



## Mosaic Magic!



Thanks to input from the community, here is the final design for the community mural that will be installed at the Savage Library later this summer. The mural will be a complete mosaic made from glass tiles and mirrors.

The mural's purpose is to foster a sense of community and belonging. Look closely for some of the subtle symbolism that has been included:

- The tree and roots created from different hands symbolize growth, strength, and connection. Both literally and metaphorically, they link the past, present, and future generations.
- Our parks and natural spaces are important features of our community. Seeing people enjoying our parks, trails, and green spaces reflects how interconnected we are within our community.
- The rivers, both the Minnesota River and Credit River, represent unity in diversity. Rivers collect water from many sources and combine them into one flowing body, symbolizing how different people, ideas, and cultures can come together in harmony.
- The soaring eagle is a native symbol of strength and connection that acknowledges our connection to being on Dakota land.

A special thank you to everyone who participated in our April mosaic-making workshops and helped bring sections of our community mural to life with their own creative touches! The mural is expected to be installed by August 31, 2025.



## Naturally Resourceful

### Tree Planting Tips

Are you looking to add a new tree to your landscape? Planting a tree isn't just about digging a hole and dropping it in. Proper planting techniques ensure your new green friend thrives for years.

Fortunately, our Natural Resource Coordinator, Jonah Reyes, has created a comprehensive video guide that walks you through the entire process. This easy-to-follow resource covers everything from selecting the right location to the final mulching touches.

"Many common tree issues can be prevented right at planting time," explains Reyes. "Our goal is to help community members establish healthy trees to provide beauty and environmental benefits for generations."

The video guide breaks down key planting steps for bare root trees including:

- Proper hole sizing and preparation
- Proper root structure preparation
- Correct planting depth
- Effective watering methods
- Mulching best practices



Ready to get started? Scan the QR code below for instant access to this helpful resource. Whether you're a first-time planter or a seasoned gardener, these professional tips will help ensure your tree gets the best possible start. Happy planting!

## Spring maintenance begins

### Street sweeping

Every spring and fall, street crews sweep all 132 miles of residential streets (264 if you count both sides of the road) to keep our neighborhoods clean and livable and protect our waterways. It takes approximately 4 - 6 weeks to get the entire city swept, including parking lots and hard surfaces. Eventually, everything that lands in the street travels through the storm drainage system to lakes and ponds. Remember that leaves and grass should stay in your yard and not be raked or placed on the streets. They can clog storm drains and pollute our ponds, streams, and wetlands.

### Hydrant and water main flushing - Now through July 18

Utility crews will be out flushing the community water system to ensure they're in good working condition and to clear sediment. During the flushing period, it is normal to experience some discolored water. This does not affect the safety of the water, and your water is safe to drink. If you experience discoloration of your water, clear the pipes in your home by running your water faucets for a few minutes.

# Public Safety



## 2024 Officer of the Year: Officer Ben Mathys

We proudly announce Officer Ben Mathys as our 2024 Officer of the Year. This prestigious recognition celebrates Officer Mathys' exceptional contributions to both our department and the community we serve.

Officer Mathys has consistently demonstrated remarkable professionalism and tactical expertise throughout his tenure with the Savage Police Department. His commitment to excellence has earned him the respect of his colleagues and established him as an exemplary figure within our force.

In an unprecedented achievement, Officer Mathys is the first to simultaneously receive the Award for Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year. This extraordinary accomplishment highlights his versatility, dedication, and willingness to serve our community across multiple crucial roles.

"Beyond his technical skills, Officer Mathys has proven himself to be a natural leader who inspires those around him," states Police Chief Brady Juell. "His approach to community policing emphasizes building trust, fostering positive relationships, and ensuring the safety and well-being of all citizens." The entire Savage Police Department extends heartfelt congratulations to Officer Mathys for this well-deserved recognition. His unwavering dedication to public service reflects the highest standards of our department. It serves as an inspiration to us all.



## 2024 Employee of the Year: Jennifer Driscoll

Jennifer stands out as an exceptional team member who brings professional excellence and genuine personal warmth to everything she does. Her contributions have made a significant impact on the organization. Chief Juell praised Jennifer's unique combination

of qualities: "I've never worked with someone so charismatic, dependable, fun, and caring. Jennifer is always willing to step up and help where she can, and she processed almost half of the gun permits initiated last year." Throughout 2024, Jennifer demonstrated remarkable dedication to her work while fostering meaningful relationships with colleagues at all levels. Her approach perfectly embodies our city's core values of Platinum Rule, Making a Difference, Valuing People, and Encouraging Openness.



## 2024 Volunteer of the Year: James Salisbury

James joined our Volunteers in Policing (VIPs) in 2023 after participating in our Citizen's Police Academy. "He wasted no time jumping into every event and request for help we sent out and has been a true asset not only to VIPs, but our department as a

whole," notes Chief Juell. In his first year of service, James assisted with our Open House, Night to Unite, Citizen's Police and Fire Academy, Holiday Heroes, and Santa Cop. James exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism that strengthens the bond between our department and the community we serve. His willingness to step up whenever needed has made him an invaluable member of our volunteer team and deserving this year's honor.

## Designated Driver Program | May 23 - 26

Did you know the 100 days from Memorial Day to Labor Day is considered the most dangerous time on the roads in Minnesota? Alcohol is one of the main reasons for fatal car crashes during the summer season. This Memorial Day weekend, the Savage Police Department is teaming up with McHugh's Public House, Niesen's, and Whiskey Inferno to reward designated drivers. Here's how it works:

1. Stop by any of these establishments between Friday, May 23, and Monday, May 26, and tell your server you are the designated driver.
2. Scan the QR code and submit your information (one entry per designated driver)
3. All participating designated drivers will be entered into a drawing for prizes worth up to \$300.

Let's make it a safe Memorial Day weekend.



## ATTN: Entering Construction Season

Want to stay informed on local road and construction projects? Visit [letstalksavage.com](http://letstalksavage.com) for the latest updates and information on the 2025 street improvement project and other projects happening around our community.

### Fiber Installation Project

You will start seeing the large rolls of orange tubing along the side of the road again this spring. Several companies are installing underground fiber optic cable in Savage, which brings high-speed internet to homes and businesses (also called broadband service). Each company must obtain a city right-of-way permit to perform this work within the right-of-way and public easements.

### What you need to know:

- **The City of Savage is not conducting this work.**
- Before starting work in a neighborhood, the companies are expected to provide customer service contact information to property owners.
- If you have concerns or questions about the project, please follow up directly with the company performing the project.
- Before digging begins, underground utilities are marked with paint or flags to indicate their location and prevent accidental damage.
- The white flags on your property indicate the planned route for underground fiber installation.
- The fiber companies are responsible for restoring any areas affected by construction, including repairing any damage to grass, sprinkler systems, underground dog fencing systems, asphalt, and concrete.

For information on where fiber companies are working in the community, common FAQs, company contacts, and status updates go to [letstalksavage.com/fiber-installation-projects](http://letstalksavage.com/fiber-installation-projects).

## Upcoming Community Events

**Savage Recycle Day | May 3 • 8 a.m. - noon**  
**NEW LOCATION!** Savage Public Works, 13770 Dakota Ave.  
Spring cleaning? Here's your chance to responsibly dispose of unwanted items! 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.

### Important information:

- **Proof of residency:** Bring a valid driver's license or another form of I.D.
- **Vehicle restrictions:** No vehicles larger than a pickup truck
- **Trailer restrictions:** No trailers larger than 8 X 12 feet
- **Payment methods:** Cash or check only (no credit cards)

For a complete list of accepted items and fees, visit [savagemn.gov](http://savagemn.gov) or pick up a flyer at City Hall, Public Works, or the Savage Public Library.

**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.

**Questions?** Contact the city at **952-882-2660**.

**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.
- Kid's activities include fingerprinting demos, 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!

**Treats and Tunes | Free family fun all summer long!**  
**6 - 7 p.m.:** Enjoy FREE ice cream and yard games  
**7 - 8 p.m.:** Listen to live performances by talented, kid-friendly musicians

Each event will be hosted at a different community park and feature a new musician throughout the summer. Bring your neighbors, family, and friends for these wonderful evenings of community connection and entertainment!

**May 20 | 6-8 p.m.**  
Canterbury Park, 13444 Inglewood Ave.  
Galactic Cowboy Orchestra (rock/jazz creation)

**June 17 | 6 - 8 p.m.**  
River Bend Park, 14347 Joppa Ave.  
Pan-Handlers Steel Drum Band (Caribbean)

**July 22 | 6 - 8 p.m.**  
Woodhill Park, 8901 138th St.  
Kid Power with Miss Rachael (family/kids)

**August 19 | 6 - 8 p.m.**  
Trost Park, 5455 137th St.  
Brian Miller & Danny Diamond (Irish)

**September 16 | 5 - 7 p.m.**  
Creek Hill Park, 15625 Hampshire Ave.  
Teddy Bear Band (family/kids)

## Prepping for a Pool Permit:

### 5 P's to ensure the process is painless.

Thinking about building a pool in your backyard? Here are some tips to help you with the process:

**Prepare** - Determine if you need a permit. Most in-ground pools require a permit. Above-ground pools that are over 5,000 gallons also require a permit.

**Plan** - Most residential areas allow up to 35% impervious surface, meaning that on a 10,000-square-foot lot, only 3,500 square feet can be covered by a house, driveway, sidewalks, pool, sports court, and storage shed. Be sure to consider the maximum impervious surface, pool location, fence placement, and other amenities in relation to easements and zoning setbacks when designing your project.

**Permit** - Several items must be submitted when your contractor applies for a permit, including an up-to-date certificate of survey and construction plans. Don't forget to include the location of existing and proposed trees, retaining walls, sidewalks, patios, pool equipment, pool decking, and landscaping.

**Patience** - Review of the permit application and follow-up inspections takes some time, but the wait will be worth it!

**Party** - Once you submit an As-Built survey and final inspections take place, it's time to celebrate and enjoy a dip in your new pool.

For detailed requirements about swimming pools, contact Building Inspections at **952-882-2650** or [savageinspections@savagemn.gov](mailto:savageinspections@savagemn.gov) or scan the QR code for the swimming pool handout.



## How to Hire a Contractor

Are you planning to renovate your basement, replace your roof, or tackle other home improvement projects? Hiring a qualified contractor is critical for ensuring quality work. We strongly recommend working with a contractor licensed by the state of Minnesota to protect your investment and your home.

### Why choose a licensed contractor?

Licensed contractors offer significant advantages over unlicensed ones:

Qualification	Licensed	Unlicensed
Passed a written exam	√	X
Carries liability insurance	√	X
Has workers' compensation insurance	√	X
Maintains public business records	√	X
Has a verified street address (not a P.O. box)	√	X
Completes continuing education	√	X
Provides access to Contractor Recovery Fund	√	X
Meets Minnesota legal requirements	√	X

### Other resources:

For more detailed guidance on hiring contractors:

- Scan the QR Code to get comprehensive tips from our Building Inspections Division
- Review "A Consumer's Guide to Hiring a Residential Building Contractor" from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry: <https://bit.ly/4iJtrcd>.
- Verify a contractor's license status at [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov).



Choosing a licensed contractor can save you from potential headaches and ensure your home improvements are completed safely and professionally.

## Code Corner

### Understanding Savage's Outdoor Storage Ordinance

In Savage, we pride ourselves on maintaining the beauty and charm of our community. A big part is ensuring our neighborhoods stay neat, organized, and clutter-free. Let's break down what you need to know about this important ordinance and how it affects you as a resident.

#### What is the Outdoor Storage Ordinance?

This ordinance is straightforward: materials and equipment must be stored inside a building, not in your yard or driveway. This ordinance applies to items like:

- Tools and equipment
- Building materials and supplies
- Unused household items
- Recreational equipment not in active use.

Think of it this way - if it's not designed specifically for outdoor use or currently being used, it probably belongs inside a structure.

#### What are my options if space is tight?

If you're finding it challenging to comply because of limited storage space, consider these practical solutions:

- Organize your garage or shed more efficiently with vertical storage solutions
- Consider a small storage shed if your property allows
- Rent a storage unit for seasonal or rarely used items
- Take stock of what you have and consider whether it's time to sell or donate items you no longer need

#### What happens if I don't comply?

The city takes an educational approach first. If your property isn't compliant:

1. You'll likely receive a friendly notice explaining the issue
2. You'll be given reasonable time to address the situation
3. City staff may reach out to discuss solutions if you're facing challenges

Only in cases of continued non-compliance would more formal enforcement steps be taken.

#### Need help?

If you have questions about whether specific items need to be stored indoors or need help finding solutions for your storage challenges, contact us at [952-882-2662](tel:952-882-2662) or [mitch.johnson@savagemn.gov](mailto:mitch.johnson@savagemn.gov).

By working together on these small but essential details, we all contribute to keeping Savage the beautiful, welcoming community we're proud to call home. Thank you for doing your part!

## Farmer's Market opens June 1

One of the simple joys of summer will be returning on Sunday, June 1. That's opening day for the St. Paul Farmer's Market in the Savage Depot parking lot, 400 W. 123rd St. Hours are 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. every Sunday through October 26. Bring the kiddos and search for Maggie the Market Goat, who will be hidden around the market each week. Once you find her, go to the info booth to claim a prize!

## KEEP IN TOUCH:



## Good News!

### NEW! Wall of Fame at Savage Sports Center

The Savage Sports Center (SSC) proudly announces a new display highlighting notable local athletes who have trained at our facility. This feature celebrates hometown talent who have used the SSC as a stepping stone in their athletic careers.



Public Works/Parks and Recreation Director Greg Boatman developed this initiative to recognize the impressive accomplishments of athletes from our community. "It's not just about going pro," Boatman explained. "We have kids who are accomplished collegiate athletes, playing for professional teams, and even Para-Olympic medalists who spent time playing and training at our SSC!" The display serves as both a celebration of past achievements and an inspiration for current SSC users who may see themselves following similar paths.

We're looking to expand our recognition of local athletic talent. If you know someone who should be featured in our display, please contact Director Greg Boatman at [gboatman@savagemn.gov](mailto:gboatman@savagemn.gov) or [952-224-3423](tel:952-224-3423).

We invite you to visit the SSC to view this new addition and celebrate the remarkable athletic achievements that have roots in our community.

## Free Yard Waste Drop-Off in May

During May, the Shakopee Mdwakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) is providing FREE yard waste drop off to Savage residents at the Dakota Prairie Composting (DPC) located at 12386 Chestnut Blvd., Shakopee. Drop-off service is available during regular business hours of Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Please bring a valid driver's license as proof of residency.

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