



Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration 2023

The 2nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast was on January 16 at Prior Lake High School. Over 300 students, teachers, and community members came together to show unity, promote equity, and embrace our differences. The event featured keynote speaker Jurgis Didžiulis, an internationally renowned musician and humanitarian who spoke on diversity and unity, highlighting the messages of Dr. King in his talk titled "We all Speak Human."



"This event is a wonderful way to authentically engage and join voices as we work to address race, equity, diversity, and inclusion in our communities"

Attendees also had an opportunity to be involved with volunteer service opportunities in the community. This free community event was hosted by the cities of Savage, Prior Lake, Credit River, along with Spring Lake Township, Prior Lake Rotary, Savage Rotary, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, and several other service organizations and faith communities. "This event is a wonderful way to authentically engage and join voices as we work to address race, equity, diversity, and inclusion in our communities," said Savage Mayor Janet Williams.

Good News!

No increase in City's water and sewer rates for three years.

Every three years, the City of Savage completes a Utility Rate Study to evaluate the fiscal health of the Water and Sewer Fund to ensure that the rates keep pace with the cost of providing essential services. Utility revenues are the primary funding source for maintaining and replacing our water and sewer infrastructure. Due to strong fiscal management, the recent study showed the Water and Sewer Fund has a sufficient fund balance, and in December, City Council approved keeping water and sewer rates fixed for years 2023 - 2025.

Savage City Liquor enriches our community



On December 15, 2022, State Auditor Julie Blaha released the 2021 Municipal Liquor Store Operations report at Marketplace Liquor. The report looks at how municipal liquor stores throughout Minnesota fared in 2021. "As a city that has experienced some challenges in years past, the Auditor's Report on Municipal Liquor Operations is a valuable tool to help us evaluate our operations and look at trends," explains Savage Liquor Operations Manager Brenda Visnovc. "Using this information to set goals and key performance measures has helped make our liquor operation financially successful."

How it helps City finances

In the past two years, over \$1 million of revenue from the Savage City Liquor operation has been put back into the community.

- \$400,000 for various park improvements, including the new skate park
- \$350,000 reinvested in the Marketplace Liquor building (roof replacement, parking lot reconstruction, office remodels)
- \$158,000 to rebuild the playground at Community Park
- \$100,000 for Idaho Court Trail improvements
- \$64,000 to install new LED lighting in various city facilities
- \$50,000 for shade and seating structure at the new skate park
- \$50,000 to cover COVID-19 rental revenue losses at the Savage Sports Center
- \$7,000 donation for Dan Patch Days fireworks
- \$6,200 for purchasing Thermal Imaging and Medical Suction equipment for Savage Fire Department
- \$5,000 raised for Carver/Scott County Humane Society
- \$1,670 donation to the Savage Crime Prevention Association

"While the City was already planning to do many of these projects mentioned, having the ability to use liquor funds for all or part of these projects means we don't have to use general fund dollars," explained City Administrator Brad Larson.

History of Savage City Liquor

The City of Savage owns and manages two Savage City Liquor stores, which have been "enriching our community" since 1937. The liquor operation is an Enterprise Fund which means it's an independent business entity. No tax dollars are used to support the liquor operation, but all the profits go back into supporting public projects that benefit our community. In the past, these funds helped service the debt to build the Savage Library and the McColl Pond Environmental Learning and Event Center. In the mid-2000s, big-box retailers began entering the market, and liquor operation sales and profits declined due to this increase in competition. Over the last few years, the City has made several changes to the liquor operation, and sales have steadily improved. In 2020, Savage City Liquor returned to a profitable operation with a positive cash balance.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Update

In early 2021, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) first confirmed an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation in Savage. EAB is an invasive wood beetle whose larvae attack and kill ash trees. EAB larvae tunnel beneath ash bark, cutting off the tree's nutrient supply and leading to tree canopy decline.

Today, the impact of EAB in our community is becoming increasingly more noticeable. An estimated 20-25% of all trees in our community are Ash trees. When EAB first attacks trees, the symptoms are hard to notice. During the second year, woodpecker pecks and thinning foliage begin to be apparent. By the time signs and symptoms of EAB are noticeable on ash trees, the larvae have damaged the tree so much that treatment becomes less effective or is no longer viable for managing the pest, and the tree dies.

Public Ash Trees

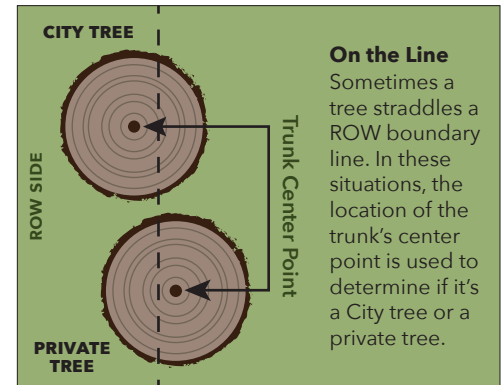
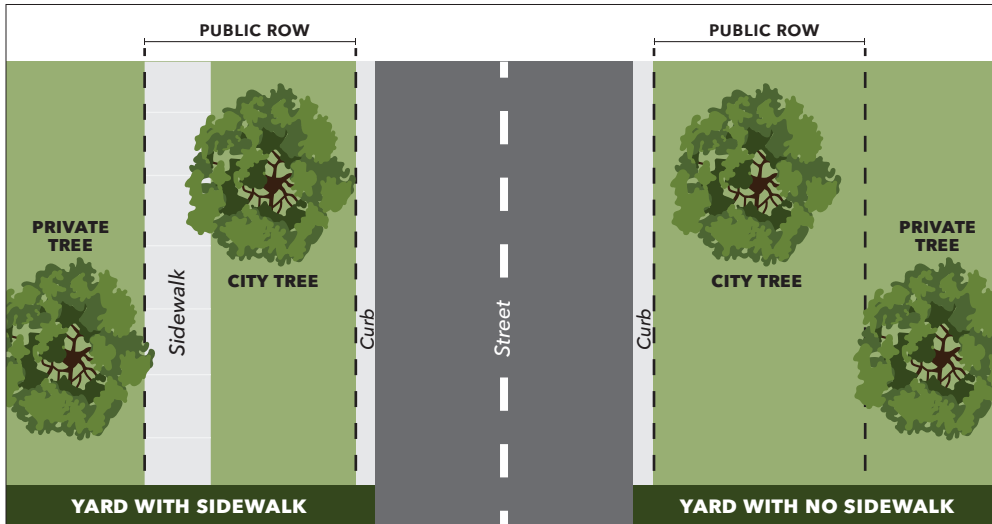
The City maintains all trees on city-owned property, including trees in city parks and within the public right-of-way (ROW). In the summer of 2022, the City completed an inventory of all ash trees on public property to understand better the impact EAB could have on our tree population. Approximately 600 trees were identified, and their current health status was ranked. The City's EAB Management Plan calls for any public ash trees that are dead, nearly dead, or pose a risk to people or property to be tagged and are a priority for removal. Residents with trees growing within the ROW area identified for removal will receive a letter from the city informing them of the removal plan. Trees removed from the ROW will not be replaced at that location. However, the city plans to replant trees throughout the community as the budget allows.

Private Ash Trees

Property owners are responsible for trees on their property that exist outside the right-of-way. The standard ROW is typically 12-15 feet from the back of the curb. If you have one or more ash trees, you should consider whether you want to remove or treat them. If you wish to remove your tree, a list of registered tree contractors/Arborists is available at cityofsavage.com. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) Organics Recycling facility will accept EAB-infested trees and tree parts from private property for a nominal fee. Residents interested in treating their ash trees for EAB to extend the tree's life can take advantage of City contract pricing through Rainbow Treecare. If you are interested in the EAB Treatment Discount Program:

- Call Rainbow Treecare at **952-767-6920**
- Email info@rainbowtreecare.com
- Visit rainbowtreecare.com/savage

Homeowners are responsible for scheduling appointments and the cost of any private treatments.



If you have a question about the location of a tree, don't hesitate to contact our Engineering Division at **952-882-2671**. For more information on Emerald Ash Borer, go to cityofsavage.com or mda.state.mn.us/eab.

Stay informed about upcoming construction projects

Are you curious about construction projects in your neighborhood and throughout Savage? Are you wondering about the timing of various projects? Well, you're in luck. Here is a preview of the larger projects planned for this year. Check out active and upcoming construction projects at cityofsavage.com. For updates, road closures, and detours, follow us on Facebook and Twitter [@cityofsavage](https://twitter.com/cityofsavage).

2023 Neighborhood Street Improvement Project

The 2023 Neighborhood Street Improvement project will include the removal and replacement of approximately 3.22 miles of street surface, partial curb and gutter replacement, and spot repairs to the water, sanitary, and storm systems where needed. Construction is anticipated to begin in May and be completed by September. Streets included in the project are:

Alabama Ave.	O'Connell Road	Woodbridge Drive
143 St.	O'Connell Court	Woodbridge Lane
144 St.	Vernon Ave.	Princeton Ave.
144 Court	Utica Ave.	143 Circle
South Park Drive	Salem Ave.	

The replacement of a Centerpoint Energy 12-inch gas pipeline within the proposed improvement project area will also be replaced during this reconstruction process.

Eagle Creek Parkway Improvement Project

The Eagle Creek Parkway Improvement project affects approximately 1.55 miles of Eagle Creek Parkway from Preserve Trail to Highway 13. Construction is anticipated to begin in May 2023 and be completed by September 2023.

Idaho Court Trail River Crossing Project

A new trail segment will be installed from the end of the cul-de-sac on Idaho Court to the Credit River. In addition, a new pedestrian bridge will be added so trail users can cross the Credit River and connect to the sidewalk along CR 27. Funding for this project comes from a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Construction is expected to occur in early 2023 and be completed by Fall 2023.

Upcoming community events

Polar Plunge | February 18

Are you ready to take the Plunge? Join local law enforcement to raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota. The Plunge begins at 11 a.m. at Sandy Point Beach, 14349 Crest Ave. NE, Prior Lake. For more information and to register, go to plungemn.org/events/prior-lake/.

More FREE Mental Health Classes

When the City of Savage asked for community input on how to use its \$3.53 million in ARPA funding, you told us there was a need for free, local mental health resources. So, the City of Savage has provided a grant to NAMI to host a series of mental health workshops. All sessions are FREE and open to all.

Good Mental Health in the Workplace

February 7 • 6 - 7 p.m. - VIRTUAL

Learn the five things you can do to create a workplace that values good mental health. Participants will learn how to promote good mental health (including dealing with stress), the common symptoms of a mental illness, how attitudes and language impact people with mental illnesses, and accommodations for a mental illness. This class is for employees, supervisors, organizational leaders, owners, board members, and human resource professionals. Register to get the Zoom link via email at bit.ly/3ZII5qs.

Early Warning Signs of Mental Illness in Youth

March 21 • 6 - 8 p.m.

Harriet Bishop Elementary School • 14400 O'Connell Road (Media Room)

This workshop will help parents, guardians, and foster parents learn early warning signs of mental illnesses and trauma, understand the impact of mental illnesses and trauma on children and youth, and learn strategies to support children who live with mental illness. Suicide warning signs and resources will also be covered. No registration is required.

In Our Own Voice (IOOV)

April 13 • 6 - 7 p.m.

Savage Public Library • 13090 Alabama Ave. (Senior Center Room)

In Our Own Voice is a unique public education program in which trained speakers share compelling personal stories about living with a mental illness and achieving recovery, demonstrating that there is hope for recovery for people with mental illnesses. The presentation includes personal stories, video clips, and an opportunity to ask questions. The IOOV program has touched many lives and is effective in reducing the misperceptions surrounding mental illness. No registration is required.

Nutrition: Eating with Mental Health in Mind

May 9 • 6 - 7 p.m. - VIRTUAL

Gain knowledge on how what we eat affects not only our mood but also our brain chemistry. Learn what makes a complete meal and how to eat that meal mindfully. Register to get the Zoom link via email at bit.ly/3ipJU53.

Physical Activity and Mindfulness: Get up and move with us!

June 6 • 6 - 7 p.m.

McCull Pond ELC, 13550 Dakota Ave.

Learn how physical activity can benefit your mental health. We will be doing breathing exercises and more!

Classes are hosted by NAMI and funded through the City of Savage Coronavirus Relief Fund.



MEET A SAVAGE FIREFIGHTER



These men and women are your neighbors, your co-workers, and your friends. They are people of all ages, races, and backgrounds who are committed to giving back to their community. If you are interested in becoming a Savage firefighter, go to cityofsavage.com.



SAM DOCKRY

How long have you been a Savage firefighter?

I have been a Savage firefighter for just over two months now.

What is your day job?

I am a full-time Savage firefighter and a part-time firefighter for the City of Minnetonka. Before starting at Savage Fire, I was an EMT at Children's Minnesota and M Health Fairview.

What made you want to become a firefighter?

One of the biggest reasons I wanted to be a firefighter was the opportunity to help people each and every day. I also had a hockey coach in college who was a Minneapolis firefighter, and I got to hear stories from him about how much he loved doing this job, which also sparked my interest.

What do you like to do when you are not working or volunteering?

I like to golf as much as possible. And in the summer, I go to the cabin with family and friends whenever I can. In the winter months, I have coached hockey in the past and enjoy playing pickup hockey at the outdoor rinks.

What do you like most about firefighting?

I enjoy the camaraderie with fellow firefighters and the relationships you build. And I also like being a part of a team.

What would you say to someone considering becoming a firefighter?

It is the most rewarding job you can have, and you get the opportunity to serve your community, keep the citizens safe, and make a difference.

Rec Corner

Spring/Summer registration opens March 7

Get ready for summer! Savage Parks and Recreation is bringing the fun! We've been busy planning all the programs kids love, including half-day and full-day playground pals and tiny tots, sports camps, as well as new pickleball camps for all ages. Our programs are an awesome place to make friends, learn new things, play, and have fun. Spring/Summer registration opens Tuesday, March 7 (residents) and March 9 (non-residents). Learn more and register online at cityofsavage.com.

Family Snowshoe Sampler | February 12

Families can enjoy snowshoeing at the McColl Pond ELC in a small group setting. Snowshoes provided. Dress in layers and wear snow or hiking boots. Please bring a bottle of water. Register online at cityofsavage.com.

Registration deadline: February 5

Ages: 5+

Price: \$5 per person

Time: 10-11:15 a.m.

Location: McColl Pond ELC • 13550 Dakota Ave., Savage

Snowshoeing | February 19

Learn about the history of the snowshoe before strapping into a pair of your own! We will look for tracks and other signs of wildlife on this guided snowshoe hike. Please note, snowshoes are provided but participants must come dressed for the weather. We must have a 6-inch snow base to use snowshoes. Offered in collaboration with Carpenter Nature Center. Register online at cityofsavage.com.

Registration deadline: February 12

Ages: All ages, 2 and under are FREE, all persons attending must register.

Price: \$5 per person

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: McColl Pond ELC • 13550 Dakota Ave., Savage

2023 Arbor Day Tree Sale March 20 - April 14

The annual Arbor Day Tree Sale offers residents trees at a discounted price. The intent is to encourage residents to replant a diversity of tree species after a tree is lost to disease, EAB, or storms. Trees must be ordered and paid for online at cityofsavage.com; there is a limit of five trees per household. Trees are sold on a first-come, first-served basis until sold out or until April 14.

Trees will be available for pick up at Public Works, 13770 Dakota Ave., on Saturday, April 29, between 10 a.m. - noon. PLEASE NOTE: Trees can only be ordered online; no trees will be available for purchase on pickup day. This sale is open to all Savage, Prior Lake, Credit River, Spring Lake Township residents.

To learn more and to order, please visit cityofsavage.com.



WE WORK FOR YOU!

ANDY WELDON

Public Works
Superintendent

Tell us what you do for the City.

As the Public Works Superintendent, I help coordinate and prioritize day-to-day maintenance activities for both the Streets and Park Maintenance Divisions. On the park side, my responsibilities include maintaining our park's open areas, play features, trails, shelters, and other equipment in the parks. For streets, it includes patching roads, sweeping, making curb repairs, sidewalk repairs, and maintaining street signs. In addition, I also head up our snow removal operation, which involves a lot of planning, troubleshooting, dealing with equipment/vehicle breakdowns, problem-solving, and customer service.

How long have you worked in the city?

I have worked for the City for just under 21 years.

What do you like about working for the City of Savage?

I enjoy seeing the community grow, and the mix of natural areas and neighborhoods are nice settings to work in.

What's the best part of your job?

I enjoy providing services for our residents. I have a wide variety of tasks which makes every day interesting. And I have excellent co-workers that take a lot of pride in their jobs and are good human beings too!

Leave no pile behind even during the winter months #ScoopThePoop

We love our pups. But did you know that each dog can produce over 250 pounds of waste in a year? That's a lot of poop. And while cleaning up after your dog isn't the most glamorous duty (see what we did there?), have you considered what happens when you don't clean it up? Here are four reasons to scoop the poop:

- #1 Dog poop isn't fertilizer.** Some people mistakenly think it acts as a natural fertilizer. This is simply not true. Cow manure (a good fertilizer) is very different than dog poop (not at all a fertilizer) because of the difference in diets.
- #2. It can cause disease.** The EPA points out that canine poop has more harmful bacteria than human poop. Dog poop has E. coli, giardia, and other germs that can make people and pets sick.
- #3. It pollutes and contaminates our water.** When it rains, pet waste left on trails, sidewalks, and grassy areas can wash into our creeks and ponds and contaminate our water. In addition, animal waste adds nitrogen to the water, reducing oxygen for fish and other animals.
- #4. No one likes to step in pet waste.** It's a matter of respect for other people and our community. Your neighbors will appreciate your good manners.



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