



Call for Community Input | Help design our new mural

We are excited to announce a new community mural project, and we need your ideas to make it a true reflection of our community.

As part of the city's ongoing placemaking initiative to create meaningful places and spaces that foster a sense of belonging and promote civic pride, the city is installing a permanent mural outside the new Savage Library expansion. The Savage Library is one of our community's most diverse gathering spaces, making it an ideal location for the mural due to its visibility and importance to residents.

About the project

- The mural will be a complete mosaic made from glass tiles and mirrors
- The theme of the mural will focus on community, inclusion, and belonging
- Budget: \$50,000, funded by proceeds from the Liquor Operation
- Expected completion: August 31, 2025.

Share your ideas

1. Community Input Workshop

Saturday, February 22 • 10 a.m - noon
Savage Library, 13090 Alabama Ave.

Join the mural artists Lynda Grafito, Eh Soe Dwe, and Nicolas Castillo for an interactive collage-making workshop to generate ideas and inspiration for creating a mural design representing our community. This is a FREE workshop. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Materials and snacks provided.

2. Online Submission

Visit letstalksavage.com to:

- Share your comments, ideas, or messages for the mural
- Submit sketches, photos, or examples of other inspiring murals
- Input will be open through February 22, 2025



Create a piece of our mural

This is our mural, so let's create something beautiful together that represents all of us.

The community is invited to a series of four hands-on mosaic-making workshops where participants will learn how to create a mosaic tile that will be used in the final design. Never made a mosaic before? No problem! All ages and skill levels are welcome. Whether you come to one workshop or all four, you'll be a part of bringing this vision to life. These workshops are FREE. All are welcome! To reserve your spot, go to letstalksavage.com.

Thursday, April 3

5 - 7 p.m.
Savage Library
13090 Alabama Ave.

Thursday, April 10

5 - 7 p.m.
Savage Library
13090 Alabama Ave.

Saturday, April 5

10 a.m. - noon
Savage Library
13090 Alabama Ave.

Saturday, April 12

10 a.m. - noon
Savage Library
13090 Alabama Ave.

Questions?

Contact Communications Director Emily Gunderson at egunderson@savagemn.gov or 952-882-2655.

Alarm System Registration

All Savage residents and businesses with alarm systems must register them with the Savage Police Department annually. Each year, the Savage Police Department responds to hundreds of false alarms. These false alarms take officers away from other duties and reduce the time available to respond to real emergencies. The Best Practice Alarm Registration program is in place to help reduce the number of false alarm calls. Registration is free and can be done online at savagemn.gov/departments/police-department/crime-prevention/alarm-registration.

If there are any questions regarding the Alarm Registration program, please contact the Savage Police Department at 952-882-2600.

Good News! Vehicle Lock Outs

If you accidentally lock yourself out of your vehicle, the Savage Police Department can help! Just call 911 to have a Community Service Officer dispatched to your location. The service is free. The owner must complete a liability form before the CSO tries to unlock the vehicle. Response times can vary depending on how busy the call volume is.



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**.

2024 Adopt-A-Garden Adoptees

Camp Savage Garden	Frank and Joan Wilebski
Canterbury Park	Aho Family
Cates Lake Park Garden	Aho Family
Depot flower pots	Dan Patch Historical Society
Depot Butterfly Garden	Dan Patch Historical Society
Eagle Creek Park Garden	OPEN FOR ADOPTION
Glendale Park Garden	Denise and Jeff Besser
Heatherton Ridge Park Garden	OPEN FOR ADOPTION
Hidden Valley Park Garden	Krista Kulas
Hollywood Park Garden	Savage Rotary
Library Butterfly & Pollinator Garden	Stephanie Bodeen
Loftus Park Garden	Leah Staska
O'Connell Park - North Garden	Sue and Mick Mills
O'Connell Park - South Garden	The Benfer Family
Public Works Landscape Areas	Helen Wann
Quentin Ave. Garden	Jackie Drummer
Redtail Ridge Park Garden	Aho Family
River Bend Park Garden	Scott and Lorraine Allison
River Bend Tot Lot Garden	OPEN FOR ADOPTION
Community Park Garden	Helen Wann
Community Park Butterfly Garden	Helen Wann
Community Park NW Entrance	Jason Wolf
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	OPEN FOR ADOPTION

2024 Adopt-A-Park Adoptees

Boudins Acres Park	The Wagoner Family
Canterbury Park	OPEN FOR ADOPTION
Cates Lake Park	Becky Petrich
Eagle Creek Park	Elizabeth Solseth
Glendale Park	Jackie Drummer
Hamilton Hills Park	OPEN FOR ADOPTION
Heatherton Ridge Park	OPEN FOR ADOPTION
Hidden Valley Park	Kim Brimley
Hollywood Park	Savage Rotary
Loftus Park	Mia and The Littles
McCann Park	OPEN FOR ADOPTION
O'Connell Park	Debbie and Ryan Hall
Redtail Ridge Park	OPEN FOR ADOPTION
River Bend Park	OPEN FOR ADOPTION
Community Park/McColl Pond ELC	OPEN FOR ADOPTION
Schroeder's Acres Park	Trace Krueger
Summit Pointe Park	OPEN FOR ADOPTION
Trost Park	Rene McGill
Warren Butler Park	Savage Rotary
Woodhill Park	OPEN FOR ADOPTION



Please pick up after your pets, even when it's cold.

When it's cold and the ground is covered with snow, leaving your pet's waste behind can be tempting, but this bad habit leads to an unsightly environmental hazard come spring. Contrary to popular belief, pet waste is not a natural fertilizer and can seriously threaten the environment and water supplies. When the snow melts, bacteria from pet waste left on the ground can end up in the city's storm sewers and local ponds, creeks, lakes, and wetlands, causing problems with water quality as it decomposes. One of the simplest things you can do to keep local waterways healthy is to pick up after your pet. It also shows courtesy to your community, and it's the law! **#scoopthepoop**

I want to know!

Can I fly a remote control (RC) plane or drone in a city park?

According to City Code - Chapter 96, remote-controlled (RC) planes or drones are prohibited in Savage city parks. This ordinance exists to protect public safety, privacy, and the environment.

Public Safety

Flying RC planes or drones in parks poses significant risks to public safety.

- Parks are heavily used by visitors of all ages, including children and families with pets. Collisions with RC planes or drones, especially larger or high-speed models, can cause serious injury.
- Technical malfunctions or operator inexperience can lead to loss of control, potentially damaging park infrastructure, vehicles, or personal property.

Privacy Protection

Modern RC planes and drones often have sophisticated camera systems that raise privacy concerns.

- RC planes and drones with cameras may inadvertently or intentionally capture photos or videos of park visitors without their knowledge or consent.
- The presence of camera-equipped RC planes and drones can make park-goers feel uncomfortable and infringe on their right to enjoy public spaces without surveillance.

Environmental Impact

Parks often serve as habitat for birds and other wildlife.

- Flying RC planes and drones in parks can disturb or harm animals, particularly during nesting or breeding seasons.

Maintaining Park Atmosphere

Savage city parks are valued community spaces designed for diverse recreational activities. The operation of RC planes and drones can interfere with other park activities, such as sports events, family gatherings, or the quiet enjoyment of nature.

Alternative Flying Locations

For RC plane and drone enthusiasts, there are designated areas outside of the City of Savage that are more appropriate for this activity and also provide a community for fellow enthusiasts.

If you have a question about RC planes or drones in city parks, please contact Public Works/Parks and Recreation Director Greg Boatman at gboatman@savagemn.gov or **952-224-3400**.

Around Town with Mayor Williams - Final Edition

As I ponder what to say in my final Around Town with the Mayor column, I reflect on the over 80 columns I wrote for the Savage Pacer and now the city website. Often referred to as the news "according to Janet." I thank those who voted for me 5 times in the past 21 years. It has been a pleasure to serve.

Reflecting on how I have seen this city of only 1 square mile on the river grow into what it is today has been quite a story. We were notorious in the early 1900s for gambling, slot machines in bars, sheriff raids, dancing, prohibition, and then the liquor store where "they poured them heavy." The city decided to have municipal liquor to regulate liquor, which we still have. The only City in Scott County to do so. That is why we do not have Costco, Trader Joe's, etc., because they want their own liquor stores. We did negotiate with Hy-Vee to have a Savage Liquor Store in their building. We do have seven large grocery stores. We were sad to have Aldi's leave when they could not find space to expand. Profits from the liquor store have been used to pay for the public library building, park amenities, roads, fire equipment, etc.

Lynnhurst Dairy was started in Savage in the early 1940s by K.B. Kristensen, who also had a farm in Burnsville. My dad, Jens Bohn, Sr., began working for him when he was 16 and continued in Savage. The farm of several hundred acres was located at the corner of Lynn Avenue and County Road 16 today but was Highway 13 in those days. Yes, Highway 13 did not go through downtown Savage until much later. On the farm, we milked 60 Holstein cows twice a day, had a raw milk route in south Mpls., and farmed several hundred acres.

Six acres and the buildings remain, and is now Wee Farm. There was a huge red barn perpendicular to the big white barn that burned to the ground in 1960; the Savage Fire Department saved the white barn having to haul all the water to do it. Perhaps that is why two of my brothers chose to be Savage firefighters for 20 years each. One was even chief. I say I live behind the barn on an acre we got when we married. After I graduated from college, my dad said it did not matter when we got married because "he had to milk the cows every day," so we got married on a Thursday! Growing up on that farm formed my thought processes as the Mayor.

We attended a two-room, two-storied elementary school with four grades in each room, an outhouse, walked to school, and carried our lunch. High school was in Bloomington across the one-lane road/RR bridge. Later, we went to high school in Shakopee until there were enough students to form school districts in Prior Lake, Burnsville, Savage, and Eagan. When Savage Elementary was built we were thrilled -indoor plumbing and hot lunch. Our farm became part of 191 School District as the farmer got to decide on their school district for their land. We got to choose the school colors, write the school song, and do the first yearbook, which said Black Dog High School, Savage, MN. Burnsville addresses were Savage for their mail, and Black Dog was Chief Black Dog, and we know why that changed.

The first housing development was the Ess Addition in the 1950s on land north of our farm to St. John's. Well, the second house built was sold, and the new residents were at the city council meeting complaining about the smell of the pigs on our farm. Eventually, pasteurization came, and none of my brothers wanted to farm. Sewer and water came, so the land up to what is now Hidden Valley School was sold. My grandma and I stood in the milkhouse and watched the auction as the cows with their sad eyes were loaded onto the trucks and moved to a new farm. To this day, I believe the only outhouse left in Savage is on the farm. The few neighbors here and there were at the council meeting complaining about deer they liked to watch and the

traffic they did not want. Sound familiar? Remember that each single-family home generates 10 trips per day. I did say at council meeting a few years ago that I could not remember one thing coming to our city that someone did not complain about. If the council only listened to them, no one would be here. In 1969, Savage annexed Glendale Township, and is the 17 square miles it is today.



"Because women think differently and get it done."

I learned property owners have rights if they follow the rules, all voices need to be considered, and we need to vote our conscience. Trained staff are the experts; as the Mayor, I am in a policy position, and I do not micromanage. I have an understanding with the city administrator for no surprises. I usually run the meetings according to Janet's Rules and not always Robert's (that is, Rules of Order). The city attorney is at the meeting, so we do not break any laws. I am proud of our AAA bond rating, which says we are financially responsible. Our tagline, Naturally Resourceful, refers to how we operate and how we value nature and the environment. Yes, we take down a tree occasionally. I remember growing up with vast farmland and only a couple of trees on the fence lines. Prairie is good, too. Let's be sure 30% of our land remains in parks, water, and open space. Remain welcoming, provide housing for all, support local, and don't be concerned about recruiting new. They come if they want to...look at El Loro, which closed, and a new restaurant was open in less than a month. Green Threads opened a vintage store next to Wing Stop, Ross Dress for Less is opening any day in Office Max, and Loons Landing is now Savage Tap, our only brewery. Check out what we have; you might be surprised. How about dancing at the Legion? Karaoke?

I am done on January 6 as your Mayor. Savage has become a great city. Thanks for the opportunity to be your Mayor. The city gave me a gavel that says my favorite statement: "Because women think differently and get it done." Heartfelt thanks to my husband, who suggested that I needed a job after I retired from Scott County, and our sons, daughter-in-law, and granddaughters, whose mom/grandmother was always busy on Monday nights.

Winter parking restrictions are in effect.

Winter parking restrictions are in effect from November 1 – March 31. During this time, on-street parking is prohibited from 2 – 6 a.m., regardless of whether there is snow. 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. Violators may be ticketed or towed. Temporary variances may be requested through the Savage Police Department at **952-882-2600**.

Rec Corner

Think Spring and Summer!

Watch your mailboxes for the 2025 Spring/Summer Parks and Recreation Brochure. Program registration opens March 4 (residents) and March 6 (non-residents).

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike | February 8

Tea lights will glow along the trail at Savage Community Park. Enjoy snowshoeing or hiking outside and hot chocolate and cookies inside the McColl Pond ELC. Snowshoes are provided, but if you have your own, bring them! No snow, no worries! A hike will take its place. Cost is \$5 per person. Register at savagemn.gov by February 2.

Upcoming Community Events

Polar Plunge | February 15

Sand Point Beach, 14349 Crest Ave. NE, Prior Lake

Come cheer on and support our brrrrr-ave "Savage Copsicles" team as they turn into human popsicles to help support Special Olympics Minnesota. Their mission is to raise \$310,000 to support athletes with intellectual disabilities across the state. 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.

Arbor Day Online Tree Sale | March 17 - April 13

Celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree and contributing to a greener future! The City of Savage online tree sale offers residents an opportunity to purchase high-quality trees from a local source at affordable prices. Take advantage of this chance to enhance your yard while helping to reduce the impact of recent pest and environmental challenges.

Species Available:

- Redbud (New)
- Elm Princeton (New)
- Ironwood (New)
- Hackberry (New)
- Locust (New)
- Maple Red Sunset (New)
- Royal Raindrop Crab (New)
- Lilac Ivory Silk
- Linden Boulevard
- Arborvitae North Pole (New)
- Blue Beech
- Crab Spring Snow
- Ginkgo
- Maple Green Mountain Sugar
- Oak Heritage
- Oak Swamp White
- Planetree
- Spruce Norway (New)
- Spruce Black Hills
- White Pine

Limited quantities; maximum of 5 per household.

- Trees are Bare Root, about 1-1.5" in diameter and can be 6' or taller.
- White Pine, Spruce Norway, Arborvitae North Pole, and Black Hill Spruce are in #5 container and up to 3' tall.

Price: \$36 - \$75 each

How to Order:

Scan the QR Code or visit savagemn.gov. Trees are available to purchase March 17 - April 13.

Please Note: Trees are only available to purchase online. No trees will be available for purchase on pick-up day.



Pick-up Day: April 26, 10 a.m. - noon

Pick-up Location: Savage Public Works • 13770 Dakota Ave., Savage

KEEP IN TOUCH:



Radium Level Update at Water Treatment Plant 3

In January 2024, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) issued a notice of violation to the city after detecting elevated radium levels in drinking water from Water Treatment Plant 3 (WTP3). The levels exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) over a 4-quarter rolling average. In response, the city immediately took WTP3 offline, and no water from this facility has since entered the drinking water system. Despite attempts at additional chemical treatment and filtration modifications, combined radium levels continue to exceed the MCL.

Action Plan and Solution

The City in coordination with the MDH has developed a comprehensive plan to bring the water system into compliance. The plan centers on replacing WTP3's existing silica sand filter media with greensand—an advanced filtration solution proven highly effective at removing radium, which occurs naturally in some groundwater sources.

Key details of the improvement project:

- Estimated cost: \$3.3 million
- Target completion date: Summer 2025
- Originally planned as part of WTP3's full update scheduled for 2027

The city remains firmly committed to ensuring safe drinking water for all residents and will continue providing transparent updates throughout this essential infrastructure project.

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