Cottage Grove By the Numbers

**Results of the 2020 US Census not yet available

Population: 35,632
Median Age: 35.5
Total Number of Housing Units: 12,359
Total Number of Owner-Occupied Units: 11,899
Total Number of Housing Units with a Mortgage: 7,881
Total Number of Occupied Units Paying Rent: 1,598
Civilian Labor Force: 19,382
Median Household Income: $85,516
Total Number of Jobs in the City: 6,627
Hello Residents and Friends,

We could look back on 2020 and remember all the challenges we faced personally and professionally. It was a difficult year, to say the least. But when I look back at the year that was, I take an enormous amount of pride in the way our community reacted to a global pandemic! Neighbors checking on neighbors, residents sewing face coverings for strangers, small businesses receiving emergency assistance funds and our firefighters conducting COVID testing are just a few examples. Despite setbacks and adjustments, Cottage Grove remained a City where pride and prosperity continue to meet. And even though we spent the past year covering our faces, I certainly hope we didn’t lose sight of what truly makes this an incredible place to live. The people who live and work here are what make Cottage Grove so special! In the following pages, we picked 20 things to highlight during 2020. These are accomplishments we believe reaffirm the fact that Cottage Grove is a uniquely phenomenal place to grow up, raise a family and retire. Thank you for all you have done, and sacrificed, on behalf of our community; even better days, and greater things, are ahead in 2021!

Sincerely,

Mayor Myron A. Bailey
Community COVID Testing

During the month of November, Cottage Grove Firefighter/Paramedics on the frontlines of the fight against the coronavirus conducted 3,000 COVID-19 tests for the general public. The goal was to help fulfill statewide testing needs and give residents the information they needed to keep their families healthy. The partnership with Washington County was created after the CGFD offered its expertise and resources to the MN Department of Health as it battled the pandemic.

Maintaining our Urban Forest

When the City's forestry team found out we couldn't host the annual Arbor Day Celebration, it hit the streets, delivering 90 trees to the doorsteps of residents for free! Staff also carried the load while planting 45 trees at Grey Cloud Park, after COVID forced the cancellation of our volunteer tree planting event. Throughout 2020, the crew completed 431 work orders, removed 150 trees, trimmed 2,500 trees and treated more than 900 ash trees.
Ground Breaking: Grove80 Apartments

In August, North Shore Development Partners broke ground on a four-story, 120-unit building on the site of the former City Hall at 80th Street and Hemingway Avenue. It is the first "market rate" apartment development project in Cottage Grove since 1995 and represents the City's strategic goals to diversify the housing stock and offer more "life cycle" housing opportunities.

Parks & Rec Launches Paddle Share

This summer, as residents were eager to find more outdoor recreation options in the middle of the pandemic, Parks & Recreation workers launched Paddle Share at Hazen P. Mooers Park. It proved to be a popular program. 800 rentals were recorded as paddlers reserved kayaks online in one-hour increments. Next summer, be sure to take advantage of the program and visit the beautiful backwaters of the Mississippi River.
Distributing 37,000 Pounds of Food to Help Families in Need

On May 14, CGPD led the massive logistical effort, partnering with Washington County to distribute food to more than 1,000 local households, many of them financially affected by COVID-19. The event highlighted the strong partnerships in the East Metro as multiple organizations assisted in providing 15 pounds of food, or a $70 value, to each family attending the drive.

Connecting 160 Homes to City Water

The City’s Engineering Department completed two major utility projects this year, extending City water service into the River Acres and Granada Avenue neighborhoods. Both projects were fully funded by the State of Minnesota through the 3M Consent Order.
River Oaks Hosts 40,000 Golf Rounds in 2020

Once the State allowed golf courses to reopen in the spring, under new COVID protocols, River Oaks was ready, and there certainly was some pent-up demand! 40,000 rounds were played, which really helped offset the revenue lost as the pandemic forced the closure of the restaurant and event center. Thank you golfers!

Local Businesses Receive More Than $180,000 in Emergency Assistance

We can't say enough about the support the residents of Cottage Grove showed our businesses navigating the State's "Stay at Home" orders. The Economic Development Authority also stepped up, providing 19 businesses with $180,800 in emergency assistance grants. In truly challenging times, community members, commissioners and City staff members took action, proving "we're all in this together."
Taking Care of our Roadways

The Public Works Streets Team had a very busy 2020, laying down more than 3,500 tons of asphalt, welcoming 5 new employees and adding a 13th plow route. When a Holiday storm dropped nearly six inches of snow on the City, days off were cancelled and the entire crew came in to take care of the streets, cul-de-sacs and trails.

Housing Growth Continues

While it seemed like much of the world, and part of the economy, shutdown in response to the coronavirus, the City continued to outpace the rest of the metro. In 2020, Cottage Grove ushered in $146,500,000 in permit valuation and initiated 56 planning cases leading to 314 new residential lots and 153 townhome units. The work helped to significantly expand the City’s tax base.
Reinvesting in the City's Parks and Trail System

Residents of Cottage Grove really value the City’s parks, trails and open spaces and it was evident in 2020. During the pandemic, the Parks system experienced more use than it ever has. Throughout 2020, parks and recreation teams expanded and added a variety of features including ball parks, hockey rinks, natural trails and playground equipment.

CGFD's 101-Foot Aerial Ladder Truck Now in Service

This summer, the Cottage Grove Fire Department took possession of a 101-foot aerial ladder truck. The rig ensures crews will be able to rescue people in 4-story buildings and will allow firefighters to safely and effectively attack fires in multi-story structures. Four people can safely fit into the truck's bucket, which is also equipped with a thermal imaging camera.
No Parties? Public Safety Helps with Parades

"Stay at Home" essentially put all parties on hold, but when residents asked our police, fire and public works employees if they could help make folks feel special on their special days, employees hopped in the vehicles and fired up their lights, sirens and horns. Officers, firefighters and plow drivers attended hundreds of "drive-thru" parades, allowing for social distancing and honoring residents who deserved some attention!

Making Masks; Residents Show Cottage Grove Cares!

On April 23, the Fire Department posted on social media, asking community members if they'd help with a face-covering "drive." Two days later, firefighters set out a box at the Central Fire Station and collected 1,700 masks. The masks were then distributed to community members in need and public safety personnel.
During one of the City's most ambitious road construction seasons ever, crews finished reconstruction projects on two of Cottage Grove's busiest roadways. 80th Street and West Point Douglas Road were rebuilt and trail access running alongside the routes was also improved.

In January, the Cities of Cottage Grove and Woodbury officially opened the HERO Center, which will host the very best scenario-based training opportunities currently available to public safety professionals. The firearms range is open to the public on weekends and safety classes are also being offered at the facility. Half the Center was funded by the State; the cities split the remaining costs.
Celebrating the City's High School Grads

No graduation parties? No ceremony? How were we supposed to celebrate the achievements of hundreds of high school seniors in the COVID era? The City's public works crew hung dozens of congratulations banners around town to honor graduates. When they were taken down in the fall, staff members held a drawing and distributed the vinyl keepsakes to many of the City's deserving students and families.

CGPD Officers Using Body-Worn Cameras

Cottage Grove Police Officers were issued body-worn cameras in 2020. The technology pairs with the Department's squad car camera system, ensuring a high level of transparency is available for police-public interactions. CGPD's body camera policy was developed using national and state guidelines.
COVID Experts Guide City Through Pandemic

Sorting through the constant state and federal changes in COVID protocols for an entire City, for more than 9 months, is a tall task. We just wanted to take a quick moment to thank Police Captain Gwen Martin and Deputy Fire Chief Jon Pritchard for their efforts, energy and expertise in leading Cottage Grove's measured response throughout the pandemic.

Holiday Spirit Remains Strong in Cottage Grove

For the first time in a long time, the CP Holiday Train did not make a stop in Cottage Grove because of COVID concerns. Residents rallied, raising more than $185,000 for the local food shelf. In addition, recreation staff members adjusted when the holiday tree lighting was cancelled, building a massive chair for family photo opportunities, hosting a "Letters to Santa Box" and creating a Holiday lights tour. Nearly 50 households volunteered to light up the season for families seeking some end-of-the-year joy!
2020 City Council

Left to right: Justin Olsen, Steve Dennis, Mayor Myron Bailey, La Rae Mills and Dave Thiede

Jennifer Levitt
City Administrator

Pete Koerner
Public Safety
Director

Robin Roland
Finance Director

Ben Boike
Community
Development
Director

Zac Dockter
Parks & Recreation
Director

Christine Costello
Economic
Development
Director

Ryan Burfeind
Public Works
Director
City Phone Numbers

City Hall Main ................................................. (651) 458-2800
Public Safety ................................................. (651) 458-2850
Public Works ................................................. (651) 458-2808
Utility Billing .................................................. (651) 458-2831
Parks and Recreation/Ice Arena .............. (651) 458-3400
River Oaks Golf Course/Event Center ........ (651) 438-2121
HERO Center .................................................. (651) 458-2811