



Cottage Grove Reports

City of Cottage Grove Summary Budget

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Winter Reminders

Winter Parking Ban

Winter parking rules are in effect Nov. 1 through March 31. No on-street parking between 2 and 6 a.m. is allowed whether or not it is snowing. The registered owner of any vehicle parked on the street during this time may be issued a citation. The vehicle may also be towed at the owner's expense. Parking is allowed on the street at all other times if the vehicle does not interfere with the removal of ice and snow from the street.

Snowplow Damage to Mailboxes

The City is responsible for damaged mailboxes only if the snowplow makes direct physical contact with the mailbox. If this happens, please call Public Works at 651-458-2808 to report the damage. If the mailbox is damaged due to the snow coming off of the plow, the homeowner is responsible for the repair.

Garbage and Recycling Containers

Please remember to keep your garbage and recycling container out of the street. Place them at the end of your driveway. This will reduce the possibility of a container being knocked over by a snowplow.

The purpose of this statement is to provide summary 2018 budget information for the City of Cottage Grove to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minnesota Statute 471.6965. The complete City budget may be examined at Cottage Grove City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway South, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The City Council adopted this budget on December 6, 2017.

	Governmental Funds	
	2018	2017
	Adopted Budget	Adopted Budget
Revenues		
Taxes	\$ 13,450,000	\$ 13,337,900
Other taxes/assessments	634,500	590,500
Licenses and permits	1,243,015	1,007,850
Intergovernmental:		
State	551,790	455,450
Federal & Local	133,000	213,290
Charges for services	4,166,660	4,238,230
Fines and forfeitures	200,000	190,000
Interest earnings	84,200	82,500
Miscellaneous	281,600	290,185
Transfers	1,121,500	871,500
Total revenues	<u>\$ 21,866,265</u>	<u>\$ 21,277,405</u>
Expenditures		
General government	3,640,415	3,495,015
Public safety	7,591,340	7,524,590
Streets and highways	4,386,170	3,960,485
Sanitation/Recycling	56,445	84,480
Parks and recreation	4,194,675	4,465,395
Economic development	291,570	309,135
Capital outlay	1,383,650	1,053,800
Transfers/capital lease	811,300	696,610
Total expenditures	<u>\$ 22,355,565</u>	<u>\$ 21,589,510</u>
Revenues over (under) Expenditures	<u>\$ (489,300)</u>	<u>\$ (312,105)</u>
Property tax levy requirement to fund the budget	\$ 15,235,000	\$ 14,772,900

Enterprise Fund Budgets 2018

	Water	Sewer	Street Lights	Cottage Grove EMS	Total 2018 Budget	Total 2017 Budget
Operating:						
Revenues	\$2,039,000	\$2,365,500	\$766,000	\$1,644,000	\$6,814,500	\$6,864,570
Expenses	2,040,335	2,706,035	807,415	1,677,480	7,231,265	7,804,220
Operating Income	(1,335)	(340,535)	(41,415)	(33,480)	(416,765)	(939,650)
Interest	55,000	42,000	10,000	6,000	113,000	181,000
Transfers/other	(171,550)	(187,000)	(47,220)	(94,430)	(500,200)	(586,400)
Net income (loss)	(\$117,550)	(\$485,535)	(\$78,635)	(\$121,910)	(\$803,965)	(\$1,345,050)



Coming Up

- Jan 27** **Winter Hawaiian Luau Fundraiser** for Stone Soup, Noon to 5 p.m., Park Place, St. Paul Park.
- Feb 7** **Photo Contest Winners Announced, 7 p.m.**, Council Meeting, City Hall
- Feb 7** **State of the City Address, 6:30 p.m.**, City Hall Council Chamber. Anyone interested in learning more about the direction of the City is invited to attend.
- Feb 28** **Snowman Contest** entries due. Submit your best snowman photo for a chance to win a prize! Email a pic of you and your snowman to mpietruszewski@cottagegrove.org. *Photos may be used on City's website, social media accounts, and print publications.*
- Mar 24** **Egg Hunt, 9 a.m.**, Ice Arena

December Artist of the Month: Mary Butze

Mary Butze was named the Art Commission's December Artist of the Month. Butze, a 25 year resident of Cottage Grove, plays flute and piano, but her primary passion is playing guitar and singing. She learned to play guitar by listening to her dad and mimicking what he did.



In the early 2000s, Butze joined the Wings of the Spirit, a ministry group that plays a blend of their original songs with covers of contemporary Christian music. In 2009, Butze recorded an EP CD with five original Christian-based pieces. Every spring, she participates in "Live from the Loft," held at the Onion Grille in Hastings. Butze was also part of a group of musicians who played for an ALS fundraiser called "Always Lucy Strong" this past August.

Besides leading the band on Wednesdays, Butze loves finding ways to utilize the musical gifts of the church's youth, including forming a jazz ensemble. There is so much great music out there and she enjoys putting her own spin on different pieces.

Currently, Butze plays in the contemporary band at St. Luke Lutheran Church and is the volunteer band leader for the Wednesday night service. In addition, she works with a team of young adults ranging from 8th to 10th grade and directs the St. Luke's kids' choir.

More information on the Artist of the Month program is available on the City's website.

Tips to Help You Stay Warm this Winter

Stay toasty all winter long by defending your home against harsh wind, rain, and snow. From your garage door to your dryer vent, there are many possible leaks and inefficiencies that can sap your heat while running up your heating bill. Here are some ways to winterize your home from the outside in!

Service your heating system

Change out the furnace filters, clean the blower fan, inspect the motor belt for wear, and seal any duct leaks. Experts highly recommend having your furnace professionally serviced once a year.

Prevent chimney drafts

If your damper is not very effective or you don't have a damper at all, use a chimney balloon or plug to stop drafts. Clean your chimney of creosote buildup and other fire hazards.

Insulate your pipes

Protect any exposed pipes with adhesive foam-rubber pipe insulation.

Switch the direction of your ceiling fans

In the winter, turn the blades clockwise to draw cool air upwards and circulate warm air down and out.

Weatherize your dryer vent

Be sure to check that the exterior dryer damper is free and clear of lint so it can properly close when the dryer is not in use. Seal any gaps between your wall and dryer vent with a fresh bead of caulk.

Seal doors and windows and put up plastic window film

Use weather stripping, silicone caulk, rope caulk, draft guards, or a combination to make sure your door and window frames are airtight. Window insulation film is an inexpensive and surprisingly effective way to stop air leaks.

JOIN US FOR AN **OPEN HOUSE** to Gain Confidence and Find Your Voice



All are welcome to the special Toastmaster Open House/ Demonstration meeting with special guest speaker Mayor Myron Bailey on Jan. 22, from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m., in the training room at City Hall. There's no cost to attend the open house.

- Learn about the Toastmasters program
- Observe a Toastmasters meeting
- Meet Toastmasters members
- See speeches and evaluations

Toastmasters provides a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

Regular meetings are the 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:15 to 8:15 p.m., at City Hall in the Training Room. Learn more: <https://cottagegrove.toastmastersclubs.org/>

Holiday Train Stops in Cottage Grove



Several thousand people greeted the CP Holiday Train as it rolled into Cottage Grove on Dec. 9. The Holiday Train Committee has worked hard over the past 15 years and it paid off—they reached their goal of raising over \$1 million in total for the Friends in Need Food Shelf! The crowd was in a festive mood and enjoyed the concert, Santa, refreshments and taking photos.

Water Rates Change Effective Jan. 1

On Dec. 20, the Cottage Grove City Council approved new water and sewer rates which went into effect on Jan. 1. Residents will see the rate change on their Feb. 15 water bill.

The new rates are a result of a water and sewer rate study that was authorized by Council in April of 2017. The study was already underway before the City enacted a watering ban in response to pumping reduction measures to meet new Minnesota Department of Health health-based values.

The new tiered usage system is designed to encourage water conservation. The majority of residents, 63 percent, currently use less than 6,000 gallons of water per month and will see a minimal change in their utility bill.

The study reviewed the City's operating and capital expenditures for water and sanitary

sewer systems and recommended a financial plan and cost-based rates for both systems. It relied on audited financial reporting information and other revenue, expense, and development information. The study did not consider any future capital expenditures relating to water treatment facilities.

The result of the study is the implementation of fair and equitable water and sanitary sewer rates and rate structures to meet the needs of each system over a five-year period from Jan. 1, 2018, through Dec. 31, 2022 while promoting water conservation in accordance with Minnesota State Statutes and maintaining financial reserves sufficient to provide operational stability.

The change is the first year of a two-year phased water and sewer rate increase. The last rate increase was in 2008.

The new rates, including commercial rates, can be found on the City's website: <http://bit.ly/CGWaterRates>

Residential Water and Sewer Rates

Residential Base Charge

Single Family	\$2.25
Multi-Family (per REU)	\$1.69

Residential Usage Charge (per month)

Up to 6,000 gals	\$1.18 per 1,000 gals
6,001 to 9,000 gals	\$1.44 per 1,000 gals
9,001 to 12,000 gals	\$1.83 per 1,000 gals
Over 12,001 gals	\$2.42 per 1,000 gals

Residential Sanitary Sewer Rates

Base Charge	\$3.00
All Usage	\$3.45 per 1,000 gals

Coyotes and Wildlife

Cottage Grove residents are fortunate to have a multitude of city parks and green, open spaces to enjoy. However, those green spaces include wildlife. Over the past several years residents have reported coyote sightings in the City's parks and open spaces with increased regularity.

Coyotes typically avoid humans and do most of their hunting activity at night. However, they are lured into suburban areas due to the presence of easy food sources. Once these easy food sources have been discovered, they adapt to the new lands and become more accustomed to human activity.

They are territorial in nature and will self-regulate their population in any given area. When some are removed from an area, others will move in to take advantage of the open space and claim their new land. Studies have also shown that female coyotes will naturally produce larger litters to fill any voids left from a lower populated area (and produce less in overpopulated areas).

If you live next to park or open space frequented by coyotes, do not encourage their stay by providing them with easy food sources, and keep their fear of humans alive by making noise to scare them away, always remembering

that they are wild animals and should be treated as such. Please be sure to keep pets inside or with an owner when they are outside.

If you think a coyote is posing an immediate threat, please call 911.

Learn more about coyotes at www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals.

RIVER OAKS Golf Course and Event Center

11099 South Highway 61
Phone: 651-438-2121
www.riveroaksmunigolf.com

Saying I Do? | Book your event at River Oaks Event Center and enjoy half priced room rental fees on all remaining 2018 dates! Contact Dennis Neitz at 651-438-2121 or dneitz@cottage-grove.org to tour the venue and get more information.

Golf Leagues | River Oaks is now accepting applications for all in house leagues: Tuesday and Wednesday senior men's, Thursday morning ladies, and weekend men's club. You don't need a foursome to join, we can fit you in with a group. Leagues are a great way to meet new people and get out and join the game. There is no limit to the number of members in a league, so tell your friends to join you!

Upcoming Events | Visit www.riveroaksmunigolf.com for more information.

- Jan. 26: Craft Beer Festival—7 p.m.
- Feb. 9: Wood and Wine—6 p.m. Registration is required. Register at: <https://sawdustsavvy.regfox.com/feb-9-2018-river-oaks>
- Feb. 14: Valentine's Dinner
- Feb. 17: Comedy Night at River Oaks
- Feb. 24: Craft Show

Eagles Bar and Grill

3-9 pm Fridays and Saturdays
3-5:30 pm Happy Hour
Full Menu!



Special Features:
Fish Fry on Fridays
Prime Rib on Saturdays

FREE KIDS MEAL

One FREE kids meals with the purchase of one of our popular nightly specials.

*One coupon per table.
Not valid with any other specials or offers.
Expires 2/10/18*

ICE ARENA

8020 80th Street S.
Phone: 651-458-3400

SKATING WITH THE WOLVES (Free)

Girls tournament with U12-A, U12-B, U10-B.

January 12 5:15–9 p.m.
January 13 9 a.m.–9:30 p.m.
January 14 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

MITE JAMBOREE (Free)

Mite Jamboree Tournament with Mites Tier I-III.

January 27 8 a.m.–9 p.m.
January 28 7:30–9 a.m.

HOCKEY FEST (Free)

Join us for Hockey Fest, the BIGGEST fundraiser of the year for the Boys and Girls hockey programs! There will be food, games, mascot appearances, a bounce house, silent auction, and more. Support the youngest skaters, have some fun family time, and enjoy great hockey!

February 17 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

ICE SKATING LESSONS

Our Learn-to-Skate program prepares participants for all ice sports. Students are individually evaluated to make certain they are in the appropriate level. Call for more information.

Dates: Sundays, Feb. 18–April 22 (skip Apr. 1) | Mondays, Feb. 19–April 16

Cost: \$77

Levels: Skating Tots: Ages 3–5, new to skating.
Level 1: Ages 5–8, minimal skating skills.
Level 2: Ages 5 and up, have passed Level 1.
Level 3: Skaters who have passed Level 2.
Level 4: Skaters who have passed Level 3.

FIGURE SKATER PRACTICE (\$5-\$10)

Sessions are for the dedicated figure skater, level Alpha and above. Practice figure skating skills, jumps and spins.

Tuesdays 2:30–5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays 6–7:30 a.m.
Thursdays 2:30–5:30 p.m.
Fridays 6–7:30 a.m.
Saturdays 6:15–7:45 a.m.
Sundays 8–9:30 p.m.

ADULT OPEN HOCKEY (\$5)

Join others, ages 18+, on Monday evenings. Bring your own hockey



HOCKEY FEST

Guest Appearances!
Say "Hi", Get an autograph,
give a high five, take a picture!

- 11am-Noon: Goldy Gopher
- Noon-1pm: Wes Walz
(former MN Wild player & FSN announcer)
- 12:30-1:30pm: Nurdy
from MN Wild

Bounce House
Chuck-A-Puck
Face Painting
50/50 Raffle
Silent Auction

FREE! FREE! FREE!

FEBRUARY 17 - 8AM TO 6PM
COTTAGE GROVE ICE ARENA
8020 80TH STREET SOUTH
For more information call 651-458-3400

 Cottage Grove
Where Pride and Prosperity Meet

equipment. Helmets required. Please check website or call for schedule as some sessions may cancel due to special events.

STICK & PUCK (\$5)

For hockey skaters of any age to come skate with sticks and pucks! Work on skating skills, drills and stick handling. Please check website or call for current schedule. Helmets mandatory for those under age 18.

OPEN SKATE SESSIONS (\$5)

These sessions are a chance for your family to get exercise, practice skating, and have fun. Skating aids (buckets) for those learning to skate. Session times vary; please check website or call for current schedule. Rental skates available for \$4 per pair.

OPEN BROOMBALL (\$5/player)

On Sunday nights join other players, ages 17+, on our Studio Rink for a pickup game of broomball. Players must bring their own helmets and sticks. Limited amount of sticks available on a first come, first serve basis. Please check website or call for current schedule.

RECREATION NEWS

For more information call 651-458-3400

Crafts & Snacks | Spend the afternoon crafting and snacking with friends! Enjoy painting wooden treasure boxes, making a beautiful Valentine wreath with ribbon and a string friendship bracelet. All supplies and snacks included.

Ages: 7 to 15
Date: Jan. 28
Time: 1–3 p.m.
Location: Hamlet Park, 8885 Hamlet Ave. S.
Cost: \$18

Hockey Skills Competition | Spend the day competing in the 12th Annual Youth Hockey Skills Competition! Youth hockey players are welcome to compete with their friends while showcasing their skills. After the skills portion we'll drop the puck for a game of 3 on 3. Prizes awarded for fastest skater, long range shooting, shooting accuracy, breakaway contest, superman slide, stick-handling drill. Prizes and lunch will take place at the end of the day. Register in the office the day of the event.

Ages: 9 to 14
Date: Feb. 19
Time: 9 a.m.–noon
Location: Ice Arena, 8020 80th Street S.
Cost: \$12 (skater) | \$5 (goalie)