



## Parks and Recreation Master Plan Approved!

Last September, the City of Savage began a 14-month-long process of developing a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This plan aimed to establish a clear, 20-year vision for the Savage parks, trails, recreation, and open space systems based on anticipated demographics and economic and social changes over the next 20 years. The master plan will be the guiding document that identifies long-term infrastructure and recreational improvements so people of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds feel welcome and represented in our park system.



Throughout the process, extensive community engagement through the City's online engagement platform Let's Talk Savage, pop-up workshops, community meetings, and community outreach events were used to gather input on the community's vision for our city park system. "Through this process, we learned a lot," stated Public Works/Parks and Recreation Director Greg Boatman. "We learned what our parks have been, what they are currently, what we need them to be, and how to achieve the desired outcome."

### Next steps

The Savage City Council adopted the Parks Master Plan on November 6, 2023. Now, staff will develop an implementation plan, including funding opportunities and high-level cost estimates to address park improvements, programming, partnerships, staffing, maintenance, policies, and procedure recommendations. To read the complete Parks and Recreation Master Plan, go to [letstalksavage.com](http://letstalksavage.com).

## Good News!

Upon recommendation of the Community Equity Commission (CEC), the Mayor recognized our Indigenous Dakota Communities with a Land Acknowledgment proclamation at the November 6, 2023, City Council meeting. Acknowledging the history and connection of Indigenous peoples to this land is crucial to show respect for their presence. This supports the mission of the City of Savage to foster an inclusive community that is fair and respectful to everyone and that values people of all cultures and traditions. Read the full Land Acknowledgment Statement at [cityofsavage.com/our-city/diversity-and-inclusion](http://cityofsavage.com/our-city/diversity-and-inclusion).



Pictured L to R: Councilmember Matt Johnson, SMSC Guest Cyndy, Mayor Janet Williams, Director of Hočokata Ti Andy Vig, Councilmember Christine Kelly, Councilmember Stacy Crakes, Councilmember Bob Couglen

## City Welcomes New Community Development Director



Regina Dean joined the City of Savage as the new Community Development Director in October. She was previously the Assistant Community Development Director for the City of Burnsville. Community Development means different things to different communities. In Savage, this position has been reimagined for the future. In addition to overseeing planning, building, and code enforcement, Dean will have the opportunity to build and shape this newly restructured department. Since Savage is near full build-out, the focus is more on redevelopment opportunities like the downtown area and economic development, which includes building business relationships and looking for ways to support our local business community. "I'm just really excited to be here," said Regina. "I'm ready to jump on board and be engaged, whether it's being a champion or a partner with other city staff, residents, businesses, and local organizations in the community."

# Thank you, volunteers!

The City of Savage offers thanks and a round of applause for the dedication and support of the Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Garden volunteers who maintain garden beds, remove litter, and assist park staff in maintaining Savage's park system to the highest standard and quality. Several parks and gardens remain available to adopt. If you want to get involved, contact Savage Parks and Recreation at **952-224-3420**.

## 2023 Adopt-A-Garden Adoptees

Boudin's Acres Park Garden	Anonymous citizen
Camp Savage Garden	Frank and Joan Wilebski
Canterbury Park	Anonymous citizen
Cates Lake Park Garden	Anonymous citizen
Depot Flower pots	Dan Patch Historical Society
Depot Butterfly Garden	Dan Patch Historical Society
Loftus Park Garden	Lean Staska
Glendale Park Garden	Denise and Jeff Besser
Hidden Valley Park Garden	Krista Kulas
Hollywood Park Garden	Savage Rotary
Library Butterfly & Pollinator Garden	Stephanie Bodeen
O'Connell Park - North Garden	Sue and Mick Mills
O'Connell Park - South Garden	The Benfer Family
Public Works Landscape Areas	Helen Wann
Redtail Ridge Park Garden	Anonymous citizen
River Bend Park Garden	Scott and Lorraine Allison
River Bend Tot Lot Garden	Jamie Storms
Savage Community Park Garden	Kathy Sullivan
Savage Community Park Butterfly Garden	Burnsville-Savage Lions Club
Schroeder's Acres Park Gardens	Trace Krueger
Trost Park Garden	Denise and Jeff Besser
Vernon/Connelly Triangles	Helen Wann
Warren Butler Park Garden	Savage Rotary
Woodhill Park Garden	Michelle Noeller

## 2023 Adopt-A-Park Adoptees

Boudins Acres Park	The Wagoner Family
Cates Lake Park	Becky Petrich
Eagle Creek Bluff	Elizabeth Solseth
Glendale Park	Jackie Drummer
Hidden Valley Park	Kim Brimley
Hollywood Park	Savage Rotary
Loftus Park	Mia and The Littles
O'Connell Park	Debbie and Ryan Hall
Schroeder's Acres Park	Trace Krueger
Summit Pointe Park	Prior Lake/Savage Girls Scout Service Unit
Warren Butler Park	Savage Rotary
Woodhill Park	Prior Lake/Savage Girls Scout Service Unit

## Join the fun and games!

The Savage Senior Club meets weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3 p.m. at the Savage Library Annex and enjoys playing cards, outings, and snacks. Come meet some new friends and have a good time. All are welcome!



**Where:** Savage Public Library Annex, 13090 Alabama Ave.  
**When:** Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3 p.m.

# MEET A SAVAGE FIREFIGHTER



These men and women are your neighbors, co-workers, and 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](http://cityofsavage.com).



## KEVIN PASS

Kevin joined Savage Fire on September 11, 2023 as a full-time firefighter. "Kevin has a wealth of experience and a genuine passion for excellence that perfectly aligns with our department's core values," states Fire Chief Bresnahan.

### How long have you been a Savage firefighter?

I have been a firefighter for 13 years. During those 13 years, I have worked for the Shakopee Fire Dept., where I was promoted to Lieutenant and then to Captain, and I have worked for the Fridley Fire Dept. as an experienced part-time firefighter, where I worked scheduled shifts. I also worked for Rural Metro Fire as a contracted firefighter at the Pine Bend Refinery, where I performed scheduled inspections and maintenance on fire suppression equipment and provided training to other departments on Class B firefighting techniques.

### What made you want to become a firefighter?

As a child, I was fortunate to grow up in the firehouse. My father was a volunteer firefighter for the City of Shakopee, and the memories of the camaraderie and the selfless acts that those men put into every call inspired me to join the fire service. I enjoy responding to every call and being able to lend a helping hand to mitigate any issue that we have been called to.

### What do you like to do when you are not working?

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. You will often find me outside working on projects or at a cabin enjoying the Minnesota wilderness.

### What do you like most about firefighting?

I enjoy the interactions with the community, whether it's a call for help, a public event we have been asked to attend, or just stopping and visiting with some kids who are excited to see us. I also enjoy training others for the hazards we will or could potentially be called to.

### What would you say to someone considering becoming a firefighter?

I would say do it! This job is like no other; the connections you build with the community you serve and other firefighters are unique. You will never second guess your decision to join once you do. You will be joining a big family that is supportive and caring every day, and they want to make you successful.

# We're ready for winter!

Another snow season is upon us, and the City of Savage Plow Pros are ready! At any given time, up to 20+ plow operators from streets, fleet, parks, and utility divisions work together to clear the snow throughout the City. Here are a few tips from our Plow Pros that will help them do their job quickly and effectively to safely get you on the road.

## Tip 1: Move parked cars off the street.

Many times, city plows hit the streets around 2 a.m. You can help the City plow more quickly and efficiently by moving parked cars off the street. Cars parked on the street make it difficult for plow operators to see and prevent clearing the road from curb to curb. Winter parking restrictions are in effect now through March 31. During this time, on-street parking is prohibited between 2 and 6 a.m., even if there is no snow on the ground. Violators may be ticketed or towed. Temporary variances may be requested through the Savage Police Department at 952-882-2600.

## Tip 2: Keep garbage cans in your driveway.

This winter, think about where you put your garbage and recycling bins. Our snowplow crews rely on your help to place garbage and recycling cans at the end of the driveway behind the curb on trash pick-up days. Bins placed in the street are tough to plow around and may result in the road not being completely plowed to the curb. We appreciate your cooperation!

## Tip 3: Give snowplow drivers plenty of room.

Please allow plenty of room between your vehicle and a plow. A "snow cloud" is often thrown up when plowing, limiting visibility on all sides of the truck, especially regarding what's behind the plow. So stay back at least ten car lengths and never pass a plow when it's plowing.

## Tip 4: Be patient.

The bottom line is that our snowplow crew does their best to keep our roads clear and safe. They often work long hours and are called away from their families on evenings, weekends, and holidays. Every storm is different, but the goal for each one is to provide timely and effective services. They appreciate your patience and cooperation.

Follow us @CityofSavage on Facebook to stay up to date during a snowstorm!

# Enjoy the snowmobiling season; just know the rules.

*Trails will be open December 1 through March 31 but may be closed due to limited snowfall*

The City of Savage allows for the peaceful and safe operation of snowmobiles within the city limits, but riders must obey all traffic rules, regulations, and traffic control devices. Here are a few tips to help riders have an enjoyable season:

- **Ride only on designated trails.** The Savage Sno-Pacers is a volunteer group that helps maintain more than 24 miles of trails in Savage. These trails provide local riders access to regional and state trails. Riders are required to follow the marked trails within the City except for access from their residence to the nearest marked trails.
- **Be respectful**, and don't ride after 11 p.m. or before 7 a.m.
- **Access trails by taking the most direct route** possible from your home base. Violators could be cited and/or have their snowmobile impounded.
- **Obey posted speed limits** and don't operate at high speeds (over 15 mph) when near houses.
- **Be alert**, don't drink and drive, and dress properly.

Check out the Savage Sno-Pacers, a local group of snowmobile enthusiasts who share camaraderie with others who love the sport and promote snowmobile safety, plan trips and local rides, and off-season get-togethers. Follow them @SavageSnoPacers on Facebook or email [snopacers@gmail.com](mailto:snopacers@gmail.com) or 612-567-6691 for more information.

Snowmobile trail maps are available at Savage City Hall, 6000 McColl Dr. For reports on trail conditions, call the Scott County Sno-Trails Hotline at 952-440-1003. For complete information on the Savage City Snowmobiling Ordinance, go to [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

# Shake the habit!

Salt helps keep our roads, driveways, and sidewalks safer in slippery weather, but our salt habit is bad for the health of our streams, rivers, and lakes. More salt does not equal more melting. Here are a few tips and tricks you can do to shake the salt habit:



1. Shovel first, then apply salt only if necessary.
2. Don't apply salt when the temperature is below 15 degrees—it's ineffective.
3. A little salt goes a long way. One coffee mug full of salt is enough for ten sidewalk squares or a 12 X 20-foot driveway.
4. Give it time to work. The colder it is, the longer it takes salt to work.
5. When the ice has melted, sweep up an excess salt and save it to reuse or throw it in the trash.

# Help our City Represent Everyone Apply to be on a Commission

Each year, the City Council appoints commissioners to serve in important volunteer roles for the City. Our goal is to have our commissions reflect the wide range of backgrounds and diverse perspectives that make up our community.

## Who are commissioners, and what do they do?

Commissioners are volunteers who care about the quality of life in Savage and the programs and services that the City provides. They review and discuss important policies, procedures, and initiatives and make recommendations to the City Council.

## What types of Commissions are in the City of Savage?

*The City has four commissions:*

### Economic Development Commission (EDC)

*meets third Wednesday at 7:15 a.m.*

The EDC advises the City Council in all matters relating to the community's economic development, including efforts to recruit new businesses and industries, retention and expansion of existing businesses and industries, and diversification of the community's economy.

### Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission (PRNRC)

*meets fourth Monday at 7 p.m.*

The PRNRC works with staff to provide input and make recommendations regarding recreational programming and the acquisition and development of parks.

### Planning Commission (PC)

*Meets Thursdays after Council meetings at 7 p.m.*

The Planning Commission focuses on land use and zoning issues within the City limits.

### Community Equity Commission (CEC)

*Meets second or third Thursday at 6 p.m.*

The CEC advises the City Council on diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies that strengthen relationships among historically under-represented populations in local government and uses an equity lens to review city practices, policies, and procedures to provide recommendations to the City Council.

## Who can serve as a commissioner?

Anyone who is a resident of Savage and interested in serving the City can serve as a commissioner. The City also encourages junior and senior high school students interested in learning more about local government to apply. EDC Commissioners must either live in Savage or own a business in Savage.

For more information on the role of each commission and to apply, contact Administrative Assistant Lisa Crist at [lcrist@cityofsavage.com](mailto:lcrist@cityofsavage.com) or 952-882-2660. The deadline to apply is January 5, 2024. Interviews with council members will be scheduled for January 2024.

# Rec Corner

## Savage Sports Center is now open.

It might be cold and dark outside, but inside the Savage Sports Center, it's always a comfortable 59 degrees! There are lots of ways to stay active this winter at the Savage Sports Center.

## Open Walk/Jog | FREE

The Savage Sports Center offers an artificial grass field ideal for winter exercise. Walk or jog indoors for free with family and friends starting November 13 - April. Strollers are welcome. No food or drinks are allowed on the turf. 1 mile = 4.25 laps around the inside of the facility. For the safety of our walkers and runners, no balls or toys are allowed during this time.

**Times:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 6:30 - 9:30 a.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday, noon - 3 p.m.

## Tot Time

We know how you feel. Days spent indoors with an energized toddler can be exhausting. Your toddler can play on inflatables, throw balls, hit with bats, and more from November through April. We'll provide all the equipment. This is a great way to burn off excess winter tot energy and offers age-appropriate, large motor skill practice.

**Ages:** 6 and under (An adult must accompany all toddlers)  
**Cost:** \$3 per toddler.  
**Times:** Tuesday and Thursday, 9 - 11:30 a.m.

## Open Play

The Savage Sports Center is the best space to play soccer, baseball, football, ultimate frisbee, bocce ball, lacrosse, and more. And the best part is the standard temperature inside the Sports Center is a comfortable 59 degrees! Soccer and lacrosse nets are provided. Participants must bring their own gloves, balls, and other gear.

**Ages:** 6 + (Participants 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult)  
**Cost:** \$5 per person  
**Times:** \*Wed 3 - 5 p.m. ; M, Tu., Thu, and Fr. 3 - 6 p.m.  
\*Schedules are subject to change.

## Secret Holiday Shop | December 9

Winter is here, and it's time for some holiday cheer! The annual Secret Holiday Shop allows kids of all ages to do holiday shopping for their family and friends without their parents. Parents can purchase tickets and create a shopping list with their children upon arrival. Volunteers will assist children in selecting various gifts for purchase, ranging in price from \$1 to \$15. Gifts will be wrapped and labeled at the end of the shopping experience. Of course, Santa will be making an appearance! No registration is required.

**Ages:** All ages  
**Price:** \$1 - \$15  
**Times:** 9 - 11 a.m.

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

## Owl and Owl Pellets | December 10

Have a hooting good time as we explore the amazing world of owls through artifacts and owl pellet investigation, and even meet CNC's owl avi- an ambassador. This session is in collaboration with the Carpenter Nature Center. Registration deadline: December 3. Learn more and register online at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

**Time:** 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
**Location:** McColl Pond ELC, 13550 Dakota Ave.  
**Cost:** \$5 per person. Ages 2 and under are free.

## PeeWee Soccer Camp | January 10, 17, 24, 31

Camp coaches cannot wait to teach you all about soccer! In soccer, participants will learn to dribble, kick, and protect the ball. Every day, we will focus on sportsmanship and fun! Participants should wear tennis shoes and bring a water bottle and a soccer ball to camp. Registration deadline: January 7. Learn more and register online at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

**Time:** 10 - 10:45 a.m.  
**Location:** Savage Sports Center, 13450 Dakota Ave.  
**Cost:** \$40 per person.

## KEEP IN TOUCH:



## NEW! Glow and Skate Party | FREE

Bring your family, skates, and smiles. Enjoy an evening of ice skating at Canterbury Park and glow in the dark while wearing glow necklaces and bracelets. Keep warm with hot chocolate and a treat. No registration is required. Skates are not included.

**Date:** January 19  
**Time:** 6 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Canterbury Park, 13444 Inglewood Ave.  
**Cost:** FREE

## NEW! 4 on 4 Pond Hockey League Wednesdays, January 3 - February

Let's Play Pond Hockey! Grab a stick, some skates, and a few friends -- this is pond hockey, as nature intended it to be, outdoors! We'll play for six weeks, weather permitting. The league format is four-on-four, with a minimum of three players to make it a game and a maximum of eight players on a roster. Teams can consist of any number of male or female players. Pond hockey goals will be 6' wide with 12" openings on each end. Register now through December 17. Learn more and register online at [cityofsavage.com](http://cityofsavage.com).

## Reminders

### FREE Holiday light recycling | December 1 - January 15

Drop off your old, tangled, and broken lights in the lobby at Savage City Hall, 6000 McColl Drive, between December 1 - January 15. The City will bring them to the Scott County Household Hazardous Waste Facility to be recycled. NOTE: Scott County HHW does accept all holiday lights year-round, free of charge.

### 2024 Calendar | \$10 each

We've got THE perfect holiday gift this year. Purchase the 2024 Calendar featuring Savage firefighters and adorable puppies! Plus, the calendar features all the upcoming city-wide special events, good-to-know information, holidays, city contacts, PLUS photos featuring Savage firefighters, and did we mention.....adorable puppies? A portion of the proceeds will be given to the Carver Scott County Humane Society.

### 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  
22 Yellow Brick Road, Carver  
(Cash / Check)

**Online:** Scan the QR code to purchase and ship your calendar right to your mailbox.  
(A 3% processing fee and shipping cost will apply)



### City of Savage

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