



# Cottage Grove Reports

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Accepting Green Garden Award Nominations
- Keep Grass Clippings From Street
- Discover Grey Cloud Island
- Head Start Enrollment
- Ravine Regional Park Now Open
- Award-Winning City Faces and My Cottage Grove Videos
- Recreation Events
  - Party in the Park, Splash Pad Events, Pop Up Splash Pad Events, 3rd Lair Skateboard Competition, Kids Duathlon



The second annual Path to Poetry Contest is now accepting submissions until July 31. The theme for this year's poetry contest is "Inclusiveness." The winning poem will be stenciled onto the sidewalk at Woodridge Park, home of our Inclusive Playground, for everyone to enjoy while visiting the park. For more details and the link to electronically submit poems: <http://bit.ly/PathToPoetryContest>

## Water Rate Changes and Warm Weather Water Usage

Summer has arrived and with it comes higher water usage. Typically in the summer months water consumption is higher due to lawns and gardens being watered, pools being filled, and other outdoor water activities.

Higher water consumption combined with the new water and sewer rates that went into effect on Jan. 1 means some residents are seeing higher water bills.

The new rates are based on a tiered system, which is designed to encourage water conservation.

- Usage up to 6,000 gals/mo.  
\$1.18 per 1,000 gallons
- Usage from 6,001 to 9,000 gals/mo.  
\$1.44 per 1,000 gallons
- Usage from 9,001 to 12,000 gals/mo.  
\$1.83 per 1,000 gallons
- Usage over 12,001 gals/mo.  
\$2.42 per 1,000 gallons

For example, if a resident used 7,000 gallons of water, they would be charged for 6,000 gallons at the rate of \$1.18/1,000 gallons and charged for the last 1,000 gallons at the rate of \$1.44/1,000 gallons. This continues until it caps out at the maximum residential rate of \$2.42/1,000 gallons over 12,001 gallons.

The majority of residents, 63 percent, currently use less than 6,000 gallons of water per month and should see minimal changes in their utility bills.

Anyone that has questions about their utility bill may contact Dar Hintz at 651-458-2831 or [dhintz@cottagegrovemn.gov](mailto:dhintz@cottagegrovemn.gov).

The new rates, including commercial rates, can be found on the City's website at <http://bit.ly/CG-Water-Rates>

The new tiered usage system is not the only means of encouraging water conservation. The city has a number of initiatives to encourage water conservation.

- Smart Irrigation Controller Program (while supplies last) allows residents to purchase at a reduced rate of \$35
- Rain Barrel Rebate Program offers a \$20 rebate when a rain barrel is purchased and installed between June 26, 2018 and Sept. 1, 2018
- Blue and Green Environmental Challenge provides an opportunity to win a \$50 credit on your water bill just by following some simple water conservation tips.

More information about these programs can be found on the City's website, or by contacting Aaron Sather at 651-458-2830 or [asather@cottagegrovemn.gov](mailto:asather@cottagegrovemn.gov).

## File to Run For Cottage Grove City Council

Two Cottage Grove City Council seats will appear on the Nov. 6 General Election ballot. Filings for candidates will be accepted from July 31 to Aug. 14. Filings are accepted by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway S. during regular City Hall office hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. City Hall will also be open for filing until 5 p.m. on Aug. 14. The filing fee is \$5.

Persons interested in running for office must be at least 21 years of age, maintain residency in Cottage Grove for at least 30 days prior to the General Election date, and have not filed for any other office for that year's elections.

Members of the City Council are elected to four-year terms and the salary is \$681 per month. Please contact Joe Fischbach, City Clerk at 651-458-2883 with any questions.



**Coming Up**

- Thursday Farmers Market**, 2:30 – 6:30 p.m., every Thursday through October. Cottage Grove United Church of Christ parking lot.
- Jul 19 Burgers & Brew Fundraiser for Stone Soup**, 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., River Oaks Event Center, more info: [www.stonesoupthriftshop.org/](http://www.stonesoupthriftshop.org/)
- Jul 19 Summer Concert Series**, 6:30 p.m., Hearthside Park, 8245 Hearthside Rd. S.
- Jul 19 CE Skoolie Bus**, 4 to 6 p.m., Armstrong Elementary, free food and activities for kids.
- Jul 26 CE Skoolie Bus**, 4 to 6 p.m., Park Grove Library, free food and activities for kids.
- Jul 31 Night to Unite Party Registration Deadline**, Night to Unite is Aug. 7, a chance for neighbors to get together and help raise awareness of crime prevention. More info, including registration form, is on the City’s website.

For more city-wide events, including council and commission meetings, visit the calendar on the City’s website.



**River Oaks Golf Course and Event Center**

Looking to host a small group golf outing? We can help!

Getting married and looking for a ceremony or reception venue? Check out our event center!

Sit on our beautiful patio overlooking the Mississippi River Valley and enjoy dinner with our new summer menu!

Looking for an awesome golf package, including golf, cart, and sandwich? Visit <https://riveroaksmunigolf.com/join-e-club/>

River Oaks | 11099 Highway 61 South | Cottage Grove | 651-438-2121

**Nominations Now Open for Green Garden Awards**

Nominations for the annual Green Garden award will be accepted until July 20. All nominated properties must be located within Cottage Grove. Contestants may not win in consecutive years.

Download a nomination form from the City’s website, or pick one up at Public Works, 8635 West Point Douglas Road, or at City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway S.

Winners will be announced at a City Council meeting.

The 2018 categories:

**Residential Entryway**—Based on overall appearance from the street.

**Residential Container Design**—Based on the overall container and/or potted plants.

**Commercial and Residential Overall**—Based on the overall appearance, plant variety and arrangement, uniqueness, creativity, environmental aesthetics and upkeep of the entire garden.

**Reminder! No Grass Clippings in the Street**

Did you know that grass clippings contain high amounts of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus? When it rains, clippings left in the street get washed into storm sewers that lead to ponds, lakes, rivers and streams. There the nutrients promote algae growth which makes the water stinky, green, and sometimes toxic. Clippings can also clog storm drains, increasing the risk of street flooding.

Here’s a simple trick to solve the problem. Turn your mower so the clippings blow into the lawn instead of the street when you’re mowing close to the road. The clippings will break-down naturally and provide free fertilizer for your lawn, saving



you time and money. You can also bag and compost your clippings to fertilize your gardens in the future.

Cleaner streets = cleaner water. Do your part to keep the green on our lawns and out of our water!

**Discover Grey Cloud Island**

A group of residents has been working on ways to increase awareness of Settler’s Island, which is a small island the City owns near Grey Cloud.

On July 17, from 6 to 7 p.m., meet at Hazen P. Mooers Park, 10911 Grey Cloud Trail, to learn more about the island and new watershed projects in the area. There will be a nature scavenger hunt, a milk carton boat making activity, and an opportunity to see some of the tinier critters that call Mooers Lake home. This family-friendly event is free.

**Anoka/Washington County Head Start and Early Head Start Program Now Enrolling**

The program is free for eligible families with children up to to age five, and pregnant women. Washington County offers center-based Head Start and Early Head Start Child Care Partnership. The Head Start classrooms offer a four-day school week for children three– to five– years old. The Early Head Start Child Care Partnership center sites in Washington County are located in Stillwater and Forest Lake. The program offers highly qualified staff, research-based curriculums, parent volunteer opportunities, free meals at school and so much more. For more information, call 763-783-4300 or visit [www.accap.org](http://www.accap.org)

## Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Now Open

Reconstruction of the Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park is complete, aside from some additional work on placement of wayfinding signage, trail clearing, and vegetation management. The park contains a unique landscape of steep ravines, rolling hills, mature oak forests, and a scenic lake unlike any other park in the metro area.

The reconstruction included a road project on County Highway 19, or Keats Avenue, that relocated the park entrance from the frontage road to Highway 19.

The Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park renovation project includes a new park circulation road, four parking lots, and improvements to pedestrian paths. The trail network was improved with the addition of a new soft surface trail loop on the north half of the park. The park has about five miles of trails, which are a combination of turf, minimum maintenance, and a 1.2-mile paved trail.

The project also allowed for the restoration of native landscape, and for the removal of invasive species growing in the park. Storm water control along the ravine will allow regional growth and an enhanced park experience. The goal of the project should protect the ravine against erosion from local flash flood events and overflow events while maintaining park use.

The new park circulation road also incorporates an updated lake outlet to accommodate water flow from the local area and water



flow from the Central Draw Storage Facility Overflow Project, overseen by the South Washington Watershed District.

The Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park is a Washington County Park and vehicle permits are required for all vehicles entering the park. The permit can be purchased online, is valid for 12 months from the date of purchase, and can be used at all Washington County Parks.

Learn more at [www.co.washington.mn.us](http://www.co.washington.mn.us)

## Award-Winning City Faces and My Cottage Grove Video Series

The City’s communications department received two Northern Lights awards in the video series category from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators. The awards, in the video series category, recognize outstanding work in Minnesota’s government communications.

The *City Faces* video series won first place in the video series category. The series showcases employees in their roles for the city with a peek at the person behind the position.

The *My Cottage Grove* video series won third place and shares stories of Cottage Grove residents, such as the girl scout that taught cooking skills to grade schoolers, and the “Flamingo Guy”.

These videos, and more, can be found on the City’s YouTube channel. Be sure to subscribe so you’ll receive notification when a new video is posted. <https://www.youtube.com/cottagegovemmn>

### City Faces [PLAY ALL](#)

Get to know us! Learn how we serve this community in our roles for the City and get a glimpse into our after work life where we volunteer, we work out, we compete, and more.



City Faces: Nick Arrigoni, Firefighter/Paramedic



City Faces: Matt Wolf, Economic Development



City Faces: Alysha Schyma, Public Safety Secretary

### My Cottage Grove [PLAY ALL](#)

Meet the people who do some pretty cool things that help make this City an amazing place to live! Discover the many amenities and hidden treasures Cottage Grove Minnesota has to offer.



My Cottage Grove: Vickie Snyder, Stone Soup Thrift



My Cottage Grove: Skylar Fields, Girl Scout



My Cottage Grove: The Flamingo Guy

# PARKS AND RECREATION

For more information call 651-458-3400

## Party in the Park

Recreation Staff will be hosting a party at Highlands Park. Bring your lunch and come for the whole day, or stop in when you can for some fun. Staff will be playing games and hoping to create a Cottage Grove record for the most kids playing TWISTER!

Dates: July 19  
Time: 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Ages: 5 – 12  
Cost: Free  
Location: Highlands Park

## Splash Pad Special Events

Besides cooling off in the Splash Pad, enjoy more fun and join Recreation staff on Fridays over the summer by the building for different activities!

Dates: July 20 – Library Story Time  
July 27 – Kids Talent Show (sign up at 10:45 a.m.)  
Aug. 3 – Spin Art  
Aug. 10 – Key Chains  
Aug. 24 – Light Sabers  
Time: 11 a.m.  
Ages: All ages  
Cost: Free  
Location: Highlands Park

## Pop Up Splash Pad Events

Come and cool off at one of our Pop Up Splash Pad Events this summer. Each event will promptly start at the designated time and will include a water balloon toss, ice block melt challenge, and a shower from a hose on a firetruck from Cottage Grove's Fire Department. Events are free and require you just to Pop IN.

Dates: July 24 – River Oaks Golf Course – 5:30 – 6 p.m. – Frozen Treat  
Aug. 1 – Woodridge Park – 2 – 2:30 p.m. – Popsicles from Police  
Ages: All ages  
Cost: Free

## 3rd Lair - Skateboard Competition

This summer, 3rd Lair will be hosting a skateboard competition in skate parks in Minnesota. The event will consist of four divisions (8 and under, 9-12 year-olds, 13 and up, and expert) so any age can enter. This is a great free event for all levels of skateboarders and a fun night for the community - complete with a DJ, music and prizes. Register on site.

Dates: July 27  
Time: 6 p.m. (Registration begins at 5 p.m.)  
Cost: Free  
Location: Hamlet Park

## Kids Duathlon

Racers test their endurance while biking two miles and running one mile along the trails of Ojibway Park in Woodbury. Participants must bring their own bike, a proper fitting bike helmet, and wear athletic shoes. This is part of the Kids Race series offered by Woodbury and Cottage Grove Parks and Recreation. Routes are staffed and marked to aid in a successful run. Participants should arrive on time and direction will be given for their start time. Participants receive a t-shirt and drink at each race. Pre-register to secure your spot, registrations the day of the race will be accepted if space is available.

Dates: July 21  
Time: 9 a.m. arrival; 9:15 a.m. race begins  
Ages: 6 – 12  
Cost: \$15  
Location: Ojibway Park | Woodbury

## COTTAGE GROVE **Ice Arena**

Looking to rent ice?  
www.rinkfinder.com or 651-458-3400  
Advertise at the Ice Arena

### Public Skating Sessions (\$5)

### Figure Skater Practice (\$5-\$10)

### Adult Open Hockey (\$5)

Visit the website for more information, including times.

### Ice Arena Advertising

Get the most marketing value for your dollar now by displaying your message to the thousands of people that come to the Cottage Grove Ice Arena, the most heavily trafficked spectator facility in town. For more information, call 651-458-3415 or download a brochure from the website.

### Indoor Turf Rental

Indoor turf rental at the Ice Arena is available now through September. The indoor turf is located on the West Rink and can be rented for a variety of events, such as baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, home shows, corporate events and more. Host your next event at the Ice Arena. Call for more information.

### Birthday Parties

The Ice Arena is the “coolest” place in town to have a birthday party! Celebrate the special day and have a blast skating with friends. The party room is available year-round. A variety of packages are available. Check website or call for details.