

Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Trail Lighting



Trail lighting at Lake Elmo Park Reserve

Washington County requests **\$3 million in state funds** for trail lighting in Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.

Issue At-A-Glance

- Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park is in the City of Cottage Grove and consists of over 500 acres of hills and forested ravines. The most popular park feature is the 12 miles of trails for walkers, hikers, bicyclists, skiers, snowshoers, and other park visitors. It is one of the fastest growing parks in Washington County and located in one of the fastest developing areas of the region.
- Lighting 5 kilometers of trail will expand the park's year-round use, improving visitor experience and safety. The shorter daylight hours in fall and winter limit the use of the park, which is especially limiting during cross-country ski season.
- There is strong support from the community for this project, especially from skiers, hikers, and trail runners. The park has the ideal terrain, elevation, and facilities to accommodate larger events, team practices, and high school meets.
- This trail lighting project would advance the vision for the trailhead and trail network at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park by leveraging over \$3 million in recent investments that Washington County has already made, including Ravine Landing — a multiuse facility and trailhead that has dramatically expanded the park's programming and event capacity for trail users, cross-country skiing, and more.



**150,000 - 180,000
annual visitors.**

Source: Washington County Parks estimate.

Support

- City of Cottage Grove
- Metropolitan Council

Previous Considerations

This project was submitted for consideration in 2024 and 2025.

No Action

If the state funds are not provided, Washington County will have to seek other funding sources, and the project may be delayed or not built.

Financial Implications

Washington County expenses to date: Ravine Landing facility and trailhead (completed 2021)

- Washington County: \$3.8 million

Trail lighting

- **State of Minnesota: \$3 million**

Total estimated project cost: \$6.8 million

