



# Upper Minnesota Valley REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## Helping Communities Prosper

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## Case Study: Ambush Park in Benson

### The People Involved

**Project Champions:** Citizens of the city of Benson  
**City manager:** Rob Wolfington

### Initial Goals:

The park was created to provide a place for people to relax and enjoy being outdoors. The park has many amenities such as camp sites, picnic tables, free mini golf, historic buildings walking trails, and a butterfly garden.

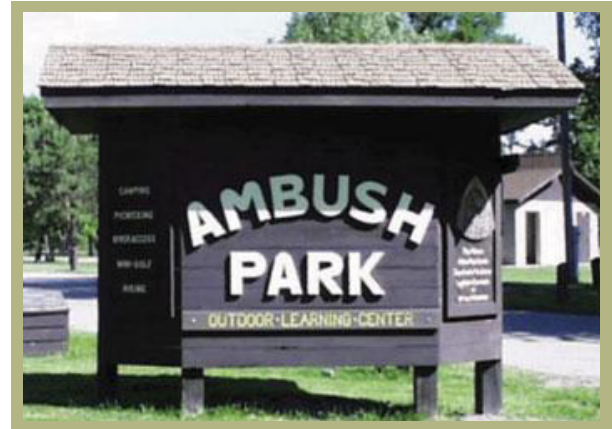
### Timeline:

Ambush Park was created after Benson became a city in the late 1800s. Since its creation it has had renovations and additions. Some of the more recent renovations include walking trails and a butterfly garden. The butterfly garden was built around 2000 with a grant from Agralite Electric. In the summer of 2015, they are planning to restore an old school building in the park and put in new water fountains.

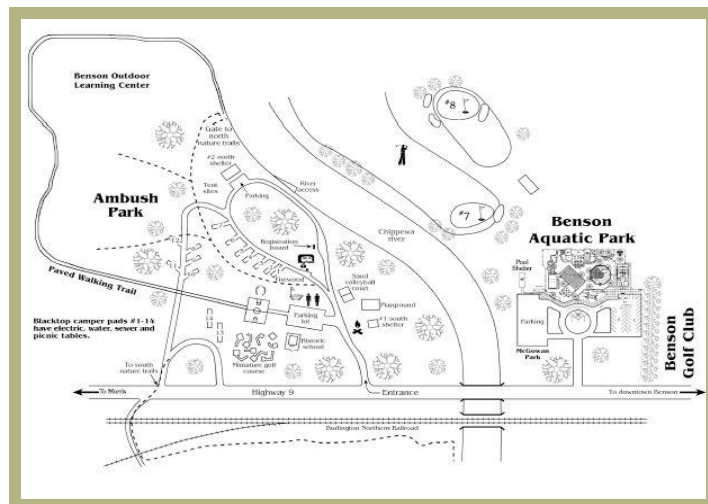
**1800s:** Ambush Park was created after Benson became a city.

**2000:** The butterfly garden gets constructed with funding from a Agralite Electric Grant

**2015:** Restore an old school building in the park and put in new water fountains



Welcome sign in Ambush Park



Map of Ambush Park

**Funding:** The park system of Benson allocates \$220,000 for the maintenance of all parks.

There is one full time employee who maintains all of the parks. In addition to funding from the city, Agralite Electric donated \$50,000 for the creation of the butterfly garden.

**Results:** Ambush Park has a variety of amenities that may be enjoyed by the people who visit the park.

**Financial Sustainability:**

The maintenance of the park is included in the annual budget of the city under park maintenance.

### Notes and Sources:

- The photo of the welcome sign to Ambush Park comes from: <http://visitbensonnmn.com/main/index.php/historical/61-ambush-park>
- The map of Ambush Park comes from: [www.bensonnmn.org/vertical/sites/%7B4CF162DA-DB48-48F1-BOOC-5A678A59875D%7D/uploads/Ambush\\_map.pdf](http://www.bensonnmn.org/vertical/sites/%7B4CF162DA-DB48-48F1-BOOC-5A678A59875D%7D/uploads/Ambush_map.pdf)

