



SNAP A SELFIE WITH OTTO THE OTTER

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By Heather Rule, photos provided

The Fergus Falls Otters isn't just a nickname. The larger-than-life otter statue is a can't-miss attraction in Adams Park near Grotto Lake. Stop by and snap a selfie with Otto the Otter!



Otto is the world's largest otter sculpture, standing at 15 feet tall and 40 feet long. It's a perfect roadside attraction. The idea and creation of the project started in a high school classroom, and now it's stood in the local park for more than 50 years.

Otto, made of concrete-covered metal, was created by high school students in 1972 to celebrate the Fergus Falls centennial. It was a high school shop project, led by teacher Tom Willett. The first attempt at building Otto was a bit of a disaster and didn't turn out quite right. But metal artist Steve Jaenisch put the finishing touches on the final otter, making sure Otto would last for many generations.

The otter statue stands on all four legs, with its tail sweeping around the back. It's surrounded by a pit of contained gravel separating it from the grassy park.

The smiling otter overlooking the lake is a symbol of the city's creativity and love for its mascot. Whether you're a resident, visiting the area, or simply passing through town, seeing a "world's largest" attraction should be a must-see on your travel list. Fergus Falls residents and visitors have a soft spot for the giant and lovable Otto the Otter.

Come to the park to snap a selfie with Otto, and stay to enjoy the playground, scenic view of Grotto Lake and picnic tables near the large otter statue. A picnic table is often placed near Otto, which some people might use as a makeshift ladder. But it's a difficult feat – and dangerous – to climb onto the otter! Please look, but don't touch.

Don't forget to tag your selfies on social media with #OttoTheOtter!

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