



Addressing safety in our parks update

In April and May 2023, there were two incidents that involved shootings at River Bend Park in Savage. At the time of both incidents, groups of youth were at the park playing basketball. While the basketball players were not involved in the shooting incidents, they were potentially in harm's way. The safety of our residents and park users is our number one priority, so a decision to temporarily remove the basketball hoops was made to reduce the amount of congregating in the park and to keep our kids safe while the City evaluates options on how to increase safety in the park. This decision sparked divided reactions within the community.



Unfortunately, there is no easy answer or solution. City staff met with School District 191 to develop a community engagement plan to listen to and engage the community in making the park safe. This plan was presented to the Community Equity Commission and Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Commission for their feedback before being presented to the City Council for final approval and implementation. The engagement plan included the following:

1. Community Forums

The City hosted three community forums attended by over 200 neighbors, park users, area business owners, and other community members who came to share their concerns and ideas.

2. Expert Interviews

The City interviewed several experts on public safety, equity, culture, and working with youth.

3. Let's Talk Savage

Community members could also post their ideas online at the City's engagement platform, Let's Talk Savage.

Next Steps

City staff has compiled and summarized all the community input gathered from the forums, interviews, and online, into themes for an input report. The input report was shared with the Community Equity Commission and the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Commission at their regularly scheduled July commission meetings for consideration and feedback. Then the final input report will be presented to the City Council at the August 7, 2023, City Council meeting. Residents are invited to attend the Council meeting or go online to letstalksavage.com to read a complete summary of the input gathered, themes, recommendations, and timeline. From here, city staff will explore the feasibility of the ideas generated and present a list of recommendations to the City Council, who are the final decision-makers at a future council meeting.



9/30/23

McCull Pond ELC • 13550 Dakota Ave., Savage

Savage City Liquor, Savage Chamber of Commerce, and Whiskey Inferno are hosting a one-of-a-kind whiskey tasting and rare bottle release party. Sip your way through a large assortment of premium whiskeys, enjoy a cocktail made with a special Knob Creek Single Barrel Bourbon, snack on mouthwatering smoked meats, bid on a silent auction, and stick around for the Whiskey Draft - featuring over 150 different rare and allocated bottles!

Must be 21 or older to attend.

WHISKEY TASTING
2-4 P.M.



SCAN FOR TASTING TICKETS

From moonshine to single malt scotch, your Whiskey Draft ticket includes sampling a variety of whiskies from around the globe, learning from a whiskey expert, and food provided courtesy of Whiskey Inferno.

VIP: \$200 (SOLD OUT)
General Admission: \$50 per person

WHISKEY DRAFT
4:30 P.M.

Join us for this draft event for a chance to purchase rare and unique bottles of whiskey! Lottery tickets will be available for sale starting Friday, September 29, 4-9 p.m. at Whiskey Inferno, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. at Marketplace Liquor, and at the entrance of the Whiskey Draft event starting at 7:30 p.m. No entrance ticket is needed. Every \$5 donation will get you one lottery ticket.

For a list of the collectible bottles and silent auction items, visit:

cityofsavage.com/whiskeydraft

Register now for the Citizen's Police Academy

Thursdays, September 14 - November 2 • 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Savage City Hall, 6000 McColl Drive

FREE and open to all interested adults, 18 years and older, who live or work in Savage.

Do you want to learn what officers do, how they do it, and most importantly, why? Then sign up for the Citizens Police Academy, a eight-week course designed for the average citizen who wants to learn more about the Savage Police Department. This year the Academy includes:

- Use of Force (2 nights)
- Drug Task Force
- Investigations and Crime Scene Processing
- Shoot/Don't Shoot simulator
- An evening at the Fire Department
- CPR certification course
- And much more!



Are you ready to go behind the scenes and see what being an officer is like? Register online at cityofsavage.com. Space is limited, so make sure to sign up right away.

Annual Shredding Day

August 26 • 9-11 a.m.

Savage Sports Center parking lot, 13450 Dakota Ave.

The City of Savage is hosting its annual community shredding event on Saturday, August 26, from 9-11 a.m. in the Savage Sports Center parking lot in Savage Community Park. This event is free and open to all Savage residents. Residents can bring up to two banker boxes or grocery bags of documents for shredding. Crews will unload them into a secured cart where Veteran Shredding will shred the paper on-site.

Examples of documents to shred: papers with identifying information such as your birth date, signature, account numbers, passwords, PINs, social security numbers, deposit slips, credit card receipts, banking statements, and credit card offers.

Accepted items include white and colored paper and folders. Staples, paper clips, and rubber bands do not have to be removed. Unacceptable items include three-ring binders, larger binder clips, tapes/CDs/DVDs, and medical waste.

Funding to support this service comes from the annual recycling day event and related grants. Questions can be directed to Recreation Services Manager Chris Dill at cdill@cityofsavage.com or 952-224-3421.



Reminders

Leave no pile behind.

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 states 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.

Please help keep our shoes, trails, and waterways clean - pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it in the garbage. **#scoopthepoop**

Water efficiency rebates save money and conserve water.

Irrigation systems, toilets, clothes washers, and dishwashers can use a lot of water, and older models don't necessarily use it efficiently. Newer models can reduce water use by up to 40%. For example, if you replace an old toilet with an EPA WaterSense model, the average family would save money on their water bill and about 6,000 gallons of water annually. Savage water customers are encouraged to apply for a water bill rebate when they purchase WaterSense-certified toilets, irrigation smart controllers, Energy Star-certified dishwashers, and clothes washers. For more details, including how to apply, visit cityofsavage.com or contact Water Resource Manager Jesse Carlson at jcarlson@cityofsavage.com or 952-882-2686.

Keep your fish in the bowl.

While tiny koi or goldfish in a pond might not sound like cause for alarm, they can become a big problem when released in the wild. "Koi and goldfish are invasive species, and for someone to come in and dump an invasive species like this into our water - it could be catastrophic," says Water Resource Manager Jesse Carlson. He warns they can live up to 25 years, reproduce rapidly, and survive the frigid Minnesota winter. They also have a voracious appetite. Koi and goldfish will eat anything, including plants and fish eggs. They dig along riverbeds uprooting plants and fighting with native fish for food. As a result, when released into natural water bodies like our local ponds and lakes, they can quickly demolish all the food sources that the rest of the fish depend on. And the really big problem is that once these invasive species are in a water body, it is not easy to remove them. So please, help us spread the word - do not release unwanted fish into our ponds, streams, or lakes. Once you introduce something into a new environment - even if it's a small goldfish - it can have serious ecological consequences. Call 952-882-2686 to report sightings of koi or goldfish in local waterbodies.

Captain Scott Gordon Honored as 2023 Outstanding Officer

Congratulations to Savage Police Captain Scott Gordon and our neighbor Prior Lake Officer Beau Johnson, who were recently named the 2023 Outstanding Officers by the Prior Lake-Savage Optimists Club. Each year, the Optimist Club recognizes the outstanding work of both the Savage and Prior Lake police departments and honors officers from both departments for the amazing job that they do.



Pictured left to right: Savage Police Chief Rodney Seurer, Captain Scott Gordon, PLSOC President Linda Ringstad

Best of the Best

City of Savage Communications Division brings home the hardware.

Congratulations to the Communications Division for winning five Northern Lights Awards from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators (MAGC). These projects competed against hundreds of entries:

- **Silver Award (2nd):** Savage Community Garden: A Garden for Everyone Social Media Campaign
- **Silver Award (2nd):** April Fools' Day Short Video
- **Bronze Award (3rd):** Firefighter Recruitment Campaign
- **Bronze Award (3rd):** Buddy the Fire Elf Short Video
- **Award of Merit:** Meet our Officers Social Media Engagement

The Northern Lights Contest recognizes outstanding work in Minnesota's government, educational, and nonprofit communications. We are incredibly proud of our communications team for being among Minnesota's best local government communicators!

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Update

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 an ash tree shows obvious damage, it is usually too late to treat for EAB. "2022 was a challenging year for ash trees," states Water Resource Manager Jesse Carlson. "After years of discussion about the EAB death curve and the impacts of EAB on ash trees, we started to see the condition of trees deteriorate at a more rapid rate."

Public Ash Trees

The City's EAB Management Plan's main components involve removal, injection preservation, and a replanting approach. Public ash trees that are dead, infested, in poor condition, or pose a risk to people or property are a priority for removal. Tree removal will be completed by a contractor and City staff as budget and staff time allows. Trees removed from the right-of-way will not be replaced. However, the City plans to replant trees throughout the community in parks and open spaces as budget allows. The City will treat as many good condition ash trees as possible to preserve canopy and green infrastructure. To date, the City has treated 100 good-quality ash trees on public land with a systemic trunk injection treatment.

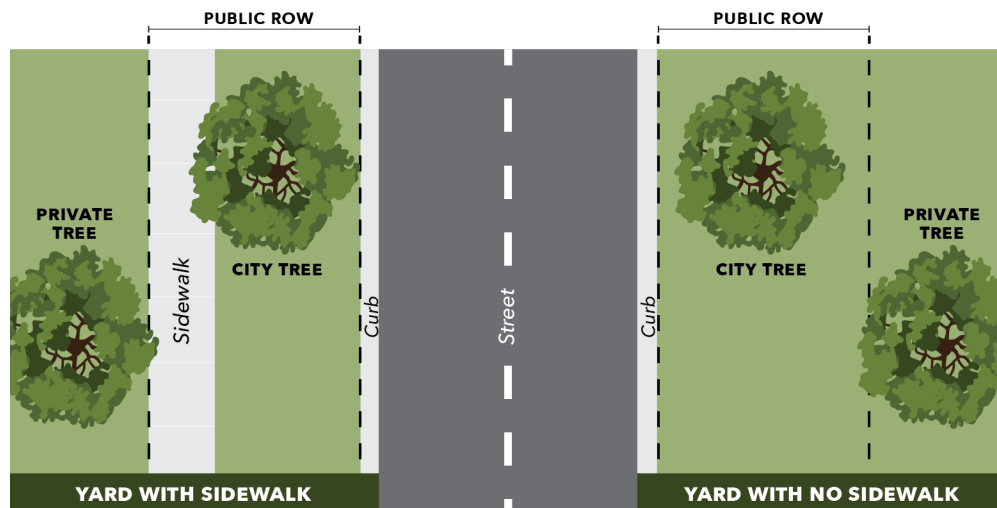
Private Ash Trees

Property owners are responsible for trees on their property that are outside the right-of-way. The standard ROW is typically 10-14 feet from the back of the curb, but will vary. 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 trees, 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 debris 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 the city contract pricing through Rainbow Treecare. If you are interested in the EAB Treatment Discount Program:

- Call Rainbow Treecare at **952-767-6920**
- Email at 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 the Engineering Department at **952-882-2671**. For more information on Emerald Ash Borer, go to cityofsavage.com or mda.state.mn.us/eab.



Rec Corner

Stories on the Pond | August 3 • 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Join Savage Public Library staff at the McColl Pond ELC patio for stories, songs, and activities. Kids, families, and friends are welcome to drop in for this FREE event presented by the Savage Library and Savage Parks and Recreation. Pack a picnic and join us outside under the shelter. All ages welcome. No registration is required.

Gray Hobby Farm Tours | August 10

Be prepared to immerse yourself in the hobby farm experience at the Gray Hobby Farm! Meet our chickens, our pet duck named Motorcycle, two adorable cats named Snowy and Dairy, and lots of goats. The farm also has multiple organic gardening plots and you will see the entire operation. Please wear appropriate attire for the farm setting. Registration is required at cityofsavage.com. Registration deadline: August 6

Ages: All ages (1 and under, free)

Price: \$14 per person

Time: 6-7 p.m.

Location: Gray Hobby Farm • 16375 Creekwood Road, Prior Lake

Kids Safety Camp | August 14

This camp is designed to introduce participants to public safety personnel's roles, responsibilities, and duties. Children will learn to work as a team, become leaders, and overcome challenges through different activities with the fire and police departments. Registration is required at cityofsavage.com. Registration deadline: August 6.

Ages: 6-11

Price: \$45 per person

Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Savage Sports Center • 13450 Dakota Ave., Savage

Family Introduction to Pickleball | August 14

Sign-up with an immediate family member! Learn the basic fundamental skills and rules of pickleball. Throughout the lesson, participants will cover the basics: How to serve and return the ball, how to hit the ball out of the air, how to keep score, and proper serving and receiving positions. Our instructor is certified as a Professional Instructor through the Professional Pickleball Registry, the official education and certification partner for USA Pickleball. Registration is required at cityofsavage.com. Registration deadline: August 6.

Ages: 10+

Price: \$35 per person OR \$60 for two immediate family members

Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

Location: Savage Community Park • 13500 Dakota Ave., Savage

Adult Intro to Pickleball | August 21

The class is for the novice player just beginning to play pickleball recreationally. Attendees will learn the basic fundamental skills and rules of pickleball, and upon completion of the class, you will have the tools and confidence to play pickleball with your friends and family. Our instructor is certified as a Professional Instructor through the Professional Pickleball Registry, the official education and certification partner for USA Pickleball. Registration is required at cityofsavage.com. Registration deadline: August 13.

Ages: 14+

Price: \$40 per person

Time: 6 - 7:45 p.m.

Location: Savage Community Park • 13500 Dakota Ave., Savage

KEEP IN TOUCH:



Good News!

The new and improved skate park is now open!

Check out the brand-new skate park equipment that was recently installed. The park is open to skaters and scooters of all ages and abilities and features bank ramps, a spine, fun box, rails and stairs, quarter and half pipes, and a manual pad. The shade and seating feature will be coming soon. Come check it out!



NEW! 2024 City Calendar

Featuring Savage Firefighters and puppies
Benefiting Carver Scott Humane Society

Calendar includes:

- City-wide special events
- Good-to-know information
- Holidays
- City contacts
- Photos of Savage Firefighters and puppies

Calendars are \$10 each. Stop by one of the following locations during regular business hours, or shop online (while supplies last):

Pick up:

- Savage City Hall
6000 McColl Drive, Savage
(Cash / Check / Credit Card)
- Savage Fire Station 1
14321 O'Connell Road, Savage
(Cash / Check)
- Carver Scott Humane Society
822 Yellow Brick Road, Carver
(Cash / Check)

Order online by scanning the QR Code or by visiting cityofsavage.com.



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