



Hidden Valley Fishing Pier Opens!

South of the intersection of 70th Street and Hardwood Avenue in Cottage Grove is a five acre park known as the Hidden Valley Pond. A former aggregate mining area, this pond was deeded to the City in 1998 as part of the construction of Hardwood Avenue. Hardwood Avenue was designed as a scenic roadway connection between the housing in the West Draw neighborhoods and the Gateway North commercial district. Much of the woodland along Hardwood Avenue is City owned open space. The pond has become one of the visual anchors along this corridor which is also connected to the 14 acre Hidden Valley Park (with open space and a playground) and Hinton Avenue via the City trail network.

In 2005 the City worked with the Minnesota DNR to make the Hidden Valley Pond a fishing opportunity for surrounding neighborhoods and the community. For the past three years the City Recreation Department has been hosting a “Bring a Child Fishing” event each June. The event draws over 300 people annually to learn fishing techniques from the DNR, to understand water quality and animal/fish habitat issues, and to learn more about Cottage Grove parks. Most importantly, the event is a great opportunity to have fun fishing with family and friends. DNR regulations apply at this pond for the event and throughout the year including a required fishing license for adults.

This year the City has expanded accessibility to the pond with a trail leading to a new fishing pier as well as a viewing deck for those interested in a shaded respite while overlooking the pond. Trail access to the pier and viewing deck is on 73rd Street just east of Hardwood Avenue. The park does not have designated parking but is easily accessible from the Timber Ridge and Hidden Valley subdivisions on either side of Hardwood Avenue.

Additional tree planting is desired for this park as well as along the Hardwood Avenue corridor. For more information on donation opportunities to this park or the park system generally please contact Zac Dockter at 458.3415.