



CITY OF  
**SAVAGE**  
MINNESOTA

# CITY CONNECTION

MARCH 2025

## Savage Police Join Historical Presidential Inauguration Security Team

Every four years, law enforcement officers nationwide answer a special call to support the presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. This year, nearly 4000 officers from 172 agencies stepped forward to serve, including 21 officers from the Savage Police Department.

"This was the first time our department has assisted with the presidential inauguration, and our officers felt incredibly honored and proud to represent our community and participate in this event," said Police Chief Brady Juell. He added that working alongside federal agencies like the Secret Service and Homeland Security provided invaluable experience for his team.



The journey began on a chartered Sun Country flight, where Savage officers joined 160 colleagues from 15 other Minnesota law enforcement agencies. Upon landing in D.C., they received a warm welcome - complete with a police escort to their hotels by the Metro D.C. Police. During downtime, officers enjoyed getting to know each other and exchanging department patches with their counterparts from across the country, with Savage patches proving to be particularly sought-after souvenirs.

**"It's the kind of moment that stays with you."**

A meaningful highlight came Sunday morning when all 4000 visiting officers took their oaths as temporary U.S. Deputy Marshalls. "It's the kind of moment that stays with you," said Captain Heski, who led the Savage contingent.

While initially slated for parade duty along Pennsylvania Avenue, weather challenges led to a change of plans. The team shifted to Massachusetts Ave., manning a crucial emergency access point near the inaugural ball for more than 15 hours. "The weather was brutal, and the hours were long, but being a part of this massive security effort made it all worthwhile," Heski reflected.

Preparations for this mission began months before the election, in early 2024. Finding willing participants wasn't the challenge - it was ensuring coverage back home. "We're deeply grateful to our colleagues who worked extended shifts to make this possible," Heski said. Officers used their personal time for this trip, which was fully funded by the Inauguration Committee.



## 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](http://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](mailto:egunderson@savagemn.gov) or 952-882-2655.

## Happy retirement!

After 20 years with the fire department and 28-1/2 years with Public Works, Jim Burg, our legendary "sign guy," has retired. Thank you for your dedication and service to our community. May you never touch a plow truck again and enjoy a well-deserved retirement!



# Speed limits are changing on Savage's collector streets.

Starting May 1, 2025, Savage is streamlining speed limits on several important streets throughout our community. These changes are all about making our roads safer and easier to navigate for everyone - whether you're behind the wheel, on a bike, or taking a walk. Here's what you need to know!

## What are collector streets?

Think of collector streets as the middle piece in our road network puzzle. These roads link your neighborhood to major highways and county roads. They're the streets you typically use when heading to nearby destinations like the grocery store or your friend's house in the next neighborhood.

## Why make these changes now?

You might have noticed how confusing it can be when the speed limit bounces between 30 and 50 mph on the same street. Thanks to new legislation, the City of Savage now has more say in setting local speed limits. The City Traffic Safety Committee saw this as the perfect chance to take a fresh look at our collector streets and create speed limits that make more sense for everyone.

## Which streets are changing?

After careful study, six key streets will be getting adjusted speed limits:

### Reduction to 40 mph

154th Street - from 50 mph to 40 mph

### Reduction to 35 mph

150th Street - from 40 mph to 35 mph  
Allen Boulevard - from 45 mph to 35 mph  
Glendale Road - from 45 mph to 35 mph  
Louisiana Avenue South - from 45 mph to 35 mph

### Increase to 35 mph

150th Street between Oregon Ave. to CR 27 - from 30 mph to 35 mph

## What's Next?

The speed limit changes will be rolled out in phases beginning May 1. New permanent speed limit signs will be installed, and a mobile message board will be stationed along the street section with the speed change to let residents know there has been a traffic control change. Once speed limits are in place, law enforcement will increase monitoring to ensure compliance. Police Captain Heski said, "As the City rolls out these speed limit changes, we initially will take an educational approach and focus on informing drivers about the updated speed limits and encourage compliance through education and awareness," however he added that their regular speed statute enforcement throughout the community will continue as usual.

# 2025 Resident Advisory Commissions

The Savage City Council relies on recommendations from resident advisory commissions to inform their decisions. We welcome our newly appointed commission members and thank them for their service.

## Community Equity Commission (CEC)

Amenah Agunwamba  
Sheriff Ahmed  
Abhradeep Chatterjee - 2nd Alt  
Ryan Johngrass  
Gail Lewis-Miller - Reappointed  
Juan Macias - 1st Alt.  
Cyril Mukalel  
Michael Nelson - Reappointed  
Victoria Schultz - Reappointed

## Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Fred Corrigan - Reappointed  
Alan Erickson - Reappointed  
Angie Huss - NEW  
Katherine McIntosh  
Brian Rasmussen  
Jill Sims  
Faisal Suleiman - 1st. Alt -NEW  
Mark Zastrow

Learn more about the role of each commission at [savagemn.gov/government/commissions](https://savagemn.gov/government/commissions).

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

Kevin Chau - 2nd Alt.  
Tim Heinemann - Reappointed  
Joshua Mason - 1st Alt.- Reappointed  
Scott Lund  
Kathy Peterson  
Brenda Shearer - Reappointed  
Andrea Sjogren  
Jackie Sorenson - Reappointed  
Brian Strayer

## Planning Commission (PC)

Robert Brown - Reappointed  
Drew Christensen  
Corey Eidem  
Dana Nelson - NEW  
Steve Thompson  
Andrew Wolf  
Kathryn Zessman - NEW

# EAB Update

Since 2021, Savage has been taking proactive steps to protect our urban forest from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Our city-wide EAB management plan focuses on early detection and strategic removal of infested trees in public spaces to protect our healthy ash trees and mitigate potential public safety hazards in these public areas.

## The impact on our community

With nearly 25% of all trees in Savage being ash trees, EAB significantly impacts our urban forest. Between 2021 and 2024, the City of Savage and our residents have protected 1,734 trees through treatment; 154 public (City), 1,580 private (residents). In 2023-2024 alone, 448 infested trees were removed to slow the spread.

## Treatment options and expert advice

Natural Resources Coordinator Jonah Reyes offers practical guidance: "If you've been consistently treating your ash trees and they're healthy and thriving, continuing treatment is worth considering." While the City has once again partnered with Rainbow Treecare to offer Savage residents a discount on treatments, Reyes notes that starting treatment now on previously untreated trees may not be as effective.

## Beyond ash trees

Reyes also highlights emerging challenges to our urban forest with the past consecutive years of drought. He encourages residents to monitor all their trees for changes in health conditions. Ongoing drought conditions have led to issues like Burr oak blight and two-lined chestnut borer affecting oak trees. For those looking to add new trees to their property, the annual Arbor Day Tree Sale runs through April 13 - just remember to plant them on private property, not in public right-of-ways.

## Helpful Resources:

- For certified tree contractors, visit [savagemn.gov/departments/natural-and-water-resources-trees](https://savagemn.gov/departments/natural-and-water-resources-trees).
- To learn about Rainbow Treecare's resident discount program: [rainbowtreecare.com/savage](https://rainbowtreecare.com/savage). (Note: homeowners are responsible for scheduling and treatment costs)
- For more information on EAB: [dnr.state.mn.us/invasive/terrestrialanimals/eab](https://dnr.state.mn.us/invasive/terrestrialanimals/eab)

*Note: As budget permits, tree replacement in parks and open spaces will be conducted according to the City's EAB Management Plan.*

# Downtown Redevelopment Plan: *The Future of Downtown Savage*

Our City Council has approved an exciting new Downtown Redevelopment Plan that maps out a bold vision for Downtown Savage. Our plan creates a downtown where current and future residents can find everything they need, from daily essentials to entertainment, all within walking distance. We're working to build a downtown with diverse housing options that welcome everyone, from young professionals to growing families to retirees. Our goal is to transform Downtown Savage into a destination that draws visitors to shop, dine, and enjoy themselves.

Making this vision a reality will require strong partnerships between the public and private sectors, working together to reimagine what Downtown Savage can become. While the complete transformation will take time, here are three key initiatives we're focusing on in the next 1-5 years:

## 1. Enhancing Our Western Gateway

Highway 13 is both our greatest asset and challenge - while it brings over 50,000 vehicles past downtown daily, it also creates a barrier to entering the area. Currently, less than 10% of that traffic makes its way onto Quentin or Lynn Avenues, our main downtown access routes. With upcoming changes to Highway 13, we plan to enhance the western entrance at Quentin Avenue and 123rd Street, creating a

more welcoming gateway that clearly announces arrival into our downtown district.

## 2. Transforming the Marion W. Savage School Site

The former Marion W. Savage School site, vacant for over four years, presents an exciting opportunity for growth. The School District is currently discussing with developers the introduction of new housing options, likely including an apartment building, townhomes, or row homes. As with all development plans, we'll actively seek community input throughout the process.

## 3. Revitalizing the Hamilton Building

Located at 4735 123rd Street, the Hamilton Building is owned by the Savage Economic Development Authority (EDA) and leased long-term to the Scott County Community Development Agency. We're actively seeking new tenants for two available ground-floor retail spaces. Our goal is to bring in businesses that will enhance downtown's vitality and draw more visitors to the area.

To stay informed and share your thoughts, follow the Downtown Redevelopment Project at [letstalksavage.com](http://letstalksavage.com).

## Community heroes

On a December evening in 2024, what started as a middle school band concert at Prior Lake High School's auditorium turned into a remarkable display of community heroism. At around 8:30 p.m., a 92-year-old great-grandmother, who had come to watch her great-grandchild perform, suddenly went into cardiac arrest.

Before Savage police officers and firefighters could arrive, several quick-thinking community members sprang into action. Their swift response was nothing short of extraordinary - they immediately began chest compressions and located an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). They worked together to perform CPR until emergency responders took over.

The impact of their rapid response was profound. According to her doctors, these immediate actions not only saved the woman's life but also prevented any loss of brain function - a particularly remarkable outcome given her age. The family has expressed their endless gratitude for these lifesaving efforts.

While some of the everyday heroes preferred to remain unnamed, including a Prior Lake firefighter who was present, three community members were identified for their crucial roles: Heidi Burton, Nicole Touroutoutoudis, and Rachel Liebenow. Though modest about their actions, these individuals exemplify the tremendous impact that quick thinking and willingness to help can have on a community.

Their selfless response that evening didn't just save a life - it touched the hearts of the patient, her family, and the entire community, showing how ordinary people can become extraordinary heroes when needed most.



Rachel, Heidi, and Nicole (not pictured) were presented with the Savage Police Department's Citizen Lifesaving Award at the February 3, 2025 City Council meeting.

## Building Permits: What you need to know

### Do you have an open permit?

Whenever homeowners or contractors apply for a permit, the permit issued for that work is considered "open" and stays open until all required inspections have been completed and approved. When the work is completed, a final inspection is approved, and the permit is "closed" with the City. Failure to close a permit implies that the City Building Inspections Department has not approved construction, and it is unknown if the work performed is code-compliant. This can result in construction-related issues, refinancing problems, and issues with future home sales. To find out if you have any "open" permits on your property, go to [epermits.logis.org](http://epermits.logis.org), select Savage as the participating City you want to search for, then select Search for Permit. You can search by address for any permits that were issued recently. If you find a permit that does not have a "Final Date," the permit may still be open or expired. Contact the contractor or permit applicant to schedule an inspection with the City.

### Any Spring projects planned?

Decks, driveways, fences, sheds, windows/doors, additions, alterations/remodel, porches, pools, garages, retaining walls - whatever your project is, get the information you need to determine if a permit is required at [savagemn.gov/i-want-to/apply-for-a-an/permits-and-licenses](http://savagemn.gov/i-want-to/apply-for-a-an/permits-and-licenses). Getting the appropriate permits and site plan approvals can take time, so consider starting the process ASAP if you'd like to start building this spring. You can also call the Building Department with questions at **952-882-2650**.

# Rec Corner

## Spring/Summer registration opens on March 4

Start planning for summer! Savage Parks and Recreation has been busy planning all the programs kids love, like Playground Pals, Tiny Tots, Fabulous Fridays, and action-packed Adventure and Sports Camps. But we've also added fun new youth and family programs and plenty of leagues for adults as well. Learn more and register online at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov).

## Spring Break Open Play

Play soccer, baseball, football, ultimate frisbee, bocce ball, lacrosse, and ladder golf at Open Play for only \$5 per person. Ages 5 and under are free. View the complete Open Play schedule at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov).

**March 31:** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**April 1:** 3 - 5 p.m.

**April 2:** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**April 3:** 3 - 5 p.m.

**April 4:** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Flashlight Egg Scramble | April 11

Scramble across the field at the Savage Sports Center with the lights off! Bring your flashlight and basket to scoop up as many eggs as you can. Several golden eggs will be on the field for a chance to win a special basket. Eggs will not be filled and recycled at the end of the scramble, where every pre-registered participant will receive a goodie bag full of prizes. Pre-registration is required at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov); no walk-ins accepted.

**Registration deadline:** March 30

**Ages:** 3-9

**Price:** \$6 per child

**Doors open for activities:** 7 p.m.

- Ages 3-6 Scramble: 8 p.m. (with one adult)
- Ages 6-9 Scramble: 8:30 p.m. (no adults)

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

# Upcoming Community Events

## Highway 13 Improvements Open House

March 18 • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Savage Library, 13090 Alabama Ave.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will host an in-person meeting to discuss the Highway 13 improvement project in Savage and Burnsville, tentatively scheduled for 2027 through 2030. The project will reconstruct Hwy 13 between Quentin Ave. in Savage and Nicollet Ave. in Burnsville. It will impact the intersections at Quentin Ave., Lynne Ave., and Chowen Ave. in Savage. A short presentation is scheduled at 5 p.m. MnDOT, along with city and county staff, will be available to offer information and answer questions about the project. For more information or to sign up for email updates, visit the project webpage at [mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy13savageburnsville/](http://mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy13savageburnsville/).

## Savage Senior Club | Tuesdays and Thursdays

A group of Savage seniors meet for camaraderie, refreshments and to play card games at the Savage Library Annex. All are welcome!

**Date:** Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Time:** Noon- 3 p.m.

**Location:** Savage Library Annex, 13090 Alabama Ave. S.

# KEEP IN TOUCH:



## 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.

View a list of available trees by scanning the QR code or visit [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov). *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](http://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

## Save the Date! Arbor Day Celebration

April 26 • 10-11:30 a.m.

McCull Pond ELC, 13550 Dakota Ave., Savage

More event details are available online at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov).

# Community Garden Plots

Do you love fresh vegetables, flowers, and being outdoors? Are you looking for a way to connect with neighbors and enjoy a rewarding hobby? Now is the time to sign up for garden plots at both community gardens.

- Garden plots are 10' X 15'
- \$45 per plot (residents), \$55 per plot (non-residents)
- New renter registration begins March 4 (residents), March 6 (non-residents)

## Warren Butler Park, 12800 Ottawa Ave., Savage

(44 garden plots, one plot per household)

## River Bend Park, 14347 Joppa Ave. South, Savage

(30 garden plots, one plot per household)

Register online at [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov) or in person at Savage Parks and Recreation, 13770 Dakota Ave., Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### City of Savage

6000 McColl Drive, Savage, MN 55378

**Phone** 952-882-2660  
**Fax** 952-882-2656  
**Website** [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov)

### Mayor

Christine Kelly 952-226-2332

### Council members

Bob Coughlen 612-965-3999  
Stacy Crakes 612-964-7893  
Matt Johnson 612-875-0367  
Megan Bergstrom 651-208-4212

### City Administrator

Brad Larson 952-882-2660

### Editor

Emily Gunderson 952-882-2655  
[egunderson@savagemn.gov](mailto:egunderson@savagemn.gov)