prime farmland</i>
Available Water Storage (0-100cm): 13.4 cm
Max Flood Freq: <i>None</i>
Drainage Class (Dominant Condition): <i>Well drained</i> ?
Drainage Class (Wettest Component): <i>Well drained</i> ?
Proportion of Hydric Soils: 5% ?
Min. Water Table Depth (Annual): <i>n/a</i>
Min. Water Table Depth (April-June): <i>n/a</i>
Min. Bedrock Depth: <i>n/a</i>
Survey Metadata: <i>mn059 [NRCS Export: Sep 23 2014]</i>

Gp: Anoka loamy fine sand, 7-12% slopes, similar soils. Well drained.



Map Unit Name: **Anoka loamy fine sand, 2 to 7 percent slopes**, Symbol: **Gu**

▲ Map Unit Composition

95% - **Anoka**

Geomorphic Position: *outwash plains / Backslope
outwash plains / Summit*

5% - **Isanti**

Geomorphic Position: *swales*
Horizon data n/a | [View Similar Data](#)

▲ Map Unit Data

Map Unit Key: 398354

Type: *Consociation* ?

Farmland Class: *Farmland of statewide importance*

Available Water Storage (0-100cm): *13.4 cm*

Max Flood Freq: *None*

Drainage Class (Dominant Condition): *Well drained* ?

Drainage Class (Wettest Component): *Well drained* ?

Proportion of Hydric Soils: *5%* ?

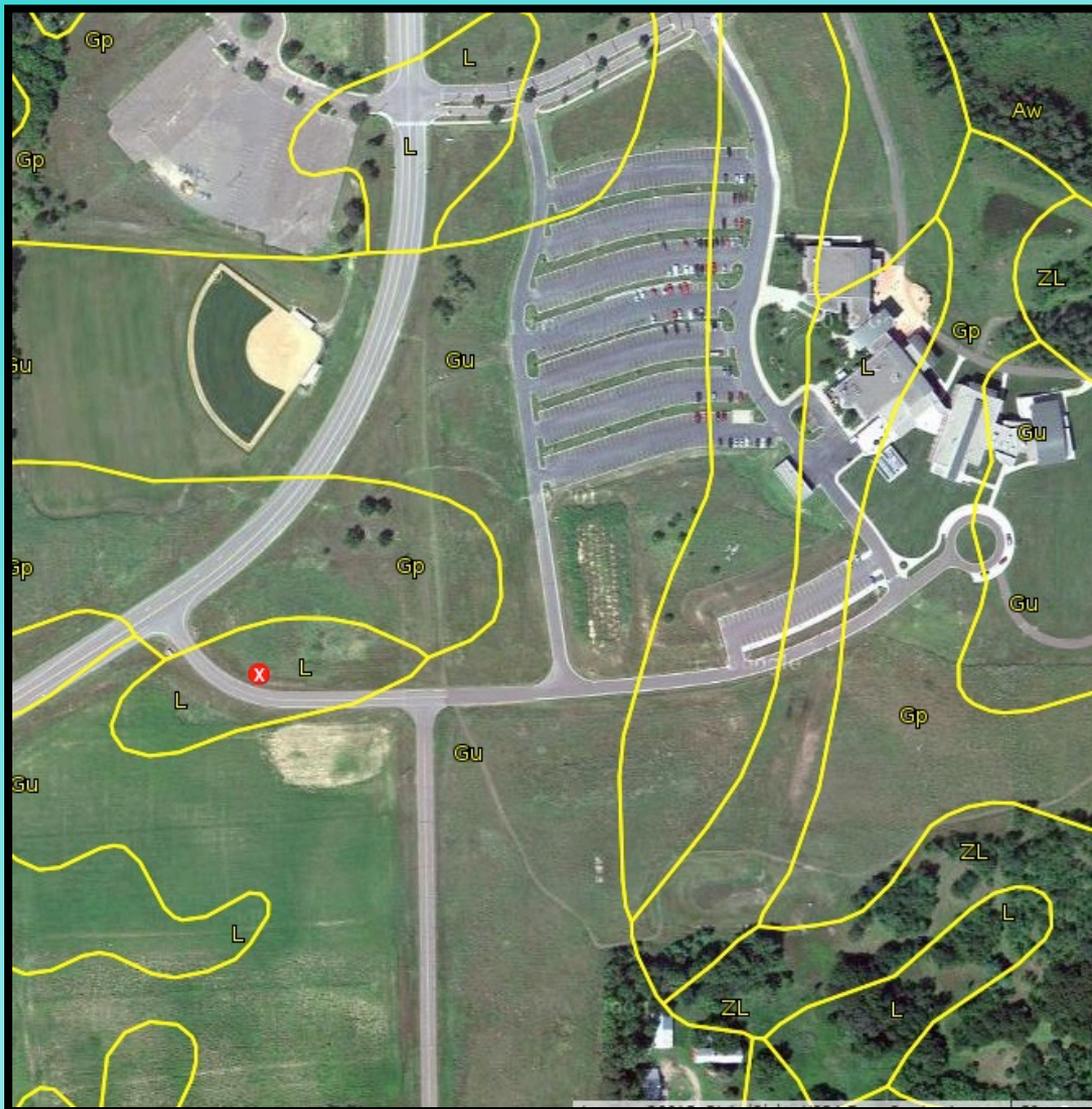
Min. Water Table Depth (Annual): *97 cm*

Min. Water Table Depth (April-June): *97 cm*

Min. Bedrock Depth: *n/a*

Survey Metadata: *mn059 [NRCS Export: Sep 23 2014]*

Gu: Anoka loamy fine sand, 2-7% slopes, similar soils, well drained.



Map Unit Name: **Lino loamy fine sand** Symbol: **L**

▲ Map Unit Composition

95% - **Lino**
 Geomorphic Position: *outwash plains / Footslope*

5% - **Isanti**
 Geomorphic Position: *swales*
 Horizon data n/a | [View Similar Data](#)

▲ Map Unit Data

Map Unit Key: 398366

Type: *Consociation* ?

Farmland Class: *Not prime farmland*

Available Water Storage (0-100cm): 6.81 cm

Max Flood Freq: *None*

Drainage Class (Dominant Condition): *Somewhat poorly drained* ?

Drainage Class (Wettest Component): *Somewhat poorly drained* ?

Proportion of Hydric Soils: 5% ?

Min. Water Table Depth (Annual): 43 cm

Min. Water Table Depth (April-June): 43 cm

Min. Bedrock Depth: *n/a*

Survey Metadata: *mn059 [NRCS Export: Sep 23 2014]*

L: Lino loamy fine sand, similar soils, somewhat poorly drained.



Map Unit Name: <i>Rough broken land, zimmerman material</i>	Symbol: ZL
▲ Map Unit Composition	
95% - <i>Rough broken land</i> Geomorphic Position: <i>outwash plains / Shoulder outwash plains / Backslope</i>	
5% - <i>Alluvial land, poorly drained</i> Geomorphic Position: <i>flood plains</i> Horizon data <i>n/a</i>	
▲ Map Unit Data	
Map Unit Key: 398405	
Type: <i>Consociation</i> ?	
Farmland Class: <i>Not prime farmland</i>	
Available Water Storage (0-100cm): 8 cm	
Max Flood Freq: <i>None</i>	
Drainage Class (Dominant Condition): <i>Excessively drained</i> ?	
Drainage Class (Wettest Component): <i>Excessively drained</i> ?	
Proportion of Hydric Soils: 5% ?	
Min. Water Table Depth (Annual): <i>n/a</i>	
Min. Water Table Depth (April-June): <i>n/a</i>	
Min. Bedrock Depth: <i>n/a</i>	
Survey Metadata: <i>mn059 [NRCS Export: Sep 23 2014]</i>	

ZL: Rough broken land, Zimmerman materials, excessively drained.

In 1996, the ground was broken for the ARCC Cambridge Campus Center. In 2005, the construction to expand the building began.



This image was taken in July of 2006.

Here, you can see the ground being broken for the campus to be built...



...And various newspaper articles.

CCC 1985
Cambridge Campus Library
300 Polk St. S.
Cambridge, MN 55008

RUM RIVER REVIEW

CAMBRIDGE CENTER/ANOKA-RAMSEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Volume 1, Number 1

Cambridge Center expands with new addition in 1985

by MaryHelen Swanson

Good things come to those who wait. A good thing is certainly happening at the Cambridge Center of the Anoka-Ramsey Community College during the fall of 1985. The wait was seven years long and a lot of hard work, perseverance, and patience went on during that time.

What everyone is watching develop these days is the \$4 million addition to the Center. The new building will house five classrooms, a science lab, a computer lab, faculty offices, and a library.

Architects for the project are Matrix Associates of Minneapolis and the general contractor is Lunn Construction of Milaca. Job Superintendent is Jay Lunn.

Groundbreaking took place July 31, 1985. The expected length of construction is 150 days. During construction all operations at the Center have continued as usual. Dean Levig assures everyone that the addition will be ready and in use Winter Quarter 1986.

Dr. Levig is very excited



Also constructed was the Spirit River Nature Area, a trail behind the campus.



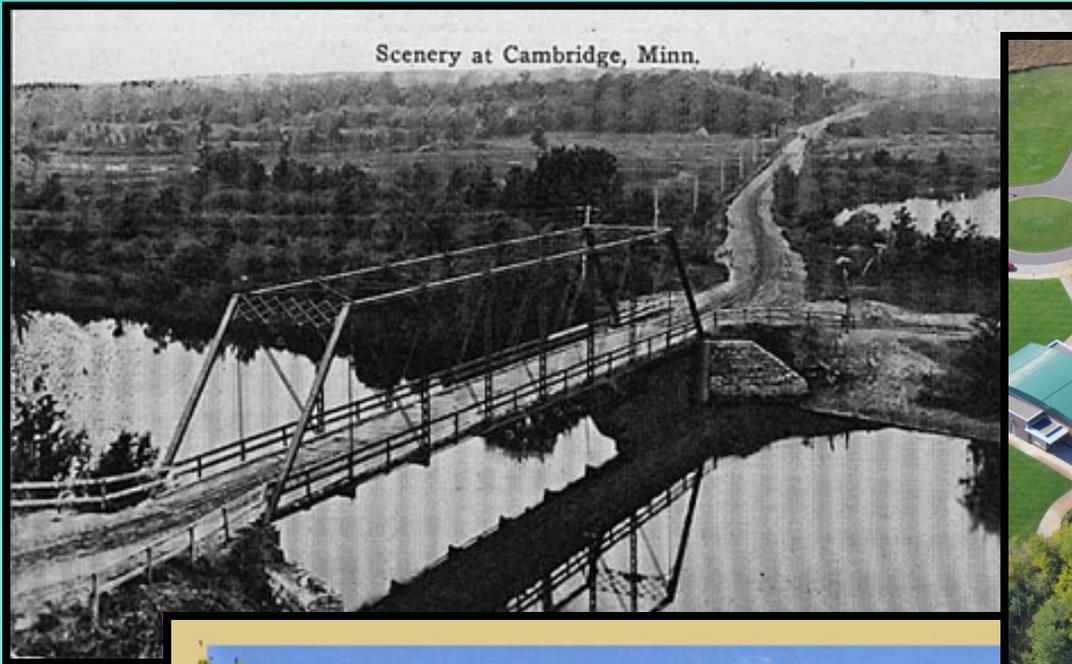
This trail was once used as a cattle pass, surrounded by fields and pasturelands. Today, it is a great place to take a walk and enjoy the scenery.



In the winter, volunteers line the trail with luminaries for the annual Candlelight Ski.



On the left is a picture that was taken in 1917. The college would be built across the bridge in the distance. Pictured center is the drawn plans for the college. And, on the right, you will see an image of the college as it is today.



The land that the campus is built on is not only a place where students can invest in their futures, but also reflect on the past.



ANOKA-RAMSEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

References:

Pictures:

- <http://www.anokatech.edu/~media/Images/Facilities%20Pics/Cambridge%20aerial.ashx>
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- https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a8/New_England_aster.jpg
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- <http://www.lakesnwoods.com/CambridgeGallery.htm>