



CITY OF
SAVAGE
MINNESOTA

CITY CONNECTION

APRIL 2025

New to Savage? Welcome! Bienvenida! Kusoo dhawoow!

Are you a new resident curious about what Savage has to offer? Visit the City's website at savagemn.gov to learn more about our parks, trails, events, services, and more! You can also stop by City Hall at 6000 McColl Drive to pick up important information on Scott County and the surrounding area. We are so glad you are here!

The City of Savage website, savagemn.gov, is available in multiple languages. Click "translate" in the upper right corner to show a list of available languages.

Upcoming Community Events

Tree Pick-Up Reminder | April 26

Come to Savage Public Works, 13770 Dakota Ave., between 10 a.m. and noon to pick up your pre-purchased trees. No trees will be available to purchase on pick-up day.

Arbor Day Celebration | April 26 • 10-11:30 a.m.

McCull Pond ELC, 13550 Dakota Ave., Savage
Bring the whole family to the FREE annual Arbor Day Celebration at the McCull Pond Environmental Learning and Event Center.

10 a.m.: Arbor Day Proclamation by Mayor Christine Kelly

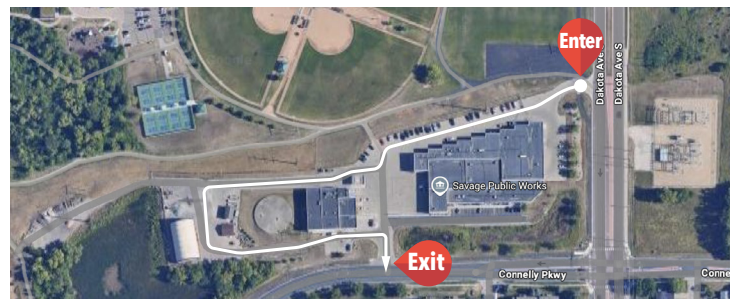
10:15 a.m.: NEW! Sustainable Safari Wildlife Show
Join us for an up-close encounter with up to six fascinating safari animals like ring-tail lemurs, pygmy goats, baby kangaroos, snakes, porcupines, and more! During this immersive experience, our knowledgeable Safari Guide will share fascinating facts about the animal's natural habitats and behaviors. This educational adventure offers a rare opportunity to observe these remarkable creatures while learning about wildlife conservation efforts. Perfect for natural enthusiasts of all ages!

11 a.m.: Q&A with Natural Resources Coordinator Jonah Reyes and self-guided family tree scavenger hunt

11:20 a.m.: Free White Spruce tree plug giveaway and one lucky door prize winner of our Plant a Tree basket

Community Clean-up | April 26

Celebrate Earth Day by helping to keep our community looking beautiful by picking up trash in parks and public green spaces. The City will provide gloves, garbage bags, and safety vests if needed. Register as an individual or a group at savagemn.gov. Please direct questions to Tammy at tcoyne@savagemn.gov or 952-224-3425.



SAVE THE DATE! Savage Recycle Day

May 3 • 8 a.m. - noon

NEW LOCATION! Savage Public Works, 13770 Dakota Ave.

This is a drop-off event where Savage and Credit River residents can dispose of appliances, electronics, furniture, yard waste, and other unwanted items for a reasonable fee.

- Bring a valid driver's license or another form of I.D. to prove residency
- No vehicles larger than a pickup truck
- No trailers larger than 8 X 12 feet

Visit savagemn.gov for a complete list of accepted and unacceptable items and fees, or pick up a flyer at City Hall, Public Works, or the Savage Public Library. For more information or questions, contact the City at 952-882-2660.

Please note: Bridging Inc. will not collect donations at Savage Recycling Day. Paper shredding is not part of the Savage Recycling Day. The annual Shredding Event is scheduled for August 23, 2025.

SAVE THE DATE! Savage Police Open House

May 31 • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Savage Police Department, 6000 McColl Drive

Join us for the annual Savage Police Department Open House. This family-friendly event offers something for everyone:

- See a variety of public safety vehicles.
- Meet and greet our local heroes and she-roes!
- Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the police department.
- Activities for kids include fingerprinting demonstrations, face painting, and a jump house.
- Complimentary snacks for our younger visitors.



This is a FREE community event - no registration required. We look forward to seeing you there!

I want to know!

How can I stay informed about what is happening in Savage?

The City is committed to being your go-to source for accurate, timely, and reliable information to inform you about what is happening in your community. This is especially critical with the closure of our long-standing local newspaper, the Savage Pacer. To do this, the City uses a variety of communication channels to ensure information reaches the most residents, including those who prefer traditional methods of communication and those who are more digitally inclined.



City Connection newsletter*

Stay updated on the latest news and events with the City Connection printed newsletter, delivered to every household and business with their monthly utility bills. Copies are also available at the Savage Public Library and online at savagemn.gov.



City E-News

Residents who prefer to receive an email can subscribe to the City E-News at savagemn.gov and be one of the first to read special announcements, important reminders, and alerts.



City website*

Visit savagemn.gov for the latest news, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved. It's an excellent resource for information on city services, staff contacts, voting locations, ordinances, permit applications, and our unique local history.



Let's Talk Savage*

Curious about projects in your neighborhood or proposed developments? Join the conversation on our community platform, letstalksavage.com, to stay informed and actively share your ideas and opinions. Current featured projects include:

- Community Mural at Savage Library
- Harbor Suites Senior Memory Care
- Collector Street Speed Limits
- South Park Drive Improvements
- 2025 Neighborhood Street Project



Social media

Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, LinkedIn, and TikTok for real-time highlights and updates on what is happening in the community.



Local government meetings

The Savage City Council meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Residents are always welcome to attend and have their voices heard. You can also watch the meetings on the City's government access channel, Savage TV, which airs on Mediacom and Nuvera. City meetings are also available live and on-demand at savagemn.gov.

Now you know all the different ways to connect and engage with your community!

Savage Community Connect

RESIDENTS

BUSINESS OWNERS

Seconds matter to first responders. Providing critical information about your property, people, needs, and pets before an emergency can help Savage Fire assist you more effectively if there is an emergency. It's free, easy and secure.

1. Create an account.

All it takes is your email, phone number, and address. Your information is never used for any other purpose. If you're comfortable logging in to your online bank, you'll be comfortable logging into Community Connect.

2. Enter the info that matters most.

Enter valuable information on your home or business that can help first responders assist more effectively during an emergency.

3. Help Savage Fire first responders when seconds count.

That's it! Just keep us updated when things change over time so we can always be prepared.

Scan the QR Code to create or update your profile today.



Good News!

The Savage Area Arts Festival is back.

The second annual Savage Area Arts Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. at Savage Community Park. While October sounds like a long way off, it's not too early to get involved. The artist application is now open at <https://bit.ly/4h2NfPT>. In addition, they will be looking for volunteers, demonstration artists, people to lead children's activities, hospitality specialists, and more. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 11, and plan for the Savage Area Arts Festival!

Statewide Tornado Drills

During Severe Weather Awareness week, April 7-11, outdoor warning sirens will sound in a simulated tornado warning on Thursday, April 10. The first drill (1:45 p.m.) is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill (6:45 p.m.) is intended for second shift workers and families. Please take this opportunity to know what to do and where to go in case of a tornado!

City updates short-term rental ordinance

After 18 months of careful consideration and community input, the City Council has approved significant changes to our short-term rental ordinance. The updated policy creates new opportunities for homeowners while preserving neighborhood character and addressing potential concerns.

Why the change?

Short-term rentals provide alternative lodging options for guests in the city and allow property owners to utilize extra space or bedrooms in their homes. When properly managed, these rentals have a minimal impact on surrounding properties. However, unregulated rentals—especially those without on-site owners—can potentially:

- Disrupt the residential character of neighborhoods
- Create noise and parking issues
- Transform homes into de facto hotels rather than residences

What's new?

The updated ordinance replaces the previous prohibition on rentals of 15 days or less with a regulated approach that includes:

- Annual licensing: Property owners must obtain a \$25 yearly license
- Safety measures: A one-time \$150 non-refundable investigation fee covers background checks and safety inspections
- Owner presence required: The property owner must remain on-site during all rental periods
- Limited availability: Only 12 short-term rental licenses will be issued citywide (1 per 1,000 dwelling units)

Benefits for our community.

The new approach carefully balances multiple priorities:

- Income opportunity: Residents can generate supplemental income from unused bedrooms
- Housing protection: Prevents investors from purchasing homes solely for short-term rental purposes
- Neighborhood preservation: Owner presence helps ensure rentals don't become disruptive "party houses."

This policy was developed with extensive community engagement through the Let's Talk Savage platform, research on neighboring communities' approaches, and recommendations from the Economic Development Commission and City Council.

For questions about the new policy or to begin the application process, please contact Code Enforcement Coordinator Mitch Johnson at 952-882-2662 or mitch.johnson@savagemn.gov.

Savage is recognized for financial excellence

For the 27th consecutive year, the City of Savage has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This award is the highest recognition in government accounting and financial reporting and represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Code Corner

With Spring on the way, you may be planning a few projects around your home. In most cases, you don't need a permit from the City to construct fences, driveways, or sheds on your property. However, it's important to remember that you are still responsible for ensuring your project complies with City ordinances. City regulations govern key factors like the location, height, and materials of your project. These rules are in place to ensure the safety and aesthetics of our community.

While a permit may not be needed, failure to comply with City ordinances could result in fines or the need to remove or alter your construction. If you're unsure about specific guidelines or need more information, please contact our Community Development Department at 952-882-2650.

Celebrating our community heroes

What began as an ordinary afternoon stroll on October 1 turned into a life-changing moment for Katie and Stephen Sjolander. While walking their dog through O'Connell Park around 4:30 p.m., the couple encountered a man in severe distress who had attempted suicide. Stephen, a Hennepin County Deputy Sheriff, immediately put his training into action. Using his own belt and a nearby stick, he created a makeshift tourniquet to control the man's bleeding. Meanwhile, Katie, an Investigations Analyst with the Minnetonka Police Department, calmly contacted 911 and provided crucial updates to emergency dispatchers.

The situation became even more challenging when the injured man, who had lost consciousness, suddenly awoke and became combative. Stephen quickly shifted roles from providing medical aid to ensuring everyone's safety while continuing life-saving measures. "Their decisive intervention in stopping the severe bleeding made the difference between life and death," noted Police Chief Brady Juell. "Without their immediate actions, this individual would not have survived."

While both Sjolanders serve their communities professionally in law enforcement roles, this rescue happened during their personal time in their own neighborhood. "They stepped up for the community where they live," said Chief Juell. "They exemplify what it truly means to be good neighbors and engaged citizens." The rescued individual received both critical medical treatment and mental health care at the hospital, thanks to the chain of survival that began with the Sjolanders' intervention.

Katie and Stephen have remained characteristically humble about their actions, but their impact extends beyond saving one life—they've inspired our entire community with their example of compassion and courage in action.



Stephen and Katie Sjolander were presented the Citizen Lifesaving Award at the March 3, 2025 City Council Meeting.

Rec Corner

Adult Summer Leagues

Grab some friends, family, or co-workers for some fun and friendly competition.

Bean Bag Toss League | May - July

Our bean bag toss league (also known as cornhole) is a perfect mix of skill and socializing. Games are played on Thursday evenings at Savage Community Park. Teams can be made up of any combination of gender.

Bocce Ball League | May - July

Teams of 2 - 4 will play double-headers with an end-of-the-season tournament. Play is on Wednesdays at Schroeder's Acres Park.

Learn more and register online at savagemn.gov.

Pickleball 101 - Beginners | May 5

This lesson is for beginner pickleball players. Players will learn the basic skills and rules of pickleball. Upon completion of the lesson, you will have the tools to play pickleball with your friends and family. Our instructor has played in pro tournaments and is certified as a professional instructor through the Professional Pickleball Registry which is the official education and certification partner for USA Pickleball. Learn more and register online at savagemn.gov.

Pickleball Lesson 201 - 3.25+ | May 12

Looking for a way to bring your pickleball game up a notch? Learn game play strategy, tournament tips, transitioning technique, and contact point skills to take your pickleball skills to the next level. This lesson is for players at a 3.25+ level. Our instructor has played in pro tournaments and is certified as a professional instructor through the Professional Pickleball Registry which is the official education and certification partner for USA Pickleball. Learn more and register online at savagemn.gov.

Drive & Drop your way to Cooking in the Kitchen Camp

May 13

Practice drives and drops from the baseline and transition zone that will help you get to the kitchen to begin soft drop cooking! This lesson is for players at a 3.25+ level. Our instructor has played in pro tournaments and is certified as a professional instructor through the Professional Pickleball Registry which is the official education and certification partner for USA Pickleball. Learn more and register online at savagemn.gov.

Join the Best. Team. Ever.

We are looking for motivated people to fill seasonal jobs in Recreation and Public Works. Come work with us!

Seasonal opportunities include:

- Recreation Instructor
- Playground Lead - Recreation Instructor
- Utilities Maintenance

Learn more and apply online at savagemn.gov.

KEEP IN TOUCH:



Park Bench and Tree Dedication Program

Have you ever noticed a beautiful bench or majestic tree in a local park with a small plaque attached? These aren't just random park features. They're meaningful tributes that tell stories of love, remembrance, and celebration.

The City of Savage's Park Bench and Tree Dedication Program lets you create a lasting legacy in our shared green spaces. Whether you're commemorating a birthday, celebrating a graduation, or honoring a loved one, these living memorials become part of our community fabric.

Park Bench Dedications: A place to pause and remember

Your bench donation provides:

- A durable six-foot coated metal bench built to withstand Minnesota's seasons
- Complete installation on a concrete pad in a selected park location
- Regular maintenance for five years
- Optional personalized plaque (5" x 7.5") on the backrest

Tree Dedications: Growing memories year after year

Watch your dedicated tree flourish over time! Your tree dedication includes:

- A healthy 2" - 3" diameter tree selected for its location
- Professional site preparation and planting
- Ongoing maintenance

Choose from several beautiful species, including Crab Apple, Hackberry, Hawthorn, Linden, Oak, Maple, Evergreen, or Kentucky Coffee trees. You can even join the planting crew!

How it works:

1. Start your request by calling Parks and Recreation (PAR) at **952-224-3425**.
2. PAR will help you select the location and tree species (if applicable) and provide pricing.
3. Make your tax-deductible donation.
4. Approve the plaque wording (benches only)
5. Attend the installation (tree plantings happen in Spring and fall).

Ready to create a lasting tribute that gives back to the community? Contact **Tammy Coyne** at tcoyne@savagemn.gov or **952-224-3425** to get started!

City of Savage
6000 McColl Drive, Savage, MN 55378

Phone 952-882-2660
Fax 952-882-2656
Website 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 651-392-7312

City Administrator
Brad Larson 952-882-2660

Editor
Emily Gunderson 952-882-2655
egunderson@savagemn.gov