



COTTAGE GROVE PARKS, RECREATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
12800 RAVINE PARKWAY SOUTH
COTTAGE GROVE, MN 55016
COUNCIL CHAMBER - 7:00 PM

September 8, 2025

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 Roll Call
- 3 Approval of the Agenda
- 4 Approval of Minutes
 - A June 9, 2025
- 5 Open Forum
- 6 Presentations
- 7 Action Items
 - A 2026-2030 Capital Improvements Plan
 - B East Ravine Park Plan Review
 - C Lamar Park Cell Tower Lease
- 8 Presentation of Information
- 9 Action Updates
 - A Denzer Park
 - B Granada Park Parking
 - C CG Trailway Corridor Restoration
 - D Oltman Park
 - E Mississippi Dunes Park
 - F Kingston Park Building
 - G Peterson Park
 - H Still Ponds Park
- 10 Donations
- 11 Staff Reports and Materials
 - A Minnesota's Untamed Dividend Article
- 12 Commission Comments

13 Council Comments

A Council Agendas

14 Workshop

15 Adjournment



Minutes

City of Cottage Grove

Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission Meeting

June 9, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Cottage Grove Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission Meeting was held on June 9, 2025.

I. CALL TO ORDER & READING OF MISSION & Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm at Peter Thompson Park

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Susannah Brown, Kelly Glasford, Debra Gustafson, Adam Larson, David Olson, Shane Waterman, Justin Waterman

Members Absent: Samantha Crabtree

Others Present: Zac Dockter Parks & Recreation Director & Council Liaison
Dave Clausen

Approval of Agenda

A Motion to approve agenda made by Commissioner Brown & seconded by Commissioner S. Waterman. Agenda approved.

III. Approval of Minutes

A Motion to approve minutes from May 12, 2025. Motion made by Commissioner Glasford & seconded by Commissioner Olson. Minutes approved.

IV. Open Forum-None

V. Presentations-None

VI. Action Items

a. Peterson (Roger & Myra) Park Naming

- i. Director Zac Dockter presented his report on the third review of this park naming request for the future park area around what is currently known as Robert's Lake. The Commission discussed whether it should be Roger & Myra Peterson Park vs. Peterson Park. Motion made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Brown to name the park Roger & Myra Peterson Park. Motion passed.

b. Oltman Park Playground & Shelter Design

- i. Director Zac Dockter presented the preferred concepts for the future Oltman Park playground and picnic shelter designs. Dockter explained the playground was a more active and athletic design consideration and is a bit different to what we have in the community currently. However, it does offer a myriad of play opportunities for all ages. Staff believes this design will be a welcomed feature for the athletic families visiting the park, while also potentially becoming a resource for the adjacent middle school physical education programming. Motion was made by Commissioner J. Waterman and seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the playground and shelter designs for Oltman Park as submitted in the report. Motion passed.

VII. Presentation of Information-None

VIII. Action Updates

- i. Director Zac Dockter presented updates for several projects including Denzer Park, Granada Park Parking Lot, CG Trailway Corridor Restoration, Oltman Park, Mississippi Dunes Park, and Kingston Park Building.

IX. Donation and Acknowledgements-None

X. Staff Reports & Educational Materials

- i. Washington County Parks Board Meeting Notes

XI. Commission Comments

- i. Commissioner Olson verbally reported on the Advisory Commission for Historic Preservation's study of Cottage Grove's 1941-1990 suburban development program. Commissioner also noted there is potential interest in upgrading Cedarhurst Mansion by a private developer.

XII. Council Comments

- i. Councilman Clausen updated the Commission on recent Council agendas.

XIII. Adjournment- Motioned by Commissioner Olson.
Seconded by Commissioner S Waterman. Meeting Adjourned at 7:30pm.



To: Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission
From: Zac Dockter, Parks and Recreation Director
CC:
Date: August 25, 2025
Subject: 2026-2030 Capital Improvements Plan

Introduction/Background

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a planning device to schedule proposed public improvements and purchases over a five-year period. The plan matches proposed expenditures and revenues by project within an affected fund. A capital improvement is defined as a capital expenditure that is greater than \$15,000 with a life expectancy of five years or longer. Capital improvements are projects which require acquisition, construction, or replacement of various public facilities, public buildings, infrastructure and parks in the community.

Every effort is made to draft the document as conservatively and realistically as possible while maintaining the integrity of the funds. The concept of fund integrity includes accounting for certain project costs in particular designated funds that are only used for those purposes for which they are collected. These major funding sources include the operating funds (General Fund and Enterprise Fund), development fees and charges (including Area and Park Trust Funds), as well as identifying larger general projects that are expected to be financed with the issuance of general obligation bonds to be repaid with future property tax levies. However, it is important to note that forecasting revenues is difficult to do with certainty as many funding sources are primarily derived from future development. So projects may get moved from year to year based on how the community develops.

In relation to Parks, there are three primary funds managed by the CIP; Park Improvement Fund, Park Trust Fund and Public Landscapes Initiative.

Park Improvement Fund

In 2014, City Council directed that revenues derived from the leasing of space on the City's water towers for cell phone antennas should be allocated to the purpose of upkeep, renovation and improvement of existing parks. The cash balance target for this account is to maintain a minimum of half of projected revenues in the account each fiscal year (about \$200,000). On average, the current capital improvements plan achieves this goal.

Park Trust Fund

Improvements scheduled in the Park Trust Fund include the purchase of additional parkland, as well as planning and development of new parks and trails. Revenues coming into the Park Trust Fund have been calculated based on projected housing and commercial growth while also backing out park land dedications. The goal is to maintain a minimum year end cash

balance of \$100,000. The Park Trust Fund does not fully support all park development so oftentimes future parks or specific projects within a park have to be prioritized to allow for the fund to build enough capital through development or alternative sources (bonding, grants, park improvement fund, etc.).

Public Landscapes Initiative

The Public Landscape Initiative program was created to provide an opportunity to replant the urban landscape in situations where development impacts had occurred.

The goals of the Public Landscapes Initiative are as follows:

- A. Community Beautification
- B. Active management of the urban forest
- C. Provision of biodiversification of the urban forest
- D. Reforestation and native habitat restoration of highly visible community parks, public lands and transportation corridors
- E. Enhance landscape features of entry points into the community
- F. Provision of a beautification / landscaping element for community scale infrastructure projects
- G. Provision of tree planting / landscaping employee team building and community volunteer opportunities

Program expenditures are restricted to plant materials and outside contract tree planting / landscaping costs. The Public Landscapes Initiative has two components: 1) volunteer tree planting or landscaping improvement opportunities in large community parks; and 2) contract or professional staff tree planting or landscaping improvement efforts in high visibility roadway corridors. The fund receives periodic infusions of cash from developer fees (to mitigate tree loss), donations and from time to time, Council directives. Corridor projects would be anticipated to comprise about 80% of the CIP dollars dedicated from this fund in any given year.

Staff Recommendation

Approve of the proposed 2026-2030 Capital Improvements Plan for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Park and Public Landscapes Capital Improvements 5-Year Plan

Year	Project	Estimated Cost	Funding	Status
2025	Future Right of Way Beautification	\$50,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Diseased Tree Mitigation	\$10,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Mississippi Dunes Park Restoration	\$50,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Arbor Day Planting	\$10,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Park Master Planning	\$15,000	Park Trust Fund	
	Jack & Marlys Denzer Park Development	\$200,000	Park Trust Fund	
	Ollman Middle School Park Construction	\$3,000,000	Park Trust Fund	
	Matching Fund Grant Program	\$10,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Playgrounds: Hardwood and Belden Parks	\$140,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Lamar Park Shelter Replacement (2)	\$89,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Sports Lighting Improvements (Hearthsides Ice Rink)	\$65,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Pine Glen & Pine Tree Pond Picnic Shelter	\$60,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Kingston Park Site Power Upgrading	\$200,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Inclusive Playground Surface Repair and Seal	\$60,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	P Thompson Park Building Doors	\$40,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Woodridge Park Rink Board Replacement & Sport Court	\$300,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Hidden Valley Park Improvements	\$150,000	Pavement Mgmt	
	Ice Arena Space Needs Study and Interior Remodel Concept Design	\$40,000	Ice Arena Fund	
	Ice Arena Radiant Heater Replacements	\$35,000	Ice Arena Fund	
	Ice Arena Dessicant Dehumidifier Wheel Replacement	\$35,000	Ice Arena Fund	
Ice Arena Water Treatment System	\$100,000	Ice Arena Fund		
2026	80th Street, Highway 61 to Ideal Avenue	\$50,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Diseased Tree Mitigation	\$10,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Oakwood Park Restoration	\$10,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Arbor Day Planting	\$10,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Park Master Planning	\$15,000	Park Trust Fund	
	Jack & Marlys Denzer Park Development	\$300,000	Park Trust Fund	
	Roberts Lake Neighborhood Park Development	\$500,000	Park Trust Fund	
	Matching Fund Grant Program	\$10,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Hamlet Skate Park Surface Replacement	\$100,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Bike Park Jump Line Improvements	\$75,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Sports Lighting Improvements (Hamlet Football/Soccer, Courts and Ice Rink)	\$355,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Kingston Building Replacement	\$5,000,000	Bonded Debt	
	Zamboni Replacement	\$145,000	Ice Arena Fund	
	2027	Jamaica Ave, 100th Street to Hgwy ramps	\$50,000	Public Landscape Initiative
Diseased Tree Mitigation		\$10,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
Woodridge Park Woodland Restoration		\$30,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
Arbor Day Planting		\$10,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
Park Master Planning		\$15,000	Park Trust Fund	
Still Ponds Park and Trail Development		\$500,000	Park Trust Fund	
Military Trailhead		\$200,000	Park Trust Fund	
Matching Fund Grant Program		\$10,000	Park Improvements Fund	
Lamar Park Sports Lighting Replacement (LED & Poles)		\$350,000	Park Improvements Fund	
Hamlet Park Shelter Replacement		\$50,000	Park Improvements Fund	
Hamlet Park Skateboard Park Equipment Upgrade		\$300,000	Park Improvements Fund	
Pine Coulee Court Replacement		\$20,000	Park Improvements Fund	
River Oaks Scenic Overlook Park Development (Parking lot and trail)		\$100,000	Pavement Mgmt	
Mississippi Dunes Park Development w/Building (\$5M for 3M Settlement Request)		\$15,000,000	3M Settlement/Bonds	
Ice Arena Water Treatment System	\$100,000	Ice Arena Fund		
Ice Arena Floor Scrubber	\$15,000	Ice Arena Fund		
Ice Arena Furnace Replacement for Locker Rooms 7-9	\$10,000	Ice Arena Fund		
Ice Arena Office and Interior Commons Remodel	\$1,500,000	Ice Arena Bond		
2028	Future Right of Way Beautification	\$50,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Diseased Tree Mitigation	\$10,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Pine Tree Valley & Pine Tree Pond Park Open Space Restoration (Grant Match)	\$50,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Arbor Day Planting	\$10,000	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Park Master Planning	\$15,000	Park Trust Fund	
	East Ravine or 100th Street Future Neighborhood Park Development	\$500,000	Park Trust Fund	
	Matching Fund Grant Program	\$10,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Old CG Park Sports Lighting Replacement (LED)	\$35,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	P Thompson Park Roof Reshingle	\$15,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	P Thompson Hockey Rink Boards Replacement & Sport Court (s)	\$300,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Highlands Park Tennis Court Replacement	\$100,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Pine Tree Pond Park Improvements (including court replacement)	\$500,000	3M Settlement \$	
	Zamboni Replacement	\$145,000	Ice Arena Fund	
2029	80th Street Planting: Ideal Ave to Highway 61	\$50,000.00	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Diseased Tree Mitigation	\$10,000.00	Public Landscape Initiative	
	West Draw Park Landscape Enhancements/Restoration	\$30,000.00	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Arbor Day Planting	\$10,000.00	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Park Master Planning	\$15,000	Park Trust Fund	
	East Ravine or 100th Street Future Neighborhood Park Development	\$500,000	Park Trust Fund	
	Matching Fund Grant Program	\$10,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Pine Tree Pond Court Replacement	\$30,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Hemingway & North Ideal Playgrounds	\$150,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Hearthsides Improvements	\$100,000	Pavement Mgmt	
Commons Area Rooftop HVAC Unit	\$75,000	Ice Arena Fund		
Ice Arena Steel Roof	\$500,000	Ice Arena Fund		
2030	Future Right of Way Beautification	\$50,000.00	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Diseased Tree Mitigation	\$10,000.00	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Park Landscape Enhancement/Restoration	\$30,000.00	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Arbor Day Planting	\$10,000.00	Public Landscape Initiative	
	Park Master Planning	\$15,000	Park Trust Fund	
	East Ravine or 100th Street Future Neighborhood Park Development	\$500,000	Park Trust Fund	
	Matching Fund Grant Program	\$10,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Picnic Shelter Shade Fabric Replacement: Hamlet, Highlands, Granada	\$30,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Picnic Shelter Replacement: Nina's Park	\$30,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Woodridge Inclusive Playground Surfacing Replacement	\$500,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Woodridge Park Court Replacement	\$150,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Pine Tree Valley Park Ice rink Board Replacement	\$150,000	Park Improvements Fund	
	Ice Arena Office and North Rink commons/warming rm/LR's Furnace Replacement	\$60,000	Ice Arena Fund	
Pine Glen Park Improvements	\$100,000	Pavement Mgmt		



To: Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission
From: Zac Dockter, Parks and Recreation Director
CC:
Date: August 25, 2025
Subject: East Ravine Park Plan

Introduction/Background

As development moves east in Cottage Grove, staff continues to analyze the future park system east of Keats Avenue and utilizes the East Ravine Parks and Trails Master Plan as its guide. There are two preliminary concept plans from developers/landowners to update the Commission on. Staff would like to review concept plans versus the master plan with Commissioners to receive any additional guidance as these discussions continue. To aid in the discussion, staff has attached the following documents:

1. East Ravine Parks and Trails Master Plan Map
2. East Ravine Community Park Master Plan (updated)
3. East Ravine Water Tower Neighborhood Park Plan (updated)
4. Developer/Owner Concept Plans

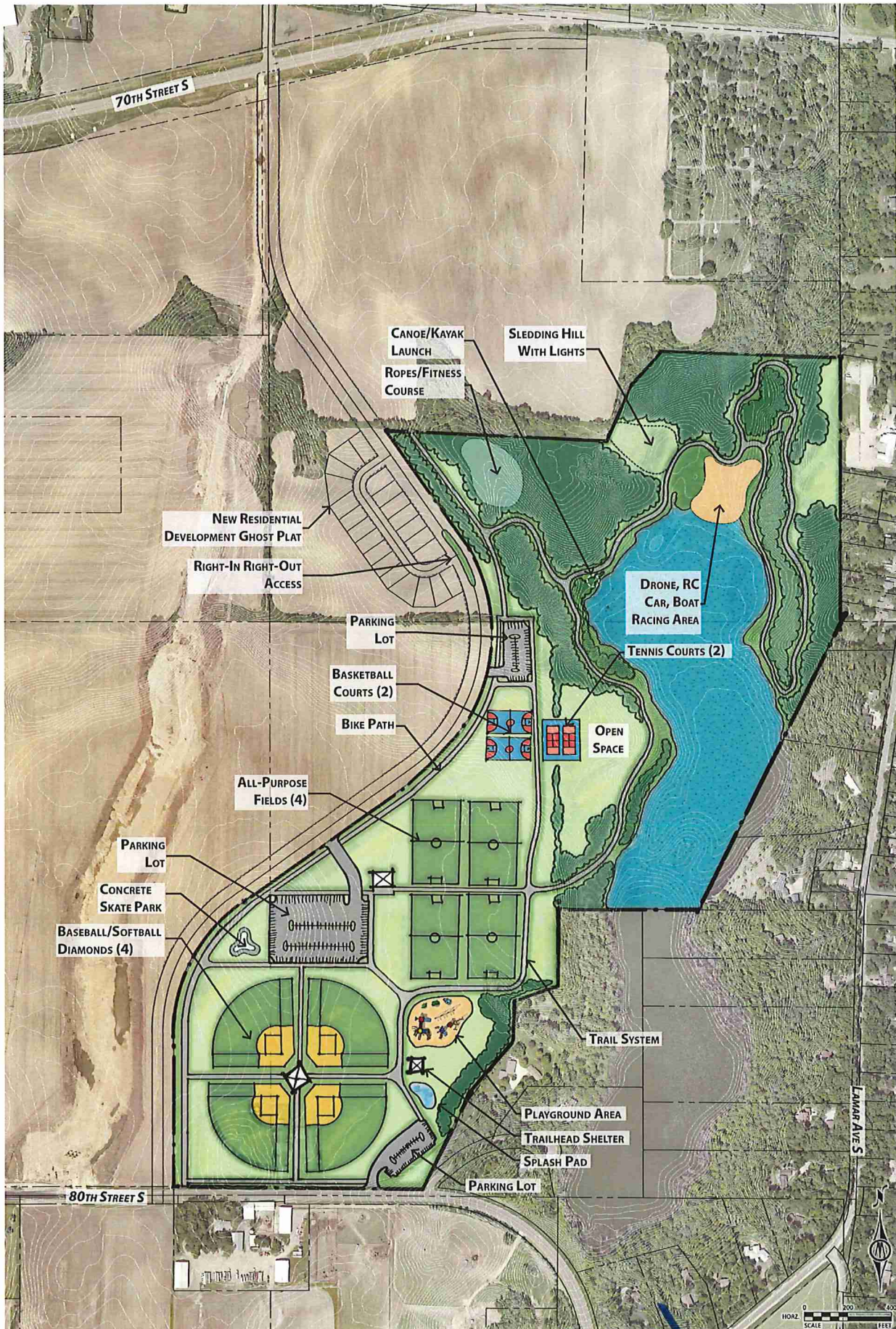
Staff Recommendation

Receive information and provide direction on East Ravine parks and trails master planning.

(New)



H:\COT\1016128382\2 - Preliminary\10 - Graphics\2025-06-27 East Ravine Park Plan Files\Fig6-128382-Concept.dwg 6/27/2025 9:59:39 AM



(old)



Developer / Owner Concept Plan



Sources: Eric Tomlin, Garlin, Pab, NCS&L, LLC; © OpenStreetMap contributors and the GIS User Community. Sources: NCS&L, LLC; Eric Tomlin, Garlin, Pab, NCS&L, LLC; © OpenStreetMap contributors and the GIS User Community. Sources: NCS&L, LLC; Eric Tomlin, Garlin, Pab, NCS&L, LLC; © OpenStreetMap contributors and the GIS User Community.



To: Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission
From: Zac Dockter, Parks and Recreation Director
CC:
Date: August 25, 2025
Subject: Lamar Park Cell Tower Lease

Introduction/Background

The City received a request to add a cellular tower at Lamar Park to fill an existing service gap area. Verizon representatives made this initial request but in most cases tower are built and then other providers lease antennae space on the tower as well. Community Development and Parks and Recreation staff have reviewed the plans and visited the site with company representatives. Attached is the initial concept.

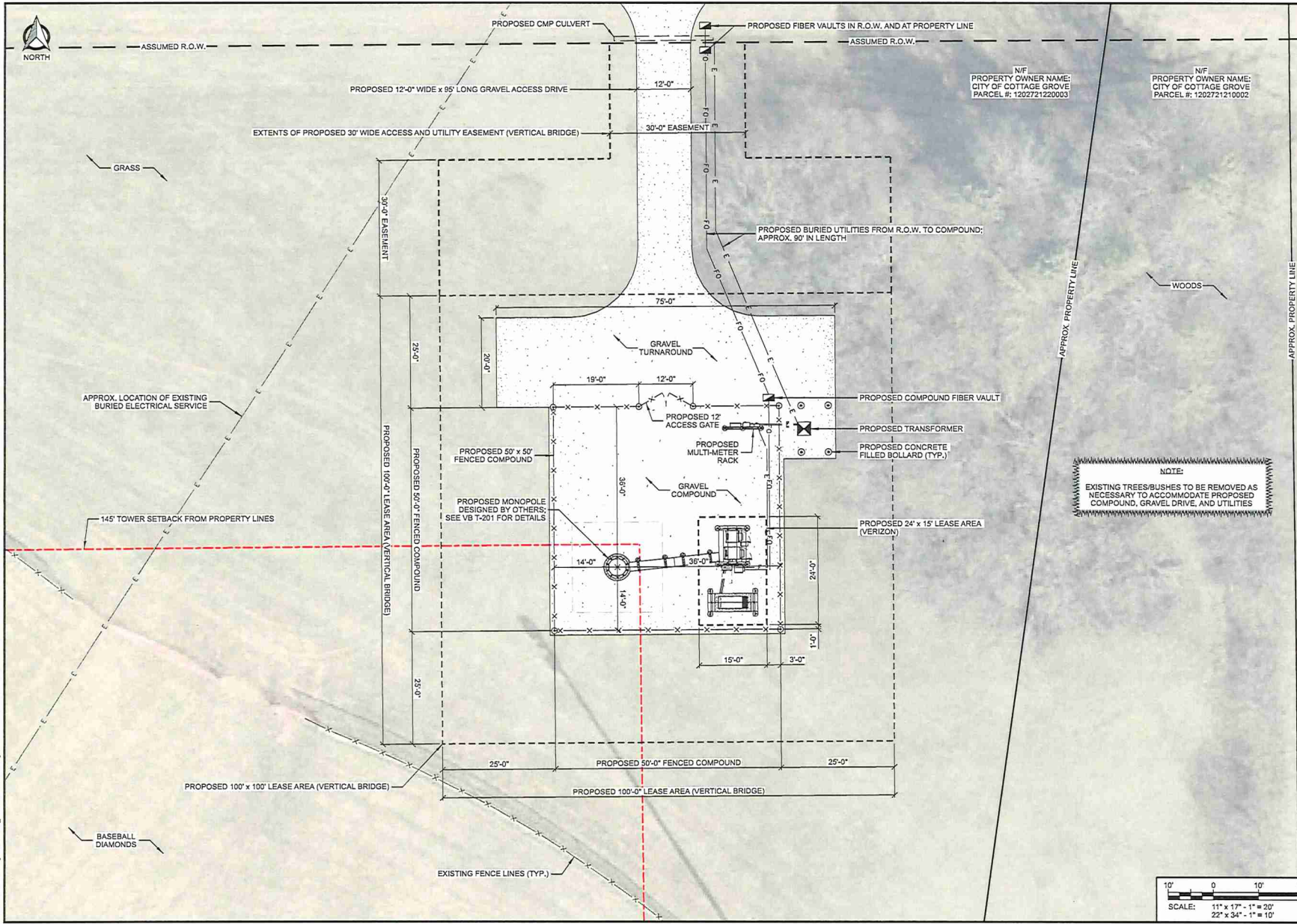
Staff believes Lamar Park is a good use for cellular given the available space. There seems to be no future recreational use that would be negatively impacted. However, staff is recommending shifting the entire construction footprint to the northeast corner as far as possible. Community Development will analyze setbacks, easements and perhaps variances necessary to accomplish this request. By moving to the northeast will allow the City to retain the open turf space area currently utilized as overflow parking for special events. The wooded area in the northeast corner would be removed and a new landscaping plan would be created. The woodland is not a quality woodland and does not provide much ecological or aesthetic value. It is not actively maintained and as such has become mostly overgrown with invasive species. A new landscaping plan would be a welcomed improvement to the park.

Staff Recommendation

Provide feedback on Lamar Park cellular tower site concept.



NORTH



N/F
PROPERTY OWNER NAME:
CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
PARCEL #: 1202721220003

N/F
PROPERTY OWNER NAME:
CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
PARCEL #: 1202721210002

CONSULTANT:
Edge
Consulting Engineers, Inc.
605.644.1449 VOICE
www.edgeconsult.com

TOWER OWNER:
verticalbridge
THE TOWERS, LLC

LS&SERV:
verizon

ENGINEER SEAL:
PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

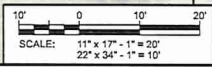
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN SET WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION OTHER THAN THE EXCEPTIONS NOTED IN THE SHEET INDEX, AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

NOTE:
EXISTING TREES/BUSHES TO BE REMOVED AS NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE PROPOSED COMPOUND, GRAVEL DRIVE, AND UTILITIES

ENLARGED SITE PLAN
JORGENSEN (VB # US-MN-5421)
MIN JORGENSEN (V-W # 17425843)
COTTAGE GROVE, MINNESOTA

SUBMITTAL:	
INT.	DATE: DESCRIPTION:
NAT	07/06/25 REV. A

CHECKED BY:	PCM
EDGE SITE ID:	S17450
EDGE PROJ.#:	44494
SET TYPE:	LEASE EXHIBIT



SHEET NUMBER
VB C-102

© EDGE CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC



To: Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission
From: Zac Dockter, Parks and Recreation Director
CC:
Date: August 25, 2025
Subject: Action Updates

Introduction/Background

Staff will present on the following topics:



1. Denzer Park
2. Granada Park Parking
3. Cottage Grove Trailway Corridor Habitat Restoration
4. Oltman Park
5. Mississippi Dunes Park
6. Kingston Park Building
7. Peterson Park
8. Still Ponds Park (staff will refer to attached map of tree removal areas during discussion)

Staff Recommendation

Receive information.



KEY TO FEATURES

-  Pine Tree Enhancement Area
-  Pine Tree Removal Area
-  Parcels



Still Ponds
6245 Goodview Ave S
Cottage Grove

2022 Aerial Photo

1 in = 125 ft
0 30 60 120 180 240 300 Feet



*(SUMMARY ONLY, FULL DOCUMENT
AVAILABLE ONLINE)*



MINNESOTA'S UNTAMED DIVIDEND
Outdoor Recreation Fueling Our Economy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Outdoor recreation is a defining strength of Minnesota's economy, culture, and quality of life. This report provides a comprehensive assessment of the economic contributions, public benefits, and regional dynamics of outdoor recreation in the state. Using data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA), state agency sources, and original analysis, this study highlights how outdoor recreation fuels Minnesota's prosperity across sectors and seasons.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Chapter 1 – Introduction & Methods

This report combines federal and state datasets with custom modeling to estimate outdoor recreation's direct GDP, employment, and industry contributions at the state and county levels. Bea's ORSA provides the foundation, supplemented by tourism data, trail use reports, and visitor spending estimates from state and national park systems.

Chapter 2 – Minnesota's outdoor recreation economy

Minnesota's outdoor recreation economy contributes \$13.5 billion in GDP, \$23.5 billion in economic output and supports over 96,000 jobs. Top sectors include boating and fishing, RV use, and snow activities, with strong seasonal variation and broad participation.

Chapter 3 – County-Level Analysis

Economic activity related to outdoor recreation is dispersed statewide but especially prominent in counties with major public lands, tourism infrastructure, and affluent, recreation-oriented populations. Counties like Cook, Lake of the Woods, and Pine exhibit high GDP reliance on outdoor recreation. A location quotient analysis further identifies where outdoor recreation exceeds national baselines as a local economic driver.

Chapter 4 – Public Lands and Infrastructure

Minnesota's robust public lands network, across federal, state, tribal, and local levels, underpins outdoor recreation access. Investments in trail systems, parks, and water access sites generate recurring economic and social returns. Public lands offer affordable recreation, attract tourism, and support small business growth.

Chapter 5 – Visitor Spending on Public Lands

Visitors to public lands, especially state parks, state trails, national forests, and national park units, inject millions into local economies. Nonresident spending is especially critical to rural communities near destination lands like the boundary waters and voyageurs. Spending patterns vary by season, activity, and visitor origin, influencing retail, lodging, food service, and transportation sectors.

Chapter 6 – Activity-Based Impacts

Different recreation activities create different economic profiles. Boating, fishing, snowmobiling, and hiking generate some of the highest expenditures. Resident participation also drives significant spending, highlighting the importance of resident-oriented infrastructure in both urban and rural regions.

Chapter 7 – social and nonmarket benefits

beyond economic metrics, outdoor recreation enhances mental health, physical wellness, environmental education, and community identity. The 2017 Minnesota outdoor activities survey showed strong motivations tied to health and emotional well-being. These nonmarket benefits support public health, equity, and environmental stewardship across generations.

Chapter 8 – summary and strategic outlook

Minnesota's outdoor recreation system delivers year-round economic value, supports sustainable development, and improves public life. Continued investment in infrastructure, equity, and stewardship will ensure that outdoor recreation remains a cornerstone of the state's resilience and growth.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **\$13.5B in GDP, \$23.5B in economic output** and **96,000 jobs** are tied directly to outdoor recreation in Minnesota.
- Public lands are essential to access, economic vitality, and environmental stewardship.
- Visitor spending supports rural economies, with activities like boating, fishing, and snowmobiling leading in expenditures.
- Nonmarket values, health, community, education, are integral to long-term benefits.
- A strategic focus on year-round access, inclusive participation, and cross-sector partnerships will maintain Minnesota's leadership in outdoor recreation.

CHAPTER 8: CONCLUSION

Outdoor recreation is a cornerstone of Minnesota's economy, culture, and public well-being. With \$23.5 billion in annual economic output and over 96,000 jobs supported and spread across the state's 87 counties, it is more than just a leisure activity; it's a billion-dollar industry that fuels growth in tourism, retail, hospitality, and manufacturing.

Minnesota welcomes over 80 million visitors each year, many of whom are drawn to the state's iconic outdoor experiences, from fishing and hiking to snowmobiling and skiing. These visitors contribute over \$14.1 billion in total spending, reinforcing the vital role outdoor recreation plays in the state's tourism strategy.

For rural communities, outdoor recreation is a lifeline. Local businesses thrive on seasonal travel, especially in gateway towns near lakes, trails, and forests. High visitor satisfaction ratings—4.3/5 for scenic beauty, 4.4/5 for outdoor activities, and 4.1/5 for adventure opportunities—underscore how nature enhances both economic opportunity and community appeal.

Importantly, outdoor recreation is a year-round engine of economic activity. In summer, boating, hiking, and biking dominate. In winter, the momentum continues with snowmobiling, skiing, and ice fishing. This multi-season utility supports steady employment and helps diversify local economies beyond traditional sectors.

But the value of outdoor recreation extends far beyond the economy. Time in nature contributes to mental health, physical fitness, and emotional restoration. According to the 2017 Minnesota Outdoor Activities Survey, top motivations for getting outdoors included feeling healthier (69%), resting mentally (65%), and improving physical fitness (64%). These outcomes improve quality of life and reduce long-term public health costs.

Minnesota's extensive system of public lands, state parks, forests, trails, and waterways, provides equitable, low-cost access to nature while promoting sustainable tourism and conservation. These assets not only deliver short-term spending but also ensure the long-term viability of outdoor experiences for future generations.



COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
12800 RAVINE PARKWAY SOUTH
COTTAGE GROVE, MINNESOTA 55016
COUNCIL CHAMBER - 7:00 PM

July 16, 2025

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 3 Roll Call
- 4 Open Forum
- 5 Adoption of Agenda
- 6 Presentations
 - A 2025 Green Garden Award Presentation
Staff Recommendation: Receive presentation of the 2025 Green Garden Awards from Park and Recreation staff and award Jan Liedle the winner of the Residential Garden Award and Steven Rudberg the winner of the Sustainability Garden Award.
 - B MN Recreation and Park Association Awards of Excellence
Staff Recommendation: Accept MN Recreation and Park Association Awards of Excellence.
 - C Proclamation - Parks and Recreation Month
Staff Recommendation: Proclaim the month of July 2025, as Parks and Recreation Month.
 - D Proclamation - Night to Unite
Staff Recommendation: Proclaim Tuesday, August 5, 2025, Night to Unite in Cottage Grove.
- 7 Consent Agenda
 - A City Council Special Meeting Minutes (2025-06-04)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the June 4, 2025, City Council Special Meeting Minutes.
 - B City Council Regular Meeting Minutes (2025-06-04)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the June 4, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.
 - C City Council Special Meeting Minutes (2025-06-18)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the June 18, 2025, City Council Special Meeting Minutes.
 - D City Council Regular Meeting Minutes (2025-06-18)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the June 18, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.
 - E Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes (2025-04-08)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the April 8, 2025, Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes.
 - F Approval of Rental Licenses
Staff Recommendation: Approve the issuance of rental licenses to the properties listed in the attached table.
 - G Accept 2nd Quarter 2025 Donations
Staff Recommendation: Approve Resolution 2025-98, Accepting donations received in the 2nd Quarter 2025.

- H Grant Application - Spark Good Community (Walmart)
Staff Recommendation: Authorize the Wellness Committee on behalf of City staff to apply for the Spark Good Community local grant through Walmart.
- I Single Occasion Gambling Permit - St. Rita Church
Staff Recommendation: Authorize issuance of a single-occasion gambling permit to the Church of St. Rita to conduct a raffle, bingo, and pull tabs at 8694 80th Street South, Cottage Grove, MN on September 19-21, 2025.
- J Temporary Liquor License - St Rita's Church
Staff Recommendation: Authorize issuance of a temporary intoxicating liquor license to the Church of St. Rita's for their fall festival located at 8694 80th Street South on September 19-21, 2025.
- K Massage Business License - Ross Albert Ulmer (8471 East Point Douglas Road South #105B)
Staff Recommendation: Authorize issuance of a Massage Business License to Ross Albert Ulmer operating as Health Investments LLC at 8471 East Point Douglas Road South #105B, Cottage Grove, MN.
- L Massage Therapist and Massage Business License - Ruimin Jiang (8471 East Point Douglas Road South #105B)
Staff Recommendation: Authorize issuance of a massage therapist and massage business license to Ruimin Jiang operating as Health Investments LLC, located at 8471 East Point Douglas Road South #105B, Cottage Grove, MN 55016.
- M 2025-2026 Sergeants Labor Contract - Uniform Card Addendum
Staff Recommendation: Approve the uniform card Memorandum of Understanding as an addendum to the 2025-2026 Sergeants' labor contract.
- N 2025-2026 49ers Labor Contract - Cell Phone Addendum
Staff Recommendation: Approve the Cell Phone Memorandum of Understanding as an addendum to the 2025-2026 49ers labor contract.
- O Firefighters Labor Contract (Fire Marshal) Memorandum of Understanding
Staff Recommendation: Approve the Fire Marshal MOU as an addendum to the 2025-2026 IAFF, Local 2570 labor contract.
- P Accelerated Firefighter/Paramedic Program Agreement
Staff Recommendation: Approve the Accelerated Firefighter/Paramedic Recruitment Program agreement for Phillip Wiggins.
- Q Fiserv Credit Card Payment Application
Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the approval of the Fiserv merchant processing application agreement and purchase of the credit card terminal equipment required for accepting payments.
- R River Oaks Used Mower Purchase
Staff Recommendation: Authorize staff to purchase a used Toro 3550 from MTI Distributing for the amount of \$24,046.88.
- S Hamlet Pond Quote Award
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-095 awarding the 2025 Hamlet Pond – Phase 2: Bank Grading and Sediment Removal project to New Look Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$114,481.25, and the appropriate officials are hereby authorized to sign all necessary documents to effectuate these actions.
- T 2024 Mill and Overlay Final Payment
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-096 approving the final payment to Bituminous Roadways, Inc. for the 2024 Mill and Overlay Project in the amount of \$16,097.25.
- U High Zone Raw Water Main - Change Order #2
Staff Recommendation: Approve Change Order #2 for the reduction in casing pipe size from 42" to 36". This will decrease the contract total by (\$37,800.00) to a total revised contract amount of \$4,894,098.00.

V Easement Acquisition - East Point Douglas Road and Jamaica Avenue Reconstruction and Signal Project (Holiday)

Staff Recommendation: Approve the Stipulation of Settlement for Parcel 10 by and between Holiday Stationstores, LLC and the City, authorizing the execution of a Settlement Agreement and payment of the remaining balance of \$132,000.

W Irrigation Audits - Approval of Contractor Agreements

Staff Recommendation: Approve the Agreements for Services with Ellis Irrigation and Lawn Pride Irrigation & Groundworks.

X Accessory Structure - Conditional Use Permit and Variances (6255 Hadley Avenue)

Staff Recommendation: 1) Adopt Resolution 2025-099 approving a conditional use permit to allow a total of 2,340 square feet of accessory structure square footage exceeding the maximum square footage by 340 square feet allowed within the R-2, Residential Estate Zoning District, and a variance to allow for an accessory structure to be located in the front yard at 6255 Hadley Avenue South. 2) Adopt Resolution 2025-100 denying the variance request to allow for the exterior of an accessory structure in a residential district to be constructed of metal at 6255 Hadley Avenue South.

Y Single Occasion Gambling Permit - South St. Paul Lions Club

Staff Recommendation: Authorize issuance of a single-occasion gambling permit to Daniel John Niederkorn on behalf of the South St. Paul Lions Club to conduct a raffle at River Oaks Golf Course and Event Center (11099 Hwy 61, Cottage Grove, MN 55016) on August 4, 2025.

8 Approve Disbursements

A Approve Disbursements

Staff Recommendation: Approve disbursements from 06-13-2025 through 07-10-2025 in the amount of \$8,839,571.42.

9 Public Hearings

10 Bid Awards

11 Regular Agenda

12 Council Comments and Requests

13 Workshops - Open to Public

A Emergency Medical Services Update

Staff Recommendation: Receive a presentation on EMS and provide feedback and direction.

14 Workshops - Closed to Public

15 Adjournment



COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
12800 RAVINE PARKWAY SOUTH
COTTAGE GROVE, MINNESOTA 55016
COUNCIL CHAMBER - 7:00 PM

August 6, 2025

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 3 Roll Call
- 4 Open Forum
- 5 Adoption of Agenda
- 6 Presentations
- 7 Consent Agenda
 - A City Council Special Meeting Minutes (2025-07-16)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the July 16, 2025, City Council Special Meeting Minutes.
 - B Public Services Commission Meeting Minutes (2025-5-19)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the May 19, 2025, Public Services Commission Meeting Minutes.
 - C Planning Commission Meeting Minutes (2025-06-23)
Staff Recommendation: Accept and place on file the minutes from the June 23, 2025, Planning Commission meeting.
 - D Open Forum Response - Peggy Nelson
Staff Recommendation: Receive a letter in response to Peggy Nelson's open forum questions.
 - E Open Forum Response Letter - Ruth Jones
Staff Recommendation: Receive a letter in response to Ruth Jones' open forum questions.
 - F Approval of Rental Licenses
Staff Recommendation: Approve the issuance of rental licenses to properties listed in the attached table.
 - G Grove Tobacco – Lower Potency Hemp Edible Retailer CUP & Registration
Staff Recommendation: 1) Adopt Resolution 2025-107 approving the Conditional Use Permit for a Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Retailer. 2) Approve the Cannabis Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Business Registration for Royalty and Sons LLC (DBA: Grove Tobacco) at the location of 8599 West Point Douglas Road South, Suite #200. City Registration will not be issued, and no Lower-Potency Hemp Edible sales are permitted until the City receives a copy of the Lower-Potency Hemp Edible license from the Office of Cannabis Management.
 - H Temporary Intoxicating Liquor License- Cottage Grove Lions Club
Staff Recommendation: Authorize issuance of a temporary intoxicating liquor license to Rhonda Anderson on behalf of the Cottage Grove Lions Club for the Cottage Grove Food Truck Festival on September 13, 2025.
 - I Real Estate Equities LLC - Issuance of Conduit Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-109 for preliminary approval for the issuance of Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds and an Interim Loan for the benefit of Real Estate Equities, LLC.

- J Weinmann Settlement
Staff Recommendation: Approve the Settlement Agreement to resolve the Weinmann appeal and authorize the payment of \$630.
- K 2026 Patrol K9 Authorization
Staff Recommendation: Authorize the addition of a K9 handler and K9 patrol team in January 2026. Authorize the submission of a USSPCA/AKC grant application for \$7,500 to offset the cost of the K9 purchase.
- L Minnesota Opioid Settlement Authorization
Staff Recommendation: Approve Resolution 2025-102 authorizing city staff to execute all necessary documents to ensure the City of Cottage Grove's participation in the opioid settlement agreements, including participation agreements and accompanying release and the state-subdivision agreements, unless and until such authority is revoked.
- M Low Zone Water Treatment Plant Change Order #4
Staff Recommendation: Approve Change Order #4 in the amount of \$370,122.73 for the Low Zone Water Treatment Plant project, funded by the 3M Settlement, increasing the current contract amount from \$40,262,696.20 to \$40,632,818.93.
- N Professional Services Agreement with Bolton and Menk for East Ravine AUAR Update
Staff Recommendation: Approve the professional services agreement with Bolton and Menk for East Ravine Alternative Urban Area-wide Review (AUAR) in the amount of \$39,900.
- O Jamaica Avenue Trunk Storm Sewer Realignment Final Payment
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-097 approving the final payment in the amount of \$21,242.33 to New Look Contracting, Inc. for the Jamaica Avenue Trunk Storm Sewer Realignment Project.
- P 2024 Pavement Management Final Payment
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-103 approving the final payment in the amount of \$15,807.23 to OMG Midwest, Inc. dba Minnesota Paving & Materials for the 2024 Pavement Management Project.
- Q 2024 Jamaica Mill and Overlay Final Payment
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-104 approving the final payment to Northwest Asphalt, Inc. for the 2024 Jamaica Mill and Overlay Project in the amount of \$12,187.83.
- R Oltman Park Playground
Staff Recommendation: Authorize service agreement, subject to minor alterations by City Attorney, with Kompan, Inc. for playground construction at Oltman Park for the amount of \$149,112.16.
- S Oltman Park Picnic Shelter and Installation
Staff Recommendation: Approve purchase order to St. Croix Recreation for picnic shelter located at Oltman Park for the amount of \$37,363.60 and approve service agreement with Mike Basich Inc., for the installation of picnic shelter at Oltman Park for the amount of \$32,864.
- T Almar Village – Parking Lot Setback and Impervious Surface Coverage Variances
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-106 approving the variances to allow the construction of additional parking two feet from the east property line and to increase the impervious surface coverage of the site at 7155 Jorgensen Lane South.
- U Livable Communities Act's Local Housing Incentives Account Program Application Support – Real Estate Equities
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-108 authorizing the City to submit an application for LCDA grant funds for the Real Estate Equities apartment project.
- V Farm Lease Agreement - EDA Land
Staff Recommendation: Approve the Lease Agreement with Paul Krueger Farms to farm the approximately 7.89 acres of EDA property south of 98th Street South and east of Isleton Avenue South subject to minor modifications by the city attorney.

8 Approve Disbursements

A Approve Disbursements

Staff Recommendation: Approve disbursement from 07-11-2025 through 07-31-2025 in the amount of \$5,524,920.51

9 Public Hearings

10 Bid Awards

11 Regular Agenda

12 Council Comments and Requests

13 Workshops - Open to Public

A Draft 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan

Staff Recommendation: Receive information on the draft 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan.

14 Workshops - Closed to Public

15 Adjournment



COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
12800 RAVINE PARKWAY SOUTH
COTTAGE GROVE, MINNESOTA 55016
COUNCIL CHAMBER - 7:00 PM

August 20, 2025

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 3 Roll Call
- 4 Open Forum
- 5 Adoption of Agenda
- 6 Presentations
- 7 Consent Agenda
 - A City Council Regular Meeting Minutes (2025-07-16)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the July 16, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.
 - B Planning Commission Meeting Minutes (2025-05-19)
Staff Recommendation: Accept and place on file the minutes from the May 19, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting.
 - C Massage Therapist License - Mary Denise Seifert
Staff Recommendation: Authorize issuance of a Massage Therapist License to Mary Denise Seifert to work at The Healing Place (8617 West Point Douglas Road).
 - D Response to Open Forum Question (8-6-2025)
Staff Recommendation: Receive the response to the City Council open forum inquiry on August 6, 2025.
 - E Rental License Approvals
Staff Recommendation: Approve the issuance of rental licenses to the properties listed in the attached table.
 - F Water Tower Antenna Lease 2nd Amendment - AT&T Pinehill Water Tower Site
Staff Recommendation: Approve the 2nd Amendment to the Amended and Restated Site Lease Agreement with AT&T at the Pinehill Water Tower Site.
 - G 80th St & East Pt Douglas Road Rehabilitation - Authorize Preparation of Plans & Specifications
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-115 authorizing preparation of plans and specifications for the 80th Street (TH 61 to Ideal Ave), East Point Douglas Road (80th Street south to tee intersection), and TH 61/80th Street Interchange Rehabilitation project.
 - H Lamar Ave Ravine Easements
Staff Recommendation: Approve the two Permanent and three Temporary Easements along Lamar Avenue.
 - I Almar Village Parking - Encroachment Agreement
Staff Recommendation: Approve the Encroachment Agreement for Almar Village Parking and appropriate officials are hereby authorized to sign the Encroachment Agreement to effectuate this action.

- J 2025 Sewer Lining Change Order #1
Staff Recommendation: Approve Change Order No. 1 to adjust the project substantial and final completion dates to October 17, 2025 and November 7, 2025, respectively.
- K Salt Spreader Controls Purchase
Staff Recommendation: Authorize staff to place the order for the Salt Spreader Controls for a total of \$208,008 from Towmaster Truck Equipment.
- L Declaring the Official Intent to Bond for the Oltman Park Project
Staff Recommendation: Approve Resolution 2025-117, Declaring the official intent to bond for the Oltman Park Project
- M Intrepid Fiber Agreement
Staff Recommendation: Approve the Agreement with Intrepid Fiber.
- 8 Approve Disbursements
 - A Approve Disbursements
Staff Recommendation: Approve disbursements from 08-01-2025 to 08-14-2025 in the amount of \$3,719,117.56.
- 9 Public Hearings
 - A Public Hearing for issuance of conduit multifamily housing revenue bonds-Real Estate Equities, LLC
Staff Recommendation: 1) Hold a Public Hearing on the Housing Program, the Bonds, and the Interim Loan. 2) Adopt Resolution, 2025-118, Adopting the Housing Program, approving a public hearing, authorizing an interim loan and the issuance of a taxable interim note for a multifamily housing development, and approving and authorizing execution of documents.
- 10 Bid Awards
- 11 Regular Agenda
 - A 61 Marine & Sports – Conditional Use Permit and Site Plan Review
Staff Recommendation: 1) Adopt Resolution 2025-110 approving a Conditional Use Permit for the display, hire, service, rental, leasing, and/or sales of boats and recreational vehicles conducted outside a building with servicing conducted within a building at 61 Marine & Sports, 11730 Point Douglas Drive South. 2) Adopt Resolution 2025-111 approving a Site Plan Review to construct a 4,000 square foot building addition for boat servicing at 61 Marine & Sports, 11730 Point Douglas Drive South.
 - B Cedarhurst – Historic Conditional Use Permits, Zoning Amendments, Site Plan Review, and Business Subsidy Agreement
Staff Recommendation: 1) Adopt Ordinance No. 1103 to approve a Zoning Amendment to rezone the property at 6940 Keats Avenue South from AG-2, Agricultural to M-U, Mixed-Use. 2) Adopt Resolution 2025-112 to approve a Historical Conditional Use Permit to operate an event center/wedding venue on the Cedarhurst Mansion property located at 6940 Keats Avenue South, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and the City's Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks. 3) Adopt Resolution 2025-113 to approve a Site Plan Review for improvements to the site and the Mansion and an addition to the Mansion located at 6940 Keats Avenue South for use as a wedding and event center. 4) Adopt Ordinance No. 1104 to approve a Zoning Amendment to rezone the property at 9912 70th Street South from AG-2, Agricultural, to R-3, Single Family Residential. 5) Adopt Resolution 2025-114 to approve a Historical Conditional Use Permit to use the Gardener's Cottage property located at 9912 70th Street South in conjunction with the commercial event/wedding venue on the adjacent parcel at 6940 Keats Avenue South. 6) Approve the business subsidy agreement with Bellagala to provide a business subsidy for \$37,275.00 for up to 15 SAC units.
 - C Ordinance Amendment City Code 5-1-3 (Paraphernalia Definitions)
Staff Recommendation: Provide direction on the ordinance amendment.

12 Council Comments and Requests

13 Workshops - Open to Public

A 2026-2027 Budget Workshop

Staff Recommendation: Provide feedback regarding 2026 Property Tax Levy and Budget Communications

14 Workshops - Closed to Public

15 Adjournment



COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
12800 RAVINE PARKWAY SOUTH
COTTAGE GROVE, MINNESOTA 55016
COUNCIL CHAMBER - 7:00 PM

September 3, 2025

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 3 Roll Call
- 4 Open Forum
- 5 Adoption of Agenda
- 6 Presentations
 - A Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation
Staff Recommendation: Receive the Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation.
- 7 Consent Agenda
 - A City Council Special Meeting Minutes (2025-07-23)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the July 23, 2025, City Council Special Meeting Minutes.
 - B City Council Special Meeting Minutes (2025-07-30)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the July 30, 2025, City Council Special Meeting Minutes.
 - C City Council Special Meeting Minutes (2025-08-06)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the August 6, 2025, City Council Special Meeting Minutes.
 - D City Council Regular Meeting Minutes (2025-08-06)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the August 6, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes.
 - E EDA Meeting Minutes (2025-06-17)
Staff Recommendation: Approve the June 17, 2025, Regular Economic Development Authority Meeting Minutes.
 - F Planning Commission Meeting Minutes (2025-07-28)
Staff Recommendation: Accept and place on file the minutes from the July 28, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting.
 - G Grey Cloud Trail - Joint Powers Agreement
Staff Recommendation: Approve the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Cottage Grove, the City of St Paul Park, and Grey Cloud Island Township for joint responsibility of Grey Cloud Trail.
 - H Agreements for Professional Services – Fire Protection Systems Plan Review and Inspections
Staff Recommendation: Approve the agreements with Fire Protection Services Inc. and Fire Loss Prevention LLC for fire protection system plan reviews and inspections.

- I No Parking Zone - Granada Ave S and 70th St S
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-116 restricting parking along the northbound lane of Granada Avenue where the median is present.
 - J TH61 River Oaks Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT) Final Payment
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-126 approving the final payment in the amount of \$22,737.56 for the TH61 River Oaks RCUT Project.
 - K Hearthside Park Sports Lighting System Change Order
Staff Recommendation: Authorize Change Order for Hearthside Park Sports Lighting Project to contract Killmer Electric to drill and/or install a spread footing for the light pole at a cost not to exceed \$14,000.
 - L 2025 Fall Boulevard Tree Planting
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-124 awarding the Base Quote plus Alternate 1 for the 2025 Tree Planting Contract to Wilson's Nursey in the total amount of \$52,705 for the material and labor to install 155 boulevard trees and authorize the service agreement between Wilson's Nursery and the City of Cottage Grove.
- 8 Approve Disbursements
- A Approve Disbursements
Staff Recommendation: Approve disbursements from 08-15-2025 through 08-28-2025 in the amount of \$6,616,996.90.
- 9 Public Hearings
- A Frattalone's Southpoint Ridge Easement Vacations and New Easements (Roers)
Staff Recommendation: 1) Hold the public hearing to vacate certain easements in Frattalone's Southpoint Ridge. 2) Adopt Resolution 2025-119 vacating, rescinding, terminating, and releasing certain easements over Lots 3 and 4, Block 1, and Outlots A, C, and D of Frattalone's Southpoint Ridge. 3) Approve the establishment of a temporary construction easement for a retaining wall. 4) Approve the establishment of a permanent retaining wall easement.
- 10 Bid Awards
- 11 Regular Agenda
- A Adopt Preliminary Property Tax Levy
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-121, Adopting the Proposed Preliminary 2025 Property Tax Levy Collectible in 2026.
 - B Hazardous Building Demolition - 8274 Hemingway Avenue South
Staff Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2025-134 ordering the removal of a hazardous building located at 8274 Hemingway Avenue South.
- 12 Council Comments and Requests
- 13 Workshops - Open to Public
- A Amrize Nelson Mine – Final Environmental Impact Statement
Staff Recommendation: Receive the presentation and offer feedback to staff.
- 14 Workshops - Closed to Public
- 15 Adjournment