



CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
12800 Ravine Parkway South
Cottage Grove, Minnesota 55016
Council Chamber - 7:30 AM

February 27, 2024

Cottage Grove Convention and Visitors Bureau

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - 4.1 November 28, 2023 CGCVB Meeting Minutes
5. Business Items
 - 5.1 2023 Quarter 4 Lodging Tax
 - 5.2 Visitor's Bureau Strategic Plan
 - 5.3 2024 Visitor's Bureau Events Plan
 - 5.4 2024 Visitor Guide
6. Public Hearings
7. Other Business
8. Workshop
9. Presentations
10. Adjournment



**COTTAGE GROVE
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
MINUTES
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
November 28, 2023**

A meeting of the Cottage Grove Convention and Visitors Bureau was held on the 28th day of November, 2023, at 7:30 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Justin Olsen.

2. ROLL CALL

Jamie Mann, Interim Communications Manager/Assistant to the City Administrator, called the roll:

Members Present: Justin Olsen, Chairman - Here
Sarah Grecula, Director - Here
Steve Hanson, Director - Here
Gretchen Larson, Director - Here
Laurie Levine, Director - Here
Erik Olson, Director - Here

Members Absent: Druscilla Nute, Director

Staff Present: Jennifer Levitt, City Administrator
Jaime Mann, Interim Communications Manager/Assistant to the City Administrator
Molly Pietruszewski, Recreation Manager
Liz Dillon, Communications Specialist
Courtney Hanna, Communications Specialist

Others Present: None.

Chairman Olsen asked everyone to stand and join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Director Larson made a motion to approve adoption of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Levine. Motion passed unanimously (6-to-0 vote).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Approval of June 27, 2023 CGCVB Meeting Minutes

Approval of the June 27, 2023 Cottage Grove Convention and Visitors Bureau Meeting Minutes.

Director Hanson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 27, 2023. The motion was seconded by Director Larson. The motion passed unanimously (4-to-0 vote).

BUSINESS ITEMS

5.1 Presentation - Holiday Events

Molly Pietruszewski, Recreation Manager for the City's Parks and Recreation Department, stated she'd speak about the upcoming City holiday events over the next few weeks:

Hale to the Bird 5K Race Took place on Thanksgiving morning at Hamlet Park. They estimated about 800 people participated in that; all proceeds from that kick off our Holiday Train fundraising to serve the Friends in Need Food Shelf. This event was actually started by our residents; if you didn't participate this year, there's always next year.

Holiday Lights Home Tour As of yesterday, the map is ready. There is still plenty of time to add your address, a neighbor's address, or that of a family member in Cottage Grove, which then creates the map. All of the maps start here at City Hall, then lead you through the City, looking at Christmas lights. We encourage you to enter your address on the City's website if your house is decorated, as we'll still be updating the map for the next couple weeks. It's a fun family event.

Hometown Holiday Event Will be held tomorrow, right here at City Hall, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. There will be ample parking at the HERO Center and the Washington County Service Center, with wagon rides provided to City Hall. Santa & Mrs. Claus will be in the chair for photo opportunities. Live reindeer will be present. There will be many kids games and activities, food trucks, and the Park High School choir. New this year are lots of illuminated inflatables along the trail here. There will also be a warming tent tomorrow night. Last year we expected about 500 people; with the nicer weather, we're ready for a larger crowd. Everything is free except for what you choose to purchase from the food truck, so kick off your holiday events right here in Cottage Grove.

Fill a Fire Truck On Saturday, December 2, our first big event for the Holiday Train Committee. There's a live Silent Auction on the website through November 30, 8:00 p.m. All proceeds from that go to the food shelf. Fill a Fire Truck will be held at Woodridge Park this year, 10:00 a.m.-Noon. Santa & Mrs. Claus will be there to accept all paper product and cash donations; no food items will be accepted. You can pick up your winning items from the Silent Auction at that time. There will be many fire trucks there, so our goal is to collect as many paper products for the food shelf as we can.

River Oaks Santa Breakfast Sunday, December 10; this event is already sold out, but keep it in your back pocket for next year. It's a great North Pole breakfast with sleigh rides throughout the golf course.

CPKC Holiday Train On Sunday, December 10, the Holiday Train will arrive in Cottage Grove, its 20th year. This event gets bigger and better every year. The train will arrive at 5:00 p.m.; the road will close at 2:30 and events start at 3:00 p.m. There won't be an after school, after work rush this year. There will be some activities, lots of food trucks, and time to get yourself ready for the train's arrival. It takes about 15 minutes, then the show will take place, and that's about 30 minutes. There will also be wagon rides for this event from the Park and Ride all the way down to the event, which is close to the Youth Service Bureau. We typically have 9,000-10,000 people each year, so if the weather stays nice and because it's on a Sunday, we could have another record year for this event. The goal for the Holiday Train Committee still remains at \$100,000; this is the largest donation each year for the Friends in Need Food Shelf. It's a great opportunity to support our community by having your family attend. People will be collecting cash in buckets that night, which are returned to a secure location. Online donations beforehand are also accepted.

Park and Rec - Get Out and Play! Molly reminded everyone that Park and Rec is busy all winter. There are many opportunities to get outside all winter long, including: Parks, Trails, Warming Houses, Skating Rinks, Sledding Hills, Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoes. Trails are plowed during the winter. Watch the City's website or social media for updates. Park High School hockey will be playing games at home this week, and East Ridge High School has their first home game tomorrow. The Ice Arena is busy seven days a week with lots of public skate, cosmic skate, and open hockey.

Molly stated they look forward to celebrating the holidays here in Cottage Grove.

Chairman Olsen stated he appreciated the update from Molly, as he knows she and her team have been exceptionally busy preparing for tomorrow's Hometown Holiday Celebration. He stated he plans to be there tomorrow; he's spoken to Santa and Sparkles the Elf, and he knows they're also very excited. It should be a really fun night. He stated the Holiday Train is the best fundraising opportunity for the Friends in Need Food Shelf; after 25 years, this is the last year that Michelle Rageth will be the director of the food shelf. She's worked really hard, and she would love nothing more than to retire with a really nice fundraising event this year. The goal is \$100,000, and we've been able to beat that as a community over the course of the last few years. You can still look at the Silent Auction items online. Let's all raise a bunch of money for the Friends in Need Food Shelf.

5.2 2023 Food Truck Festival Recap

Assistant Mann gave a quick recap of the 2023 Food Truck Festival; it was our inaugural year, and it was a fantastic event. Nothing but great feedback was received. She played a quick video that Isaac Pavek, one of our Public Works employees who also does photography, prepared with his drone. It will show you the scope of this event:

- 23 food trucks
- A family held a cornhole tournament
- Our Recreation Department had some bounce houses for the kids
- Strawberry Fest Ambassadors put on some carnival games
- Two bands played for the duration of the event

- Lions Club provided alcohol sales during the event
- SoWashCo Cares sold the wristbands for alcohol sales
- Feedback from all of our food truck vendors was that they loved the event, and everyone who gave feedback told us they'd like to attend next year and wanted to know that date
- Volunteer groups who worked there with us all loved the event and want to participate again next year

Overall, it was a great success. We estimated attendance at between 4,000-5,000 people. The lines for the food trucks were very long, some had lines throughout the whole seven hours of the event. We're looking forward to doing it again next year. She stated the 2024 Save the Date is Saturday, September 14; she's not sure if the times will be adjusted, as they've learned a few things from hosting the first event. When our committee starts to meet for next year's event, we will put into place some things we're looking at changing. Assistant Mann stated she'd take any questions.

Director Larson made a comment; she thought Jaime and the crew did a fantastic job on the Food Truck Festival. She was shocked when she saw so many people show up. Having worked events for years and years, it was amazing to her how many people showed up, given how short we were on the communication side. So, kudos to Jaime, the community, and everyone who helped spread the word.

Chairman Olsen stated absolutely, he'd second that. Jaime had sort of picked up the ball at halftime, as she wasn't involved to a large extent in the initial planning phase, but when we had some staff changes, she was very gracious in taking this on because it wasn't a small project. It was a phenomenal event, and he's heard nothing but great feedback.

Director Olson stated he'd piggyback on that. The comments he's heard from the public are it was wonderful, they liked the time of year because kids were back in school, it's not yet Halloween, so in mid-September the weather is most likely favorable. Everyone he's talked to in the community enjoyed their time and/or they're spreading the word to others who missed it that this is a thing to be at. He heard some feedback that the lines were long, but that's okay; the food truck vendors were also happy, and we want them to be happy from a profitability side. The free entry he thought was very important, so we should keep that in mind for the future. He heard comments that the free entry nowadays for family events was nice, so thank you.

Jaime thanked Director Olson. She noted we had a larger goal for food trucks; since we now have comparison information to be able to share with food trucks about participation and attendance, we should be able to attract more food trucks so that the lines might be a little shorter for next year and people will have more options from which to choose.

Director Olson stated square footage wise, in the asphalt, it looks like there's some room for five to eight more trucks, and Jaime agreed.

Chairman Olsen stated one of the things we learned about the food trucks is because there are so many of these Food Truck Festivals during the summer months, it sounds like they tend to hedge their bets, and they might sign up for one-to-three events on the same date; as the date gets closer, they try to figure out which one is going to be the most profitable. So, we actually had a couple of trucks that backed out at the last minute. Now that we know that that's a thing, we can plan differently and accordingly for that. He agreed that a few more trucks out there would be a lot of fun.

Director Olson and I both belong to the Cottage Grove Lions Club, and our club was just incredibly impressed with the organization and with the traffic. We had a really good day in terms of just talking to people and having the opportunity to serve. We actually still owe the Convention and Visitors Bureau a check for that, which we will be taking care of here. Our Chair of that event said at our following Lions meeting that she absolutely wanted to Chair this again because she had so much fun. They're already putting their heads together regarding ways that we can enhance our presence as a Lions Club, as he's sure many other nonprofit groups are going to do.

Chairman Olsen stated regarding the free live music, we had a couple different groups there; now that we have a date, we can start planning ahead for that and try to figure out what might be the most attractive. Just all in all, what a great day it was, it was so much fun. He really enjoyed it, as did a lot of the public. He thought it was a good way to put our Convention and Visitors Bureau on the map. He thanked Jaime for that.

5.3 2023 Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 Lodging Tax and Other Revenue

Assistant Mann stated she's happy to report that we had great numbers for Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 for our Lodging Tax and other revenue:

Quarter 2: We had over \$19,000 in Lodging Tax Revenue; the other revenue amount listed is all Food Truck Festival related. So, that puts us 9.6% over our budget projections for revenue. Quarter 3: Was even better with our Lodging Tax Revenue at over \$22,000; the other revenue listed includes a \$14,000 grant that we had been previously awarded from Explore Minnesota, which was paid to us in August, and the remainder was Food Truck Festival revenue, either

sponsorships or food trucks paying their entry fee. Total Revenue for Quarter 3 is just over \$40,000; that puts us at 24% over our budget projections for revenue. Year to Date: We are 6.7% over our projected revenue. With our total revenue, we are just \$10,000 away from hitting our full year projected revenue.

Chairman Olsen stated that sounds like good numbers, so he likes that. He thanked Jaime again for all of her guidance in terms of generating that kind of revenue, as it takes a lot of work. When we talk about what we want to do with that revenue, there will be some really great ideas; it's a lot easier to have great ideas when you can actually pay for them, so he thanked her again.

5.4 2024 Budget Approval

Assistant Mann stated in front of the Board was a large budget document so they can follow along as she's talking through some of the budget items.

2024 Budget Revenue: We're using 2023 as a guide for projecting 2024, and most of this was in front of the Board at our June meeting when we reviewed the preliminary budget with you.

Lodging Tax Revenue Projection: We've previously used a 60% occupancy rate. We're actually trending about 65% on average over the past couple years, so we wanted to bump up from 60% because we felt we were a little bit low on our projections for Lodging Tax. For 2024, we're basing our occupancy rate on a 63% occupancy, which brings us to just over \$6,000 a month in revenue from Lodging Tax. Obviously, that fluctuates from month to month, with February a little slower, July a little busier; over the course of a year, that would equal just over \$72,000 for Lodging Tax projections.

Visitors Guide Ad Sales: We are using the number that we collected in 2023 for our ads, and that will be coming to you in February to review the Visitors Guide.

ARPA Funds: Is something new that's showing on the budget, although it's kind of lived on the back side of the budget for the past couple years. That covers a portion of the salary and benefits of our Communications Specialist positions, as the City also covers a portion of that. That money runs out in 2024, so that number is a bit lower than we've gotten in previous years. Moving forward, we will manage those on the back end.

Food Truck Festival Revenue: This is new. We're basing the 2024 number on the 2023 number, hoping to grow it in 2024, but we like to be conservative in our projections. So, we're basing our Food Truck Revenue on the 2023 total, which was just over \$11,000.

Explore Minnesota Grant: This is new. After our June meeting, in July we received notification that there was an Explore Minnesota Tourism Recovery Grant available for Visitors Bureaus across the State. It is a nonmatching grant, so we don't have to provide any funds for them to give us funds in return. With that, we didn't have to bring that in front of the Board, and we thought we'll always take free money from the State when we can get it. So, we applied for that, and we were awarded a \$10,000 grant. So, we have now added that into our revenue for 2024.

Total Projected Revenue: \$153,564.

2024 Budget Expenses: Our expenses are broken into three categories: Other Expenses, Operating Expenses, and Marketing Expenses.

Other Expenses: The only thing that has lived under this category is our startup cost payback. As of Quarter 2 of 2023, we are done paying back the EDA and the City for starting up the Convention and Visitors Bureau. So, that will drop off as of next year. **Total Other Expenses: 0.**

Operating Expenses: Salary and benefits for our two Communication Specialists, Office Equipment, Postage to mail Visitors Guides, Continuing Education, Dues/Subscriptions for Explore Minnesota or the Minnesota Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Association, Administration Fee 5%, and 25% Payback to the City of Cottage Grove for managing the Visitors Bureau. **Total Operating Expenses: \$107,259.35.**

Marketing Expenses: Website Hosting/Domain, Collateral Development & Printing, Marketing & Local Events, Food Truck Festival, Social Media, Professional Services, Advertising in Publications, Other Types of Advertising. We will be switching up how we do Social Media in 2024; previously, we've worked with a marketing company and have recently learned they're charging us about a 40% fee to handle our paid social media advertising. Since we're reconfigured our Communications Department, and now have an inhouse social media specialist who is comfortable doing paid advertising, we will be bringing that inhouse. We'll be able to take 40% of those funds and reinvest it into actual marketing instead of paying an administrative fee to a marketing company. **Total Marketing Expenses: \$41,199.00.**

Total Projected Expenses: \$148,458.35

2024 Budget:	Total Revenue Projection.....	\$153,564.00
	Total Expense Projection.....	\$148,458.35
	Profit/Loss Projection.....	\$ 5,105.65

In June, we were previously projecting a loss, but now with that \$10,000 grant from Explore Minnesota, we're projecting a profit of \$5,105.65.

Recommendation: By motion, Approve the Convention and Visitors Bureau 2024 Budget.

Assistant Mann stated she'd be happy to stand for any questions.

Chairman Olsen thanked her for that very comprehensive recap, with a lot of good information. It's always nice to see the bottom line in the black. It sounds like bringing some of that communications work back to City Hall as opposed to paying a 40% administrative fee is really going to help us moving forward.

Director Grecula asked if that Explore Minnesota grant was renewable, or if it was a one-time offering.

Assistant Mann replied that was a one-time offer. Usually, every year they'll come out with some type of grant. This one is called a Tourism Recovery Grant, last year's was called something else. We will apply for any grant that we see is available, and if there is a match, we will bring it before you for approval. Since this one didn't have a match, we were able to apply for it because we didn't have to provide any additional funds. We always look for Explore Minnesota grants or any other grants that we can use to supplement our revenue.

Chairman Olsen wanted to make sure that all of our directors understand in many cases when you apply for these types of funds or grants, they are matching funds; that means you need to put money forward and then whoever is providing the grant will typically match what you've put forward. As mentioned earlier, the Explore Minnesota grant did not require matching funds; that is not very common, but it is absolutely a gift because when we don't have to provide those matching funds, obviously we don't have to dip into our own pocket to try to create some of that financial health that those grants provide. He knows that our staff does an awesome job of consistently looking for and applying for relevant grants regardless of the department, that's something they do very, very well. He expects that there will be more good news with respect to grant funding next year.

Director Levine asked if we knew what month was projected for that new *Discover Cottage Grove* guide to come out.

Assistant Mann replied yes, we are looking at sending our advertising information now to companies who previously advertised in the guide. We're opening that up to others in January; the guide will come before you in February, and it will be ready for distribution in March.

Chairman Olsen asked if the two Communication Specialists that Jaime mentioned in her presentation were in the room. Jaime replied they were, asked Chairman Olsen if he'd like her to introduce them to the Board. He stated he would love for them to introduce themselves and let everybody know who they are because we're really lucky to have them here.

Liz Dillon stated she's a Communications Specialist with a focus in social media; Courtney Hanna stated she's on the Communications team and will be focusing on graphic design and working on the Visitors Guide, too.

Chairman Olsen stated that's great, and we're very lucky to have them on board.

Chairman Olsen asked about the Food Truck Festival and the food truck revenue; now that we have a little bit of background on what that festival generated in terms of traffic, revenue, etc., are we going to be looking at any potential changes to our fee structure in terms of who we invite and the fees for being here for that. We used a flat fee this year, but we definitely had some pretty happy food truck vendors, as they had plenty of traffic and it was a good event for them in terms of their financial health. So, is that something that we're planning to review.

Assistant Mann replied yes, once we get the committee back together, that is something we'll talk about. We actually got feedback from one of the food trucks that our fee was too low; so, if we bump it up, it will probably be a small bump the first year, then we'll kind of gauge based on the attendance, people coming to eat at the food trucks, how long the lines are, and if we can add more trucks. Adding more trucks would also create more revenue for us. So, we'll look at all of those things when the committee reconvenes, most likely in January.

Chairman Olsen stated he had a chance to visit with Matt Miller, Northwoods Smokehouse, as he provided some Thanksgiving meals for our First Responders this year, which was really nice. Matt mentioned that in terms of his experience, our fee was pretty low; it certainly helped us to attract a large number of food trucks, but he just thought it might bear some review and then we can determine what to do from there. He thinks it all depends on what your strategy is and how you want to go about achieving that strategy.

Director Hanson made a motion to approve the Convention and Visitors Bureau 2024 Budget. The motion was seconded by Director Levine. The motion passed unanimously (6-to-0 vote).

5.5 Dowdle Commissioned Art Program

Director Larson stated she'd do a quick review about the Dowdle Commissioned Art Program Agreement. The Board doesn't actually have the Agreement before you and it was not in your packet because we're still working on modifications and final details related to it. Generally, the Dowdle marketing team reached out to us in the City to join in the "Land That I Love" tour for America's 250th Birthday in 2026. Eric Dowdle is a well known folk artist who does commissioned paintings; from those commissioned paintings, he actually has his team produce puzzles that they then sell, which tell the story of our city and they tell the story of the country. If you visit their website, they have just an enormous number of puzzles.

She, our City Administrator, Chairman Olsen, Mayor Bailey, and the team met and talked about what is this, why would we want to participate, and what makes it impactful. She thinks we realized in those discussions that this project has potential, both short term and long term, to be an economic development and tourism promotional item. It's part of our Strategic Plan, in the Convention and Visitors Bureau, we want to grow, we want people to know us, we want people to come visit stay at our hotels. So, in exploring that and after the meeting with Chairman Olsen and Mayor Bailey, it was determined that we should just encourage the Economic Development Authority to continue to move this project forward. So, that's what we're doing here today, talking with you about it and about the impacts of tourism.

Costs for the Project: The Convention and Visitors Bureau is not paying the costs; however, the EDA would be if they agree to it and then the City confirms it. The total cost for the project is \$150,000, which includes:

- Original commissioned painting by Eric Dowdle (\$75,000)
- Purchase of 6,000 puzzles at a wholesale cost of \$12.50 each (\$75,000), which will then be sold by the City to help offset the cost
- An unveiling party with the artist, to be held in approximately May-June, 2024
- Marketing support via the sale of the puzzles at the Dowdle website

Purchased puzzles would be delivered the day of the unveiling. We anticipate selling the puzzles at events like the Chamber showcase, Strawberry Fest, the Food Truck Festival, the Holiday Train, etc. Anybody who participates would be invited to the unveiling party.

Director Larson displayed a matrix of the puzzles, which showed: Wholesale price of the puzzles is \$12.50. We can order puzzles with 300, 500, or 1,000 pieces in various quantities, those costs were displayed, and at what price we could sell them. Again, that still needs to be kind of finetuned at the end of the Agreement.

So, the total cost is \$150,000; we'd hopefully be recovering \$150,000 with puzzle sales. If we unveil in approximately May/June, then we would have an entire year to sell all the puzzles and recoup our money. It's not an exact science, but it will get you there.

Director Larson stated she'd be happy to answer any questions, but there is a recommendation before you.

Recommendation: By motion, support the project by encouraging the Economic Development Authority to pursue it for consideration and approval as both an economic development and a tourism strategic initiative.

Director Grecula asked what would be the goal besides recouping the funds; would you then put in another order to try to profit off of this.

Director Larson replied that's a great question. Yes, the City Administrator and I have only briefly talked about this, and the rest of the team, except for Alexa, hasn't even been involved in the conversation. What is Eric's plan, we know that we're all mature, and eventually you have to pass off the project to someone else. So, we're talking about generational discussions about what does Eric plan, does he have an apprentice that will do paintings after he decides he's not going to paint anymore, or how will that all work. Those are all unanswered questions right now, but we kind of see it as multifaceted. When you're in marketing and/or economic development, we say this is a great place to work, live, and play, but invest in is also important; so, we could have different puzzles and different themes for different reasons. Our idea would be to suggest to all of you on the EDA and the Council that it'd be kind of a generational, really cool project. Right now, it may focus on tourism because that may be an easier quick pitch to get this all finished before the end of the year, but then maybe it's an industry one; there are people like Costco and others who have participated in those types of things, just businesses who actually paid for the puzzles. That's a profit for us because we ordered the puzzles and paid for the puzzles through sponsorships.

Director Olson stated he believed it was 2025-2026 on the literature, so asked what is the timing of the project.

Director Larson replied 2026 is the 250th Anniversary of the country. So, what they're doing is they're lining up everybody who will eventually participate and ultimately back. We don't know what that will look like either, but the idea is that they specifically want two cities or towns in Minnesota to participate, and they want that for all 50 states. They want at

least two cities or towns to participate in that, and how all the rest of that plays out we don't know yet. She stated she doesn't think they even know yet; they know what they're working towards, and we'll still have to hash that out as to how we all fit into that plan.

Director Olson stated budget wise, \$75,000 and \$75,000, for the \$150,000 on a tourism thought, he asked has there been thought or discussion on small sponsorships from some of the businesses in town, like hotels and restaurants, to minimize that cost.

Director Larson replied the selling of the puzzles could mitigate the whole cost. It will come out of the Economic Development Trust Fund, so that's covered. But yes, we will absolutely talk to businesses and other entities about participating in the puzzle because you also have to have humans at the unveiling, who tell the story of the puzzle.

Director Olson stated of course, but from a finance point, every \$5,000 matters. So, he would think there would be certain businesses in town that would be interested, Renewal by Andersen, Up North Plastics, 3M, or even some of the more successful restaurants or hotels. Just food for thought.

Director Larson stated oh, yes, absolutely, and the City Administrator and the team and I have talked about that, and that's kind of where we come with separating the puzzles related to the long-term strategy of how this would all work. Because you're right, coffee shops and hairstylists and Hy-Vee are different than Renewal by Andersen and 3M.

Director Olson stated so if you did it early, especially with the larger businesses, Renewal by Andersen, 3M, Up North Plastics, you might be able to take their temperature for future interest as well.

Director Larson stated absolutely, there are a lot of conversations still to be had.

Chairman Olsen involved City Administrator Jennifer Levitt in this conversation with Director Larson. For the rest of the directors here, when Mayor Bailey and I and Administrator Levitt were on the Zoom call with those who represent Eric Dowdle, there were some things that we thought were pretty interesting. He wanted to give everybody a brief snapshot so that they completely understand what we're talking about. Eric is a renowned artist, and he's done this for several years, so this isn't a new thing that hasn't been tried or tested; Director Larson stated it's actually been decades. Chairman Olsen stated Eric actually comes to town, spends time in town, and part of the time he spends with folks who have story ideas to incorporate into this puzzle. He asked Administrator Levitt if she recalled how many they said they can put in the puzzle.

Administrator Levitt stated we have to provide a list of 50 items, there are kind of the must haves and then the wish list. There are 20 people who would also be recognized in the puzzle.

Chairman Olsen stated as Director Olson was talking about sponsorships, it's possible that there could be some synergy there in terms of them looking to contribute to this project because the project will feature their business or whatever the case might be. He thought it was really neat that we give Eric a list of ideas, he comes to town, he talks to people, he looks around, and he connects with folks here at City Hall. He also spends some time alone and he just travels around the community, looking for inspiration. So, if we do move forward with this, we're going to give him a list of ideas, things that we may want to feature that are unique to our community and kind of speak to our community's culture and personality, but he will also seek out things on his own; he thought that was kind of neat. We also talked about the fact that he does a painting, and that painting is ultimately what becomes the puzzle. He confirmed with Administrator Levitt that we take ownership of the painting at some point.

Administrator Levitt replied yes, at the unveiling event, he would bring the actual commissioned painting. Director Larson referenced on the unveiling, there are large puzzle pieces, and people who are part of the story get to tell the story of Cottage Grove and how the puzzle got to be. So, it's a really neat event to be able to celebrate our community and kind of our heritage. Staff has been really excited as we've been brainstorming historical items within the community and people and places and businesses that we can highlight. So, watch your inbox for some communication about this as we seek your vote.

Chairman Olsen stated he appreciated that Administrator Levitt spoke about the big puzzle pieces, as he had forgotten that. The fact of the matter is we have a great story to tell as a community, and this is just another way to tell our story. Once that painting is completed, Eric then formulates it into the puzzles. We take ownership of the puzzles, and then we can feature those at events like Strawberry Fest or the Food Truck Festival or whatever the case might be. From what they told us on the call, at the unveiling they tend to sell a boatload of puzzles. He asked Administrator Levitt if that was correct.

Administrator Levitt replied we hope that will be the case. Staff will also be working on a very detailed marketing plan because, as indicated, we have to identify how many puzzles, the quantities, and what count, and so we need to be really strategic in how we do that and really develop a key marketing strategy. So, the people sitting in the audience are going to be the ones developing that plan, so you'll probably be hearing more from them in the coming meetings.

Chairman Olsen told Director Olson in response to his question about funding, as we've discussed this a little bit after the Zoom and as Director Larson said, we're just at the tip of the iceberg here. We have not taken a deep dive yet, but it was

suggested that this would be paid for out of the EDA Trust Fund. He asked Administrator Levitt to explain for everybody the difference between the EDA Trust and just EDA funding.

Administrator Levitt stated the EDA Trust Fund actually generates revenue from a local business that contributes money into it; so, there are no taxpayer dollars associated with that fund. The nice thing, too, with the EDA Trust is it has an easier mechanism to allow expenditures to flow out and revenue to flow back in. So, the selling of the puzzles is the best mechanism for us to have the financial expenditure, then have the revenue come back into that fund for the City. That's the best way to do it, and she wants to stress there are no taxpayer dollars associated with the EDA Trust.

Chairman Olsen stated the EDA Trust is funded annually through gifts, and we receive generous gifts from at least one local business each year to help support our economic development activities. That EDA Trust Fund, as Administrator Levitt stated, does not contain any taxpayer dollars. That's one of the reasons that when we do projects like this, we like to go through the EDA if we can, similar to the way that we set up the Convention and Visitors Bureau. The EDA can be reimbursed through the proceeds of the sale or whatever the case might be.

Director Levine asked, just because she's curious, if we know what the other city in Minnesota is that they're looking at, if we had any idea. Director Larson replied perhaps, but they're still negotiating with them.

Director Hanson asked if we knew, for those people who don't want a puzzle, if they will have an opportunity to purchase the print in the future.

Administrator Levitt replied the nice thing is we get the rights to the actual print itself. So, if we wanted to make T-shirts, or wanted to buy a replica of that, we could also provide those options in the future. She gets excited because we have City banners and maybe something like that could be incorporated into it or it could be a mural or a mural wall. There are a lot of different options, so we're really excited that we get the ownership of it. They just have to approve the use of it to ensure that it follows the proper integrity of the actual original print itself.

Chairman Olsen stated that's a unique opportunity that we don't usually get. When we finished with the Zoom meeting, one of the questions he asked was do we want to perhaps use this as a mural. His understanding is we can actually take that painting and can print it on a really large surface of some sort and then use that to create a mural at one of the park buildings or whatever the case might be. The sky's the limit in terms of ideas on how to use this should we decide to actually take the plunge. He's guessing staff has just got tons of ideas about how we might utilize that. Chairman Olsen thanked Director Larson for the presentation.

Motion by Director Levine to support the project by encouraging the Economic Development Authority to pursue it for consideration and approval as both an economic development and a tourism strategic initiative. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson. The motion passed unanimously (6-to-0 vote).

Chairman Olsen asked Administrator Levitt where it goes from here, if it goes to the EDA.

Administrator Levitt replied yes, apparently it's scheduled for the next EDA meeting on December 12, to take action on it. They would then enter into the legal contract that we're continuing to negotiate with them.

Chairman Olsen asked once the contract is signed, will it come before the Council for approval. Administrator Levitt replied technically the EDA is the funding source, so it wouldn't necessarily need to make another stop. Chairman Olsen stated that's another unique thing about the EDA, it's its own entity and has certain powers and bylaws, so the EDA can sometimes do things just on their own and Council approval isn't required, but it's kind of a dotted line just to keep us in the loop. Chairman Olsen told Director Larson this is pretty exciting.

Director Larson stated yes, we get to be a piece of the puzzle.

6.1 PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 CGCVB Comments - None.

7.2 Response to Previous CGCVB Comments - None.

8.1 Workshop - None.

9.1 Presentation - None.

10 ADJOURNMENT

City of Cottage Grove Convention and Visitors Bureau

November 28, 2023

Page 9 of 9

Director Larson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 a.m. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson. The motion passed unanimously (6-to-0 vote).

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Mann, Interim Communications Manager-Assistant to the City Administrator

/jag



TO: Board of Directors, Cottage Grove Convention and Visitors Bureau

FROM: Jaime Mann, Assistant to the City Administrator

DATE: February 23, 2024

RE: 2023 Q4 Lodging Tax Collection

Discussion

2023 Q4 Lodging Tax Collections

Due to a short history of lodging tax revenue collected and the variability of the industry for the past couple years, the 2023 budget used conservative monthly revenue estimates of \$5,529 at a 60% occupancy rate in lodging tax collections for all months of 2023. The City of Cottage Grove has collected all the 4th quarter lodging tax and received the following amounts:

Table 1 4th Quarter Lodging Tax Collections for the City of Cottage Grove

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Lodging Tax Revenue	\$ 13,050	\$ 19,593	\$ 22,249	\$ 16,707	\$ 71,599
Other Revenue	\$ 5,095	\$ 4,900	\$ 18,150	\$ -	\$ 28,145
2023 Total Revenue	\$ 18,145	\$ 24,493	\$ 40,399	\$ 16,707	\$ 99,744
2023 Budgeted	\$ 22,877	\$ 22,338	\$ 32,588	\$ 16,587	\$ 94,390

In total the lodging tax collections for the 4th quarter of 2023 was \$16,707 which is \$120 above revenue projections for the 4th quarter. Having final Q4 numbers, the CVB is 0.7% over our budgeted revenue projections for the 4th quarter and 5.7% over our total budget projection for the full year of 2023.

Recommendation:

Receive Q4 lodging tax collection information.



TO: Chairman Olsen and CVB Board Members
Jennifer Levitt, City Administrator

FROM: Gretchen Larson, Economic Development Director

DATE: February 23, 2024

RE: Request for Proposals – CVB Strategic Plan

Background

In early February staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to engage the services of a consulting firm to assist us with creation of a strategic plan for the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). The deadline for submittals was February 22 and, while we had significant interest in the RFP prior to the issuance, we only received one submittal by the deadline.

While the firm that submitted a proposal appears highly qualified, we would like at least 3-4 proposals to select from and firms to interview. We have tweaked the RFP in response to questions from the first round and will reissue the RFP the week of February 26, with a deadline of March 22.

We will also request assistance in distribution of the RFP from Explore MN and the MN Chamber of Commerce. In addition, we will place the RFP in the League of MN Cities classified ads and in the legal sections of the Pioneer Press and the MN Business Journal.

Recommendation

Receive report as presented.



TO: Board of Directors, Cottage Grove Convention and Visitors Bureau
FROM: Liz Dillon, Communications Specialist
DATE: February 23, 2024
RE: 2024 Events Plan

Background

Events for the 2023 season in Cottage Grove were successful and look to build on that success by attending events that build awareness of Discover Cottage Grove and foster community relationships.

Discussion

Below are the events for the 2024 year that staff recommend a “full” CGCVB presence at. These events have been chosen for specific reasons, but mainly due to the anticipated number of attendees. Staffing these events is a heavy consideration, so having an attendee/visitor turnout of 500 or above was used to help determine our level of participation.

(“Full” presence meaning: Discover Cottage Grove tent set-up, staff working table and answering questions, handouts provided, etc. Please note this does not mean Discover Cottage Grove will not have a presence at other events.)

Date, Event, Location, Reason(s), Expected Attendance

- **May or June Date TBD, Cottage Grove Community Night, St. Paul Saints Game at CHS Field.** For 2024, we will be attending in “full” capacity. *(Expected attendance: stadium)*
- **Jun. 21-22, Strawberry Fest Marketplace, Kingston Park.** The Strawberry Fest is Cottage Grove’s largest event of the year, drawing in 20,000-25,000 attendees locally, around the state and regionally. Discover Cottage Grove staff believe it’s prudent to have a tent presence at this event for visitors to be able to ask questions, receive recommendations and learn more about Cottage Grove. *(Expected attendance: 20,000-25,000)*
- **Sept. 14, Food Truck Festival and Eric Dowdle Puzzle unveiling, Kingston Park.** After a successful inaugural year, the Food Truck Festival is back. This event welcomed a diverse population and had an extremely large attendance. In addition to inviting more food trucks, the unveiling of the Eric Dowdle painting will take place. After the presentation, puzzles will be for sale at the event. *(Expected attendance: 8,000-10,000)*

- **November date TBD, Hometown Holiday Celebration, City Hall.** Returning in 2024, the Hometown Holiday Celebration proved to be a hit with residents and visitors alike. Previously known as the 'Holiday Tree Lighting' this upgraded event hosted live reindeer, kid's games, city vehicles, food trucks, and more. Discover Cottage Grove is excited to be part of a hometown event like this showing pride with its community. (*Expected attendance: 2,000*)
- **December date TBD, Holiday Train, Youth Service Bureau area.** The CPKC Holiday Train is a long-standing tradition in Cottage Grove, going on 22 years in 2024. Local communities to Cottage Grove and visitors from afar travel to Cottage Grove to see the brightly lit train with its fun and musical performances each year. It frequently draws very large crowds, with visitors who may not be familiar with Cottage Grove. Discover Cottage Grove has a presence on the planning committee and helping with the promotion through our social media channels. (*Expected attendance: 5,000-8,000*)

With the CVB attending these various events, we need to purchase new giveaway items that we can use to promote Discover Cottage Grove. This would include more backpacks along with giveaway items yet to be determined but all branded Discover Cottage Grove.

Recommendation

Approve budget spend of up to \$15,000 for event giveaway items to be chosen at a later date.



TO: Board of Directors, Cottage Grove Convention and Visitors Bureau

FROM: Courtney Hanna – Communications Specialist, Graphic Design

DATE: February 23, 2024

RE: 2024 Visitors Guide

Background

This year, we've given the Visitor Guide a fresh new look. Featured on the front cover is the Hope Glen Farm Tree House – a Cottage Grove staple that will be sure to catch passerby eyes. Once the reader dives in, we take them on an editorial journey through our city, suggesting places for them to explore, eat, play and more. This edition of the Visitor Guide has more color, more photos, and more content. It's important to reach all audiences in an exciting and inviting way, all while telling our story.

Discussion

Ad Sales

A large number of local businesses were invited to participate in the 2024 Visitor Guide. As of February 23, 2024, six advertisers have purchased an ad placement (Total revenue = \$4,450).

Sample 2024 Visitor Guide

Attached is a draft copy of the 2024 Visitor Guide. A final version will be emailed to board members for any last suggestions or changes before going to print.

Printing Quotes

Quotes were submitted from 3 companies based on previous Visitor Guide specifications. The guide is full-color, 40 pages (+4 for cover), with an aqueous coating on the cover pages. Quotes are based on a quantity of 5,000, 6,000, and 7,000 copies. Last year, we ordered 5,000 booklets but ran out in October. We are looking to increase our quantity so we don't experience another shortage.

Recommendation

Approve quote for the printing of 7,000 2024 Visitor Guides through GDI Inc. for \$10,566.

Attachments:

- GDI Visitor Guide quote for the following quantity: 5,000, 6,000 and 7,000
- Ideal Printers Visitor Guide quote for the following quantity: 5,000, 6,000 and 7,000
- Dapper Dog Visitor Guide quote for the following quantity: 5,000, 6,000 and 7,000
- Draft Copy for 2024 Visitor Guide (artwork not final)



Quotation

153402-2

Date: February 19, 2024

TO: **City of Cottage Grove**
12800 Ravine Parkway South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit our quotation for this work. Please feel free to call with any additional questions or changes.

Below are your detailed production specifications for this request

Description:	Booklet, 40-pages plus cover
Page size	7.25 x 9.5, with bleeds
Cover Ink	4-color process, 2-sides
Cover Paper	80lb white satin cover
Cover Coating	flood dull aqueous, 1-side
Text Ink	4-color process, 2-sides
Text Paper	80lb white satin text
Finishing	score cover & saddle-stitch along 9.5" spine
Packaging	bulk in cartons
Customer to Supply	Print-ready file
Proofs	PDF

Quantity	5,000	6,000	7,000
	\$8,726	\$9,532	\$10,566

*** Due to shortages of materials, all quotes are subject to change due to availability, allocation and price prevailing at the time of order placement. At order placement we will secure materials with a firm Purchase Order and lock in the final price.**

Due to the nature of electronic publishing, we reserve the right to revise our estimate after reviewing the contents of customer supplied electronic files. Any editing needed to process supplied files will be billed at a rate of \$60 per hour. Prices are exclusive of any sales tax or shipping charges. Per industry standards, we may bill for up to 10% over or under runs.

Sincerely,

Cindy Foss
Customer Care Representative
Phone: 651-480-5028
Fax: 651-480-5000



645 Olive Street
Saint Paul, MN 55130
www.idealprint.com

Date: 2/19/2024
Estimate : 28594

City of Cottage Grove
Courtney Hanna

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on this project.

Description: 2024 Visitors Guide
Trim Size: 7.25" x 9.5"
No. of Pages: 40 + cover
Paper: Cover - 80 lb. dull cover / text - 80 lb. dull text
Prepress: Working & PDF files supplied
Proofs: PDF, LoRes & HiRes
Inks: Cover - 4cp + matte Aq / 4cp
Text - 4cp 2 sides
Bleeds: 4 sides
Finishing: Trim, stitch on the 9.5" side
Add'l Services: NA
Packaging: Carton
Shipping: 1 local delivery

Quantity & Cost: 5,000 - \$9,104.00
6,000 - \$9,972.00
7,000 - \$10,816.00
9,000 - \$12,523.00

Thank you,

Jeff Krumrie
Account Executive
651-855-1067
jeff.krumrie@idealprint.com



Dapper Dog Marketing & Design Co.
 6512636131
 9377 Hallmark Ave S
 Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Prepared For
 Jaime Mann
 City of Cottage Grove
 12800 Ravine Parkway South
 Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Proposal Date
 02/22/2024

Proposal Number
 0000119

Pricing

Description	Rate	Qty	Line Total
CG Visitor Bureau Guides Booklets Cover Stock 100LB Gloss Cover Cover Coating Satin Aqueous Stock 100LB Dull Book Colorspec 4/4 (4 color both sides) Binding Edge Short Edge Page Count 42 pages (including front/back cover) Coating Satin Aqueous Binding Type Saddle Stitch Shrink Wrapping Shrink Wrap 10 Per Package Flat Size 14.5X9.5 Finish Size 7.25X9.5	\$2.61	5000	\$13,050.00
CG Visitor Bureau Guides Booklets Cover Stock 100LB Gloss Cover Cover Coating Satin Aqueous Stock 100LB Dull Book Colorspec 4/4 (4 color both sides) Binding Edge Short Edge Page Count 42 pages (including front/back cover) Coating Satin Aqueous Binding Type Saddle Stitch Shrink Wrapping Shrink Wrap 10 Per Package Flat Size 14.5X9.5 Finish Size 7.25X9.5	\$2.58	6000	\$15,480.00
CG Visitor Bureau Guides Booklets Cover Stock 100LB Gloss Cover Cover Coating Satin Aqueous Stock 100LB Dull Book Colorspec 4/4 (4 color both sides) Binding Edge Short Edge	\$2.55	7000	\$17,850.00

Page Count 42 pages (including front/back cover)
Coating Satin Aqueous
Binding Type Saddle Stitch
Shrink Wrapping Shrink Wrap 10 Per Package
Flat Size 14.5X9.5
Finish Size 7.25X9.5

Subtotal	46,380.00
Tax	0.00

Proposal Total (USD)	\$46,380.00
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Notes

Turnaround time from day of order is 12 business days. Quote expires 5/22/24

Terms

Acceptance of Proposed Services and DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC (DDMD) Terms and Conditions

By signing below, Client directs DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC to perform the Services described above for the fees proposed above. In addition, Client agrees that DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC's Terms and Conditions are part of this proposal and create the agreement between the parties.

Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions shall prevail over our relationship if consented to go ahead with this proposal.

Graphic Proofs

1. DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC will provide up to three proofs on graphic design pieces per job at no additional cost to Client. Changes to the job are to be made in writing via email. The Client must "sign off" on the final proof. Once the proof has been "signed off," responsibility for an error lies with the Client and not DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC. Client understands that DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC provides design services only, and not trademark search and clearance services. Logos and designs will be shared with other vendors at the Clients request. Final PDF's of all graphics will be provided to the Client at no extra fee. Additional graphic formats may also be obtained at no addition fee. Examples are jps, pngs, eps files.
2. Client retains ownership of the graphics upon full payment of completed project. DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC retains rights to use graphics within marketing/promotional items for the benefit of DDMD.

Payments

Unless agreed otherwise with the Client, all design services require an advance payment of a non-refundable minimum amount of 50% (one half) of the project quotation total cost before the work commences or is supplied to them for review. The remaining 50% (one half) of the project quotation total will be due upon completion of the work prior to upload to the server or release of materials. Fees for on-going website hosting, maintenance and similar repetitive services are due and payable, in full, at the beginning of the service period for website hosting or monthly for ongoing marketing services per bill provided by DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC. Client agrees to pay the lesser of \$50 for every 15 days a payment is late, or the highest amount allowed by law.

The Client will be provided with an Approval Form or Proof Email, and an Invoice prior to final publication. Any invoice queries must be submitted by email within 15 days of the invoice date. Publication and/or release of work done by DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC on behalf of the client, may not take place before cleared funds have been received.

Confidentiality

The Client and DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC will agree not to misuse or disclose, during and after the completion of this association, any confidential information on each other that they may encounter during this association.

This will apply to their respective employees and third-party associations as well.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation of orders may be made initially by telephone contact, or e-mail, however, following this, DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC requires formal notification in writing to the company's postal address.

The Client will then be invoiced for all work completed over and above the non-refundable deposit that was made at the beginning of the contract. The balance of payment due must be paid within 30 days.

Please note: Any cancellation which is not formally confirmed in writing and received by DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC 30 days prior to the desired cancel date, will be liable for the full quoted cost of the project.

Warranty for Services

The Client acknowledges that no computer system or software can be made completely stable or secure and that the provider cannot guarantee the stability, safety, or security of their network or data.

The DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC warrants that the Services will be provided in a professional manner and in conformity with generally prevailing industry standards.

General Provisions

Status as Independent Entities. DAPPER DOG MARKETING & DESIGN LLC and Client are entities independent of one another and neither party's employees will be considered employees of the other party for any purpose. This Agreement does not create a joint venture or partnership. Neither party shall have the right to assign this nor any related agreement without prior written consent of the other party and any attempt to do otherwise will be void.

Applicable Law and Forum. This Agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota without regard to the conflicts of laws or principles thereof. Any action or suit related to this Agreement shall be brought in the state or federal courts in Washington County, Minnesota.

Notices. Any notice or other communication required or permitted under this Agreement shall be given in writing and delivered by email, or registered or certified mail, postage prepaid and return receipt requested, to the address set forth on the first page of this Agreement, or per a notice of a different address by either party to the other.

Waiver. No waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provisions hereof.

Attorney's fees. The prevailing party in any dispute hereunder will be entitled to their reasonable attorney's fees and costs, including but not limited to the costs of collection.

Entire Agreement. This Master Agreement, including applicable Proposal, constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and may not be modified, waived, or amended, except in writing signed by both parties. If any provision of these Agreements is found to be invalid or unenforceable under any statute or rule of law, the remaining provisions shall not be affected in any way.

Jaime Mann, City of Cottage Grove

Cottage Grove Minnesota

DISCOVER
COTTAGE GROVE

HOPE GLEN FARM, TREE HOUSE SUITE
© KELLY BIRCH PHOTOGRAPHY

SPEND THE NIGHT IN A
LUXURY TREE HOUSE



WELCOME TO COTTAGE GROVE

Welcome and thank you for visiting Cottage Grove! As a lifelong resident, I'm here to tell you that our growing city has plenty to offer.

You'll find that Cottage Grove has convenient access to urban opportunities and is a short drive to Minneapolis and St. Paul. While we are close to the Twin Cities metro area, our community prides itself on our small-town feel.

We have plenty of recreational opportunities, including a municipal golf course, as well as kayaking and fishing on the Mississippi River. We have the largest shoreline of the Mississippi River in the state, so we encourage you to take advantage of our unique access and explore.

From sit-down restaurants, to fast food options, Cottage Grove offers many cuisine choices, no matter your taste in food. Need some essentials or just love to shop? Stop by one of our locally-owned or national retail shops to make your purchases.

Our convenient location, friendly residents, recreational amenities, open spaces and business community make our city a great place to live, visit, work and play.

Myron Bailey, Mayor
City of Cottage Grove



Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce

To lead, communicate and share resources with our members to develop, grow and support our local business network and community.

Growth

Raise your reputation.

Visibility

80% of consumers are more likely to purchase from a business they know is a Chamber member.

Networking

It's not just who you know, it's who others know. Networking is powerful.

Learning

Get a competitive edge with exclusive training opportunities.

Credibility

When you are identified as a Chamber member, your business receives positive perception among consumers and business owners.

Women in Business

A forum for local women in business to meet, network, learn and exchange ideas.

To become a member, call 651-458-8334 or visit CottageGroveChamber.org

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Cottage Grove Convention & Visitors Bureau

DiscoverCottageGrove.com

Follow us on social media:

[@DiscoverCottageGrove](https://www.instagram.com/DiscoverCottageGrove)



[#DiscoverCottageGrove](https://www.instagram.com/DiscoverCottageGrove)



A LOCAL'S GUIDE TO COTTAGE GROVE

SPRING | SUMMER | FALL | WINTER

Adventure

LIVE.

Live in a thriving community where all the modern comforts you need are all within your tangible reach.

VISIT.

Visit a city that takes care of its surroundings, and actively strives to be a fun and welcoming place for everyone.

WORK.

Work in an environment filled with go-getters that inspire you to aspire for more in your career.

PLAY.

Play and have fun in exceptional developments designed for shopping, sports, leisure and recreation.

Explore

ADVENTURE IS WAITING FOR YOU

Did you know? Cottage Grove has 38 parks that are available for residents and visitors to enjoy. Each park offers something different. Come see for yourself!

PARKS & RECREATION

At Cottage Grove, our mission is to create and promote policies, programs and places that enable active living to improve health, well-being, education and vitality to our community.

PARKS, OPEN SPACES & ATTRACTIONS



WOODRIDGE PARK

In 2013, Cottage Grove had a dream to build a 'destination', a park for everyone. The mission was to design a safe and inclusive community playground that will foster friendships, personal growth, learning and fun for all abilities.



HIGHLANDS PARK

With 65 acres to enjoy, Highlands Park is equipped with a baseball field, soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, ice skating rink, rolling grasslands, woodlands and wetlands. Highlands has great picnicking or resting areas located along the pond.



GLACIAL VALLEY PARK

Our newest community park includes sports fields, basketball/pickleball courts, a large playground, picnic shelters, an ice skating rink and open space to enjoy. The park also includes a 1,200 square foot building that is designed for multi-use programming/rentals.



MISSISSIPPI DUNES RESERVE

The Mississippi River is a defining feature for many communities along its banks. Nestled along the Mississippi River, Cottage Grove has the dream of improving public access to the River in an effort to expand upon nature-based recreational opportunities and native landscape restoration. Come enjoy the beautiful Mississippi Dunes Park Reserve.



HAMLET PARK

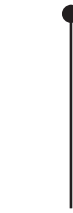
With more than 150 acres of park and open space, Hamlet Park is home to one of the most beautiful trail systems. Along this trail, you'll see nature at its finest by weaving through ponds, waterways, woods and grasses.



HAZEN P. MOOERS PARK

This park is tucked away on Grey Cloud Trail South on Grey Cloud Island. Hazen P. Mooers Park offers fishing opportunities, picnicking, kayak and canoe rentals and a terrific place for nature watching on the Mississippi River.

PARKS, OPEN SPACES & ATTRACTIONS



COTTAGE GROVE RAVINE REGIONAL PARK

This 515-acre park holds beautiful hills, a lake, miles of cross-country skiing trails, paved trails, a picnic pavilion and heavily wooded ravines. Come embrace the many activities and events held at Ravine Regional Park!



PINE TREE POND PARK

Pine Tree Pond Park consists of 25 acres of beautiful open space. Pine Tree Pond Park has a basketball court, play structure and picnic tables. Pine Tree Pond is also home to the only Archery Range in Cottage Grove.



KINGSTON PARK

Kingston is home to a large soccer complex, basketball courts, tennis courts, a large play structure, open spaces and great trails.



CAMEL'S HUMP

Known for its overlook of scenic bluff views, Camel's Hump is a great place to come enjoy the simplistic sights and sounds of nature.



LAMAR FIELDS

Located in East Cottage Grove on nearly 21 acres, Lamar Fields is known for its adult softball complex and bocce ball courts.



OAKWOOD PARK

Boasting some of Cottage Grove's most beautiful natural resources, it is home to a nature-based playground and a picnic pavilion.



WEST DRAW PARK

Home to the popular 2.4-acre bike park, which includes a pump track, dirt jumps, a mountain bike skills area and a mountain cross track.



DODGE NATURE CENTER

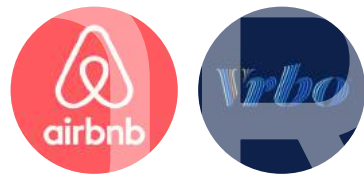
Dodge Nature Center is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide exceptional experiences in nature through environmental education.

LODGING

Home of the Tree House Suite and Corn Crib Cottage, Hope Glen Farm is a historic and picturesque farm located proudly in the heart of Cottage Grove, Minnesota. It is surrounded by the majestic 500 acre Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, which offers scenic views and a serene backdrop for your wedding or special event.



The four-story Tree House Suite is unlike any other! It has four outdoor decks, two fireplaces, and a full kitchen. But it doesn't stop there! Pamper yourself in our two-person jetted jacuzzi tub and rain shower. Equipped with heated floors, this luxurious suite is built for any time of the year! The Tree House Suite is complimentary with full day wedding rentals at the farm. However, you can also rent the suite on Airbnb, Vrbo or at treehousefarmlodging.com

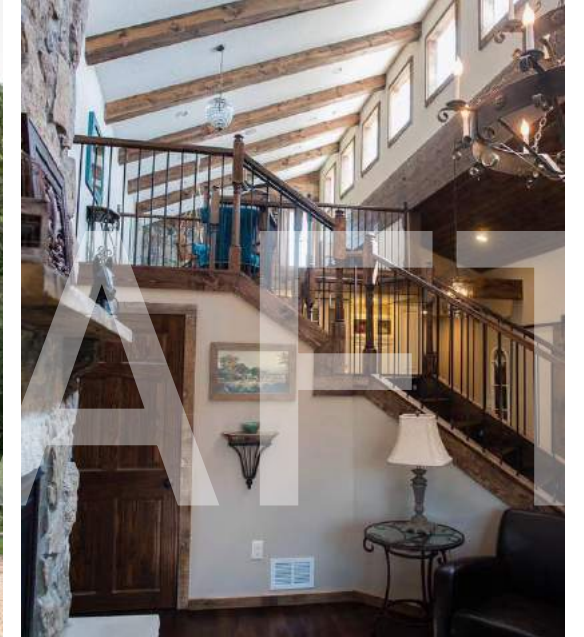


*Photo Credit: Kelly Birch Photography
info@kellybirch.com | kellybirch.com*



TREE HOUSE SUITE

The Tree House Suite is a 1,200 sq. ft. house situated in a 150 year old burr white oak tree.



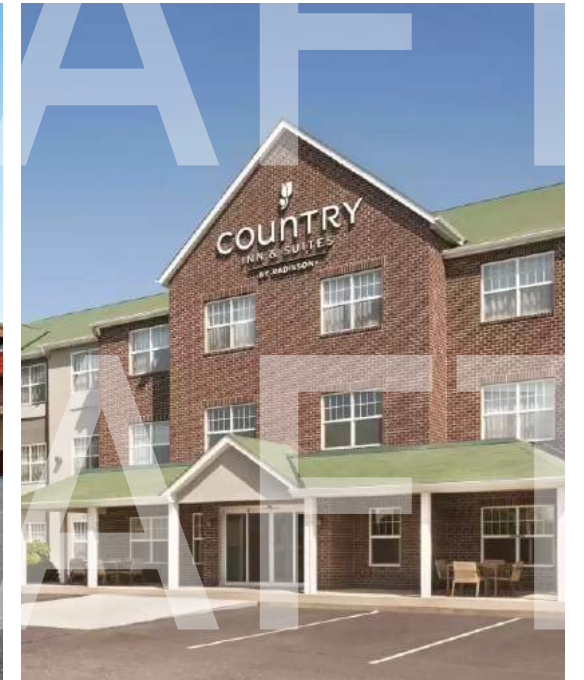
CORN CRIB COTTAGE

An elegant rustic cottage, perfect for a romantic getaway or a relaxing, luxurious staycation.



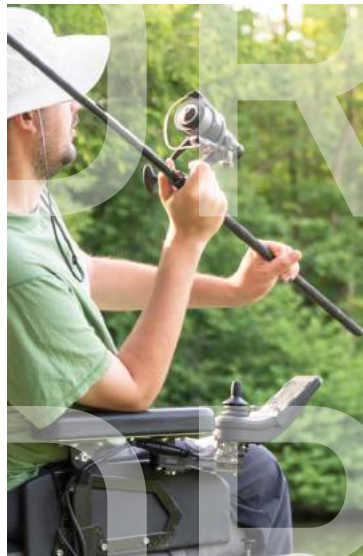
WAKOTA INN

Located right off Highway 61 and 80th Street, Wakota Inn is positioned for your convenience.



COUNTRY INN AND SUITES

A perfect place to stay for those who want the comforts of home but need to stay connected.



ACCESSIBLE COTTAGE GROVE

Cottage Grove's commitment to creating accessible parks demonstrates its dedication to ensuring that individuals of all abilities can experience the beauty and benefits of nature. By providing wheelchair-accessible recreation attractions, such as the inclusive playground, Cottage Grove has created an environment where everyone can come together and enjoy the outdoors and recreational opportunities without limitations or barriers.

The concept of accessible parks has gained significant attention in recent years, as communities strive to create spaces that are welcoming and accommodating to individuals with disabilities. Accessible parks offer features such as wheelchair-accessible pathways, adaptive swings and slides, sensory play areas, and inclusive seating options. These purposeful additions allow individuals with disabilities to fully participate in recreational activities alongside their peers.

Beyond the inclusive playground, Cottage Grove hosts 2,200 acres of parkland and offers miles of paved paths for all to enjoy. Come explore Camel's Hump, Cottage Grove Trailway Corridor, Hamlet Park, Kingston Park, Ravine Regional Park, and more!

In 2013, the Cottage Grove City Council embarked on a visionary project to build a park that would serve as a destination for people from all walks of life. Recognizing the importance of inclusivity, a citizen task force was formed with the specific goal of designing a safe and inclusive community playground. As the project progressed the aim was clear, to create an environment that would not only provide recreational opportunities but also foster friendships, personal growth, and social integration by providing opportunities for people with diverse abilities to interact and engage in shared experiences.

Key components of the Cottage Grove Inclusive Playground include:

- 100% accessible surfacing
- 82 pieces of equipment suited for a variety of ages and abilities
- Large outdoor musical section
- Many aspects of the play space are sensory
- Nature-based playground design created around amenities already featured at Woodridge Park
- Playground sections designed for younger child and toddlers
- Several playground elements allow children of any physical ability to play
- Unique landforms make the playground more accessible

The development of accessible parks represents a significant step towards creating more inclusive communities. They serve as catalysts for building empathy, understanding, and acceptance within communities. By prioritizing accessibility in park design and fostering an environment that supports personal growth and friendship among individuals of all abilities, cities like Cottage Grove are setting an inspiring example for others to follow.

WEDDING VENUES: HOPE GLEN FARM

10276 E. Point Douglas Road South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
612-202-2886 | hopeglenfarm.com

If your dream wedding is a combination of elegant and rustic, Hope Glen Farm is the place for you to say “I do!”

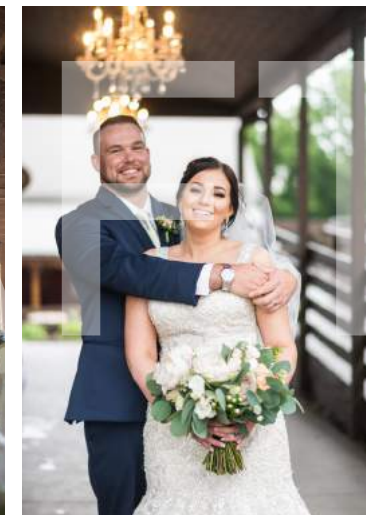
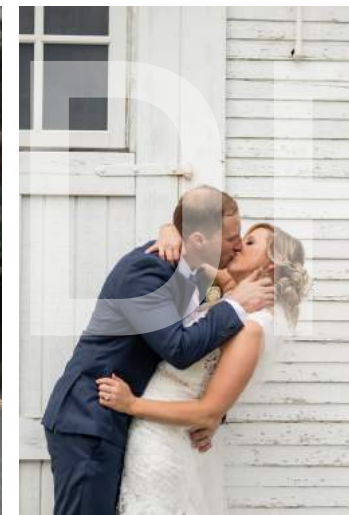
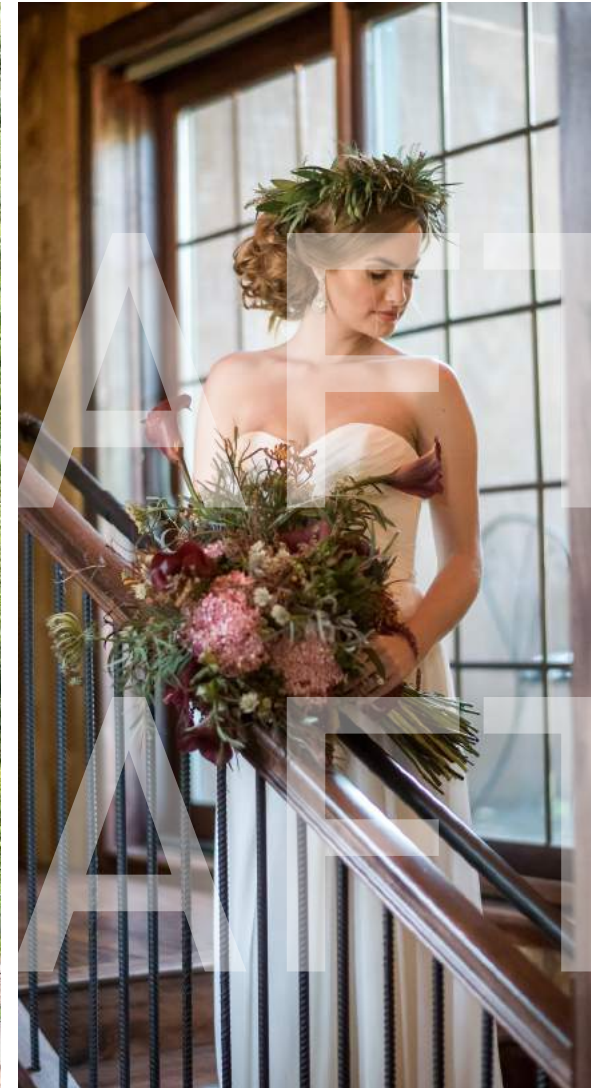
The historic and picturesque farm is surrounded by the serene views of the 500-acre Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park and boasts five buildings in which to host your wedding, including a restored Civil War-era barn and large pavilion.

One of the best parts? Your big day is made easier because you can have your ceremony and reception all in one place! The farm’s peaceful pasture provides the perfect backdrop for your vows. Enjoy an indoor/outdoor happy hour before moving to the pavilion for your reception. Afterwards you will end the night in the historic barn dancing with your guests.

Don’t worry! Hope Glen also has special bride and groom suites to get ready for your big day.



Photo Credit: Kelly Birch Photography
info@kellybirch.com | kellybirch.com





WEDDING VENUES: JOHN P. FURBER FARM

7310 Lamar Ave South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651-336-4421 | johnpfurberfarm.com

Gothic architecture comes together with a gorgeous scenic natural landscape to provide a unique and special backdrop for your wedding at John P. Furber Farm. If you want to host a big event that will be the talk of the town, Furber Farm has got you covered with enough room for up to 500 guests.

The centerpiece of the farm is a gothic, arched-roof dairy barn built in the 1940s that adds to the rustic elegance that will make your wedding day unforgettable.

The farm offers both an indoor and outdoor option for your reception and the staff will be right by your side to make sure your special day is as fun and stress-free as possible.

Located in a small rural community, and only minutes from the Twin Cities, John P. Furber Farm has what you are looking for! It is surrounded by woods, pastures, farm fields and parks. Making this one of the most esthetically pleasing venues to tie the knot at.



Photo Credit: Kelly Birch Photography
info@kellybirch.com | kellybirch.com

WEDDING VENUES: RIVER OAKS

11099 Highway 61
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651-438-2121 | riveroaksmunigolf.com

Breathtaking views of the Mississippi River Valley coupled with an elegant venue, delectable food and friendly staff make River Oaks Golf Course and Event Center the perfect place for your big day.

River Oaks takes the stress out of your wedding day so you can enjoy your time celebrating your new life together with your family and friends.

Guests will have plenty of places to comfortably enjoy sweeping views of the golf course and the Mississippi River Valley, which are both great spots to have photos taken.

River Oaks staff pride themselves on their hands-on approach, helping you with delicious food selection, room set-up, and any last-minute details. They will work hard to ensure your wedding is perfect and unique. Contact River Oaks Golf Course and Event Center today for a free tour!



© Tessa Soukup Photography



© Tessa Soukup Photography





Eat

PIZZA, TACOS & BURGERS ... OH MY!

With several outdoor eating options – sit back, relax and enjoy the scenery of our charming patios. We hope you brought your appetite!

LAS MARGARITAS

For those seeking to enjoy authentic mexican food, look no further than Las Margaritas. Enjoy their ice-cold margaritas and famous cheese dip, while relaxing on their outdoor patio.

RESTAURANTS & PATIOS



EAGLES BAR & GRILL AT RIVER OAKS

Eagles Bar & Grill is a must stop in the summer. Their expansive patio overlooks the beautiful views of River Oaks Golf Course. Here you can enjoy their latest food creations and signature cocktails.

JUNCTION 70

Whether you’re looking for beer-battered cheese curds and Coors Light, or a Rye Manhattan with a 14 oz. pecan-wood smoked ribeye, Junction 70 has something for all cravings during any time of day.

MUDDY COW BAR & GRILL

This locally-owned bar and grill offers delectable appetizers, salads and burgers. Located just north of 80th Street South and East Point Douglas, stop by to enjoy 2-for-1 drinks all day, every day.

VFW POST 8752

All are welcome to come enjoy our events, rental space, and menu. Whether you’re looking to host a wedding, or take advantage of a Friday night with no cooking, the VFW in Cottage Grove invites you!

Pizza Favorites

BELLA PIZZA

Bella Pizza is a Chicago-style pizzeria owned by a 30-year resident of Cottage Grove. They offer a full menu, or during lunch hours, pizza-by-the-slice. Don’t forget to try their pizza fries while you’re there!

CARBONE’S KITCHEN & PUB

Carbone’s Kitchen & Pub is known for more than their thin crust pizza. They also offer a variety of sauces, soups and home-cooked foods like BBQ ribs, fried chicken, burgers, and a full bar.

CASSINI’S PIZZA

Cassini’s has been family-owned and operated in Cottage Grove for over 20 years! They offer daily pizza specials, and unique specialty pizzas such as “The Real Dill”, “The Big Mac Pizza” or “Griddy”.

PIZZA RANCH

New to Cottage Grove, we welcome an all-time favorite with buffet, carry-out, delivery and catering options. All are welcome to come enjoy the highly-rated FunZone Arcade, packed with hours of fun.

DIRECTIONS

In a medium bowl, combine flour, sugar, lemon peel and vanilla. Make well in center, add egg yolk and butter. Mix with fingertips until dough cleans side of bowl. Form into a ball and wrap in waxed paper. Refrigerate for 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease the bottom and side of a 9" springform pan. Remove the side from the pan. Roll 1/3 of dough on bottom of springform pan; trim edge of dough. Bake 8-10 minutes, or until golden brown.

Meanwhile, divide dough into 3 parts. Roll each part into a 2 1/2" strip, 10" long. Put together springform pan, with the baked crust on the bottom. Fit dough strips to side of pan, joining ends to line inside completely. Trim dough so it comes only 3/4 up the side of the pan. Refrigerate until ready to fill. Preheat oven to 500 degrees.

Make the filling: In a large bowl, combine cream cheese, sugar, flour, lemon and orange peel, and vanilla. Beat at high speed, just to blend. Beat in eggs and egg yolks, one at a time. Add cream, beating just until well combined. Pour mixture into springform pan. Bake 10 minutes. Reduce temperature to 250 degrees and bake 1 hour longer.

Let cheesecake cool on wire rack. Glaze top with strawberries. Refrigerate for at least 3 hours or overnight. To serve, loosen pastry from side of pan with spatula. Remove side of springform pan. Cut cheesecake into wedges.



STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE

WENDY DELMORE**TOP CHEF CONTEST**

Award: First Place, Strawberry Fest
Category: Cakes or Pies

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup of flour, sifted
- 1/4 cup of sugar
- 1 teaspoon of grated lemon peel
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg yolk
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 5 packages of cream cheese (8 oz.), softened
- 1 3/4 cup of sugar
- 3 tablespoons of flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons of grated lemon peel
- 1 1/2 teaspoons of grated orange peel
- 1/4 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 5 eggs
- 2 egg yolks
- 1/4 cup of heavy cream
- frozen strawberries, thawed

STRAWBERRY NUTELLA PASTRIES

KATE REDMOND

TOP CHEF CONTEST

Award: First Place, Strawberry Fest
Category: Juniors Division, Chef's Choice

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups of flour
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 2 1/2 sticks of unsalted butter
- 2/3 cup of cold water
- 1 tablespoon of hazelnut
- Fresh strawberries
- Powdered sugar
- Eggs

DIRECTIONS

Prepare pastry dough. Chill, roll out dough, cut into squares, add 1 tablespoon of hazelnut. Spread and sliced strawberries. Add/brush egg wash.

Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes and then dust with powdered sugar.





Play

**STAY ACTIVE,
STAY HEALTHY**

Cottage Grove is a fantastic community with more than 2,200 acres of park land open for all ages to enjoy.

TRY NEW EXPERIENCES

Our community offers a wide variety of activities to keep your family entertained. Cool off at the splash pad, glide in our paddleboats, or bike the trails – your opportunities are endless.

**TOP 6 THINGS TO DO
IN COTTAGE GROVE**



GOLF

River Oaks Golf Course offers an impressive 18-hole public golf course featuring a beautiful view of the Mississippi River. Take advantage of Toptracer Range, the ultimate practice tool.



PICKLEBALL

Experience the thrill of pickleball at one of our courts: Glacial Valley Park, Granada Park, Cedarhurst Meadows and Sunyhill Park. It is the fastest growing sport, three years in a row!



SNOWSHOE RENTAL

Embrace the cold by visiting Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park. Here you can practice many hobbies including: ice fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing and snow shoeing.



BIKE & SKATE PARKS

Advance your cycle skills at Cottage Grove Bike Park located at West Draw Park. After that, head on over to Hamlet Park where you'll find bank ramps, half pipes, grind ledges and more.



DISC GOLF

Oakwood Park is home to the Cottage Grove Disc Golf Course. With over 36 acres of park land, the premier course has hosted national and world disc golf tournaments.



KAYAK & CANOE RENTALS

Venture out to Hazen P. Mooers Park where you can kayak the Mississippi River back waters. The rental system is completely self-accessible by phone or computer, reservations are required.

VISIT

Shepard Farm

the nature center in your neighborhood



DODGE
NATURE CENTER

Shepard Farm

70th Street S & Jamaica Avenue

Free trails
open every day,
sunrise to sunset

Nature programs
Garden plots
Beekeeping classes
Summer camps

DodgeNatureCenter.org/
Shepard-Farm



Welcome to Afton Apple! We are a family owned and operated orchard of over 250 acres in the heart of the St. Croix Valley. We are proud to serve our community with fresh apples, raspberries, strawberries, pumpkins and more, picked right at the peak of perfection! Families and friends of all ages enjoy our 15-acre corn maze, hayrides, playground, petting farm and other adventures that you'll find only at our farm!

A legendary experience.



River Oaks is more than an 18-hole municipal golf course and driving range. We also offer a beautiful space to host your wedding or special event, and a fully stocked Bar & Grill.

riveroaksmunigolf.com | (651) 438-2121



Fall Family Fun

- Pre-Picked And Pick-Your-Own Apples and Pumpkins
- Potted Fall Mums, Squash and Gourds
- Live Music and Food
- Country Store
- Open Daily 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
September - October
- Learn more at whistlingwellfarm.com

8973 ST. CROIX TRAIL SOUTH, HASTINGS, MN



14421 90th St. S., Hastings, MN
aftonapple.com | (651) 436-8385

Events

STRAWBERRY FEST AT KINGSTON PARK

JUNE 20-23, 2024

9195 75th St S
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
cottagegrovestrawberryfest.com

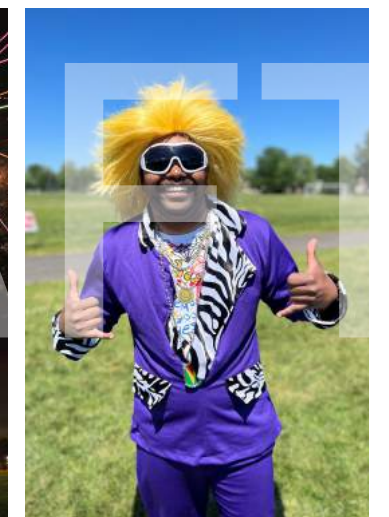
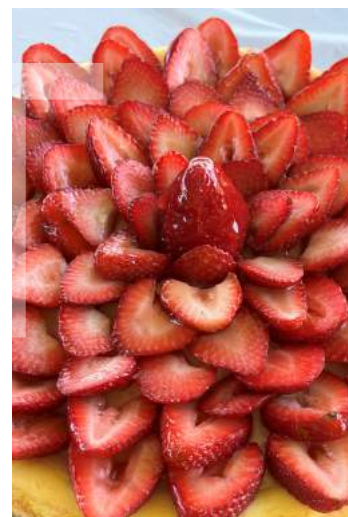
Strawberry Fest is a four-day, family-focused event that offers something for everyone. With approximately 25,000 people in attendance, folks can enjoy wonderful food, LIVE music, carnival rides, and more!

Neighbors, family and friends from Cottage Grove and surrounding areas come to the event to celebrate the kick-off to summer.

Cottage Grove's rich history includes multiple strawberry fields dotting the city's landscape. People would carry home buckets filled to the brim with juicy berries, turning them into delicious treats for everyone to enjoy. That's why our annual community festival has a strawberry theme – to keep that connection to our past alive!

Strawberry Fest is coordinated solely by community volunteers whose goal is to make as much of the event free to the public as possible. There is no admission fee or cost to watch the main stage events or live entertainment. Strawberry Fest's mission is to bring the whole community together.

Strawberry Fest is one of the community's favorite events each year. We hope you'll join us for some fun, food and friendships.





FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL AT KINGSTON PARK

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

9195 75th St S
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
discovercottagegrove.com
[/foodtruckfestival](https://www.instagram.com/foodtruckfestival)

Calling all food truck fans! The Cottage Grove Food Truck Festival hosted by Discover Cottage Grove is coming back to town on Saturday, Sept. 14!

This family-friendly, annual event features food trucks selling their unique street eats, global cuisines and delectable desserts.

Attendees also get to enjoy free entertainment, free admission, free parking, beer garden brews and more!

Sit back and enjoy a beautiful Minnesota autumn day while the kids play on the playground, jump on the bounce house or participate in the kids activities.

All are welcome, so be sure to join us where there is something for everyone to enjoy.





MONSTER BASH PARADE

Join us for this Strawberry Fest-hosted tradition held the Saturday before Halloween. All are welcome to dress up and participate.



HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA

Hosted by Dodge Nature Center, families can delight in hayrides, face painting, games and activities, live music and more.



SKATING SPOOKTACULAR

The Cottage Grove Ice Arena transforms the rink into a family-friendly, spooky experience complete with music, lights, fog and more!

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



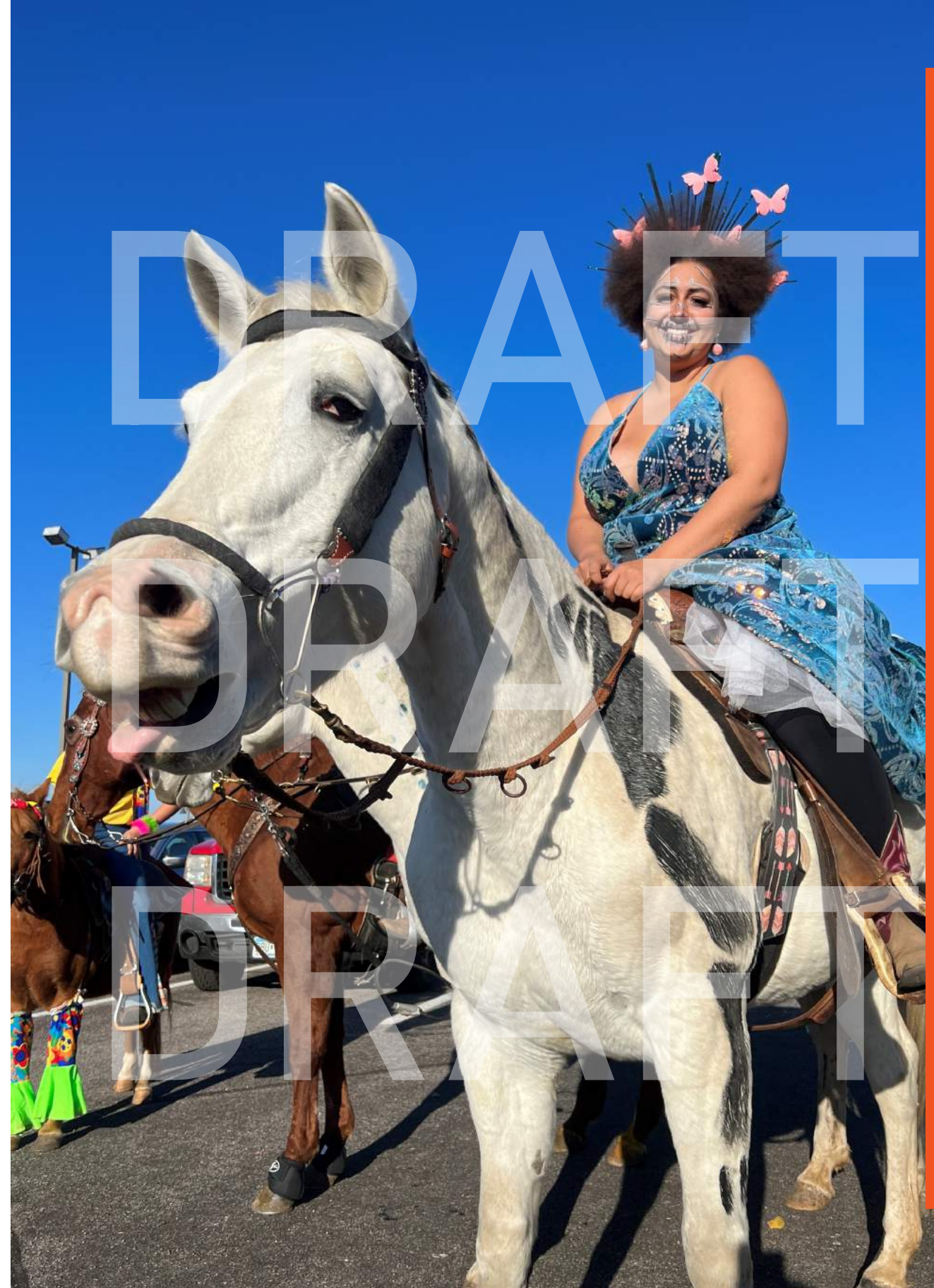
PUMPKIN CHUCK

Toss it. Launch it. Roll it down a slide. Join us after Halloween for your chance to dispose of your seasonal pumpkins in a fun way.



THE HAUNTING EXPERIENCE

Every Halloween, a frightening fever sweeps the area with thrilling hayrides, creepy mazes, haunted houses and spooky creatures.





HOLIDAYS IN THE GROVE



FALL FUN FEST

If you're looking for an activity that is less scary and more playful, visit Fall Fun Fest for Halloween attractions that are perfect for kids.



HALE TO THE BIRD 5K

Occurring annually on Thanksgiving morning, this 5K marathon supports the Friends in Need Food Shelf and is open to all who register.



HOMETOWN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Visit city hall for a night of holiday cheer with Santa, Mrs. Claus, LIVE reindeer, food trucks, kid's activities, bonfires and hayrides.



CPKC HOLIDAY TRAIN

This brightly lit holiday train swings by our area yearly, bringing a seasonal performance with it. Join us for food, fun and more!



SANTA BREAKFAST & SLEIGH RIDE

Spend a morning at River Oaks Golf Course with Santa. Enjoy a tasty breakfast, snap a few photos and enjoy a free sleigh ride.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Cottage Grove is not just your typical city. We are a vibrant community that thrives on outdoor adventures and wellness. With over 2,200 acres of picturesque parkland waiting to be explored, there's something here for everyone to enjoy. Join us in embracing the many benefits of outdoor living.

The park system is extensive and includes:

- 18-hole golf course
- 38 neighborhood parks, 10 trails located within the city
- Nearly 100 miles of trails & sidewalks
- Indoor three-sheet ice arena facility
- Natural open spaces
- Outdoor skating rinks
- Park buildings for rent
- Paved and natural trail systems
- Play structures
- Sports fields
- Hammocking spaces

FARMER'S MARKET

Beginning June 23 through October 13, every Thursday, join us between 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. at the United Church of Christ parking lot for a delightful experience celebrating fresh, locally grown produce and handmade goods.

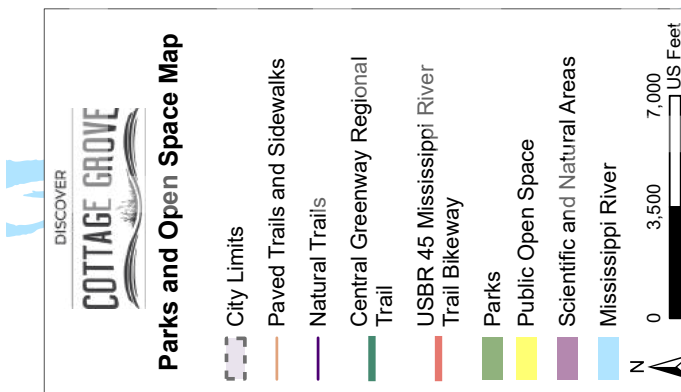
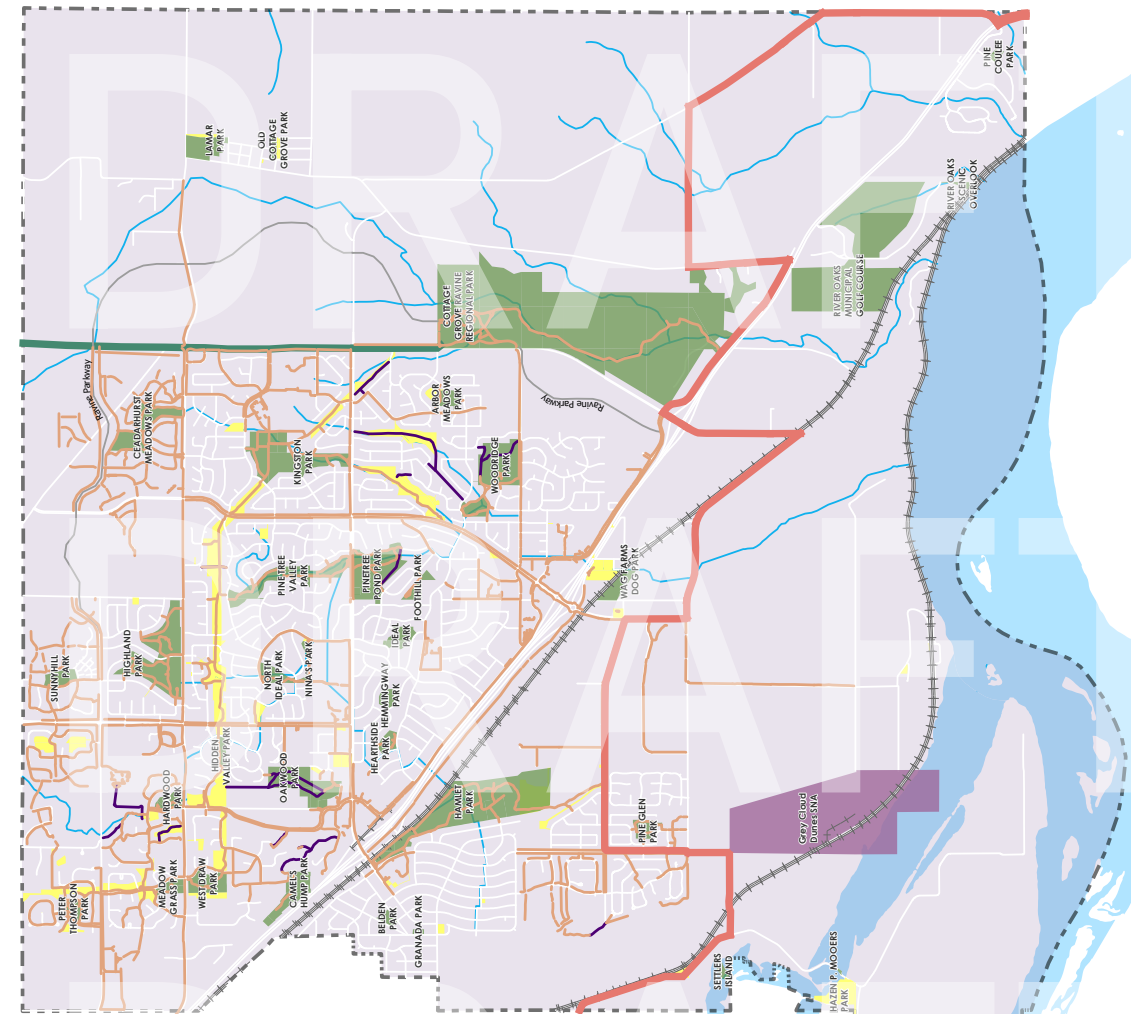
Mark your calendars, gather your reusable bags, and come out to enjoy a vibrant atmosphere filled with delicious treats and unique finds that are sure to brighten your day! Let's celebrate freshness, creativity and community at Cottage Grove Farmers Market!



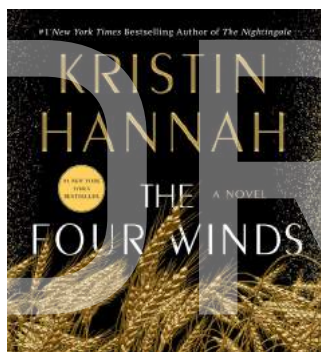
© Nathan Klok



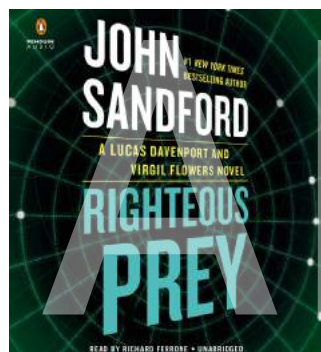
COTTAGE GROVE PARKS & OPEN SPACES



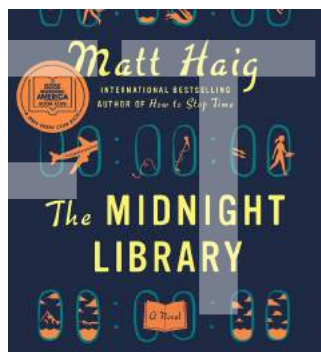
TOP 12 BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



THE FOUR WINDS
 Author: Kristin Hannah
 Genre: Adult Fiction **4.30**
 ★★★★★



RIGHTEOUS PREY
 Author: John Sandford
 Genre: Adult Fiction **4.42**
 ★★★★★

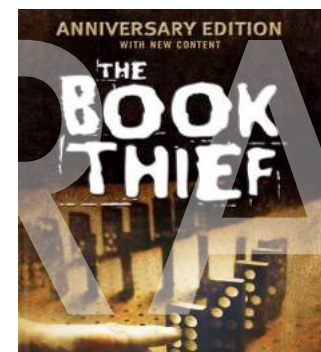


THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY
 Author: Matt Haig
 Genre: Adult Fiction **4.00**
 ★★★★★

TOP 12 BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



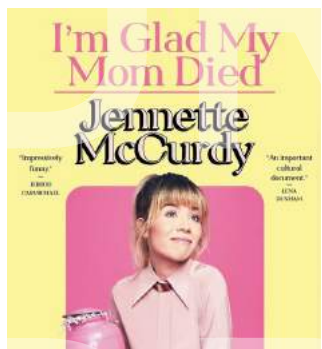
TO ALL THE BOYS I'VE LOVED BEFORE
 Author: Jenny Han
 Genre: Teen Fiction **4.04**
 ★★★★★



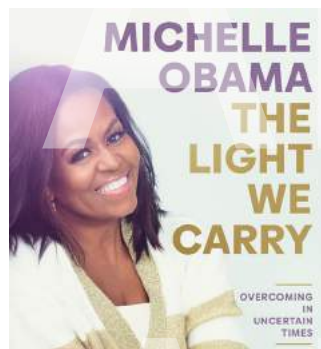
THE BOOK THIEF
 Author: Markus Zusak
 Genre: Teen Fiction **4.39**
 ★★★★★



CARAVAL
 Author: Stephanie Garber
 Genre: Teen Fiction **3.99**
 ★★★★★



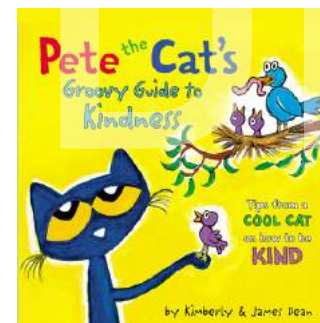
I'M GLAD MY MOM DIED
 Author: Jennette McCurdy
 Genre: Non-Fiction **4.47**
 ★★★★★



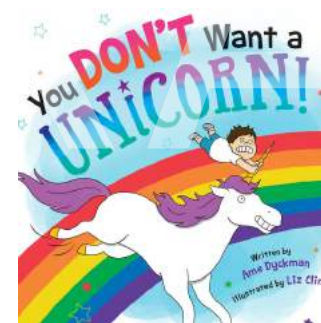
THE LIGHT WE CARRY
 Author: Michelle Obama
 Genre: Non-Fiction **4.27**
 ★★★★★



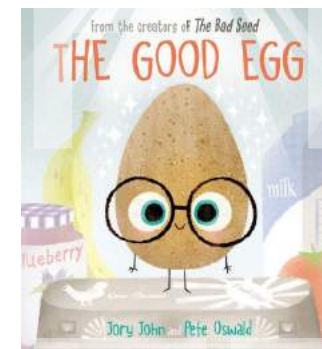
SPARE
 Author: Prince Harry
 Genre: Non-Fiction **3.87**
 ★★★★★



GROOVY GUIDE TO KINDNESS
 Author: Kimberly Dean
 Genre: Picture Books **3.67**
 ★★★★★



YOU DON'T WANT A UNICORN!
 Author: Ame Dyckman
 Genre: Picture Books **4.12**
 ★★★★★



THE GOOD EGG
 Author: Jory John, Pete Oswald
 Genre: Picture Books **4.35**
 ★★★★★

PARK GROVE LIBRARY 7900 Hemingway Ave S, Cottage Grove, MN 55016
 We've provided you with a list of Top Books in 2023. Interested in reading one? Anyone who lives in or pays property taxes in Washington County is eligible for a free library card.

DOWNLOAD THE GOODREADS APP!
 A digital library, right at your fingertips! See why others are raving about the many features of goodreads.

Ratings sourced from:
 ★★★★★

2024 EVENT CALENDAR

SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Cottage Grove Egg Hunt	Fourth of July Fireworks	Food Truck Festival	Hometown Holiday Celebration
Cinco De Mayo @ Las Margaritas	Summer Market in the Ravine	Afton Apple Flower Festival	Dust 'Em Off Vintage Snowmobile Show and Swap
Spring Planting Parties @ Zyweic's	One Family Sports Fest	The Haunting Experience	Holiday Lights Tour Map
	Food Truck Thursdays @ City Hall (Every Thursday)	Fall Fun Fest @ Zywiec's	Santa Breakfast and Sleigh Ride
	Farmer's Market Opens (Every Thursday)	Skating Spooktacular	2024 CPKC Holiday Train
	Strawberry Fest	Monster Bash Parade	Winter Maker's Market in the Ravine
		Halloween Extravaganza	Blizzard Bash
		Pumpkin Chuck	
		Hale to the Bird 5K Marathon	
		Rooted in Junk	



2023 CAPTURE COTTAGE GROVE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



TANK'S FAMILY FARM

Author: Isaac Pavek
 Category: Business in Cottage Grove



COOLING OFF WITH SPARKY

Author: Gwen Martin
 Category: Celebration and Events



ON CLOUD 9

Author: Michelle Wind
 Category: Life in Cottage Grove



FALL BLISS

Author: Isaac Pavek
 Category: Parks and Landmarks

We want to see YOUR experiences here, in Cottage Grove. Snap a cool photo recently? Send it our way! We love to share fun memories on our social media pages. Let's be friends! @DiscoverCottageGrove or use our hashtag #DiscoverCottageGrove



DISCOVER
COTTAGE GROVE

Cottage Grove Convention & Visitors Bureau
12800 Ravine Parkway South, Cottage Grove, MN 55016

DiscoverCottageGrove.com