



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

### **Agenda Item**

#### **Item 7. C. – City of Carver Levee**

### **Prepared By**

Linda Loomis, Administrator

### **Summary**

On August 22, 2023, the LMRWD met with the City of Carver, the DNR and consultants for the Levee project to discuss progress and coordination between the Levee, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge project and the Merriam Junction Trail.

There have been two recent articles in the Chaska Herald about the project. Both are attached.

### **Attachments**

Sidewalk signs raise awareness about Carver's levee project

Commentary: A few Carver updates from Mayor Johnson

### **Recommended Action**

No action recommended

[https://www.swnewsmedia.com/chanhassen\\_villager/sidewalk-signs-raise-awareness-about-carvers-levee-project/article\\_ded840b2-45a7-11ee-9085-a751426ed5ac.html](https://www.swnewsmedia.com/chanhassen_villager/sidewalk-signs-raise-awareness-about-carvers-levee-project/article_ded840b2-45a7-11ee-9085-a751426ed5ac.html)

## Sidewalk signs raise awareness about Carver's levee project

By Chuck Rupnow Special to Southwest News Media  
Aug 28, 2023



Sidewalk signs raise awareness about Carver's levee project | Chanhassen | swnewsmedia.com

The city of Carver placed this decal-like sign about the city's levee project on the sidewalk near Gazebo Park. Residents can scan a QR code that will take them to a website with more information.

Photo by Chuck Rupnow



Mandi Sanchez stood over a new decal-like sign on the sidewalk near Gazebo Park in downtown Carver.

“I don’t know what the levee project is,” she said. “I just moved to this area and I saw the sign here, so I’m going to try and learn a bit more about it.”

The Carver Levee Project is an effort to make necessary improvements to the levee to protect downtown property and citizens from Minnesota River floodwaters.

The path toward certifying the levee carries an estimated \$13 million price tag through a number of funding sources. After receiving a \$6 million flood mitigation grant, there remains about a \$3 million gap for 100 percent financing, according to Mayor Courtney Johnson.

The new signage in downtown Carver is one of the methods the city is using to try and keep the community abreast of the project status, Johnson said.

“This is going to be a pretty significant construction plan for our downtown area and the signs with the QR code is a way of letting folks know about it — giving them the resources so they can be educated and learn more about it if they are so intent,” she said.

The code, when scanned, takes the viewer to the website that provides detailed information about the project.

“The QR code is part of a larger comprehensive communications plan,” Johnson said, noting that the website includes documents, history and other informational items related to the project.

### More Information

For more information, see the projects tab on the city's website at [cityofcarver.com](http://cityofcarver.com).

[https://www.swnewsmedia.com/chaska\\_herald/news/opinion/guest\\_columns/commentary-a-few-carver-updates-from-mayor-johnson/article\\_41a4a08e-40f6-11ee-8bd5-d79cd7f44e91.html](https://www.swnewsmedia.com/chaska_herald/news/opinion/guest_columns/commentary-a-few-carver-updates-from-mayor-johnson/article_41a4a08e-40f6-11ee-8bd5-d79cd7f44e91.html)

## Commentary: A few Carver updates from Mayor Johnson

By Courtney Johnson  
Aug 24, 2023



Courtney Johnson  
Courtney Johnson

It has been a great summer in the City of Carver! While it isn't quite over, the end is near. Here are a few updates I'd like to share as we head into fall.

In Carver, summer isn't over until after Steamboat Days. This year Carver's annual celebration will take place Sept. 8–10. The event will include the traditional events including fire department water fights, car show, bands, fireworks and a parade. The 5K, which will benefit A.C.T. United, is back this year and will be on a new course, starting at Carver Station. Other new features of this year's event include the Zoomobile, a cupcake walk and a wooden bat softball tournament. For all the details check out [carversteamboatdays.info](http://carversteamboatdays.info).



On Saturday, Sept. 9, during Steamboat Days I'll be holding my quarterly Mayor's Office Hours in Council Chambers at City Hall from 9-11 a.m. If you're downtown Saturday morning for the car show or the Minnesota Marketplace, stop by and say "hi."

In July, the 3.5 acre addition to Ironwood Park, which is located directly west of Carver Elementary, officially opened. The expanded park area includes a skate park, basketball court, pavilion, outdoor classroom, seating areas, water fountains (both for you and your four-legged friends!) and permanent yard games, including corn hole and ping pong.

Speaking of parks, last month we learned the City of Carver was awarded a \$350,000 outdoor recreation grant from the Minnesota DNR for the future Creekside Park, which will be located near the intersection of JCP/CR 11 and Main Street West. This grant money, along with a 1:1 match of \$350,000 from the City's Park Dedication Fund, will fund phase one of the park, which will include a dog park, four pickle ball courts, trails, parking lot and other amenities. Construction on the park may begin as early as 2024.

During the 2023 legislative session the state of Minnesota's bonding bill included a \$6 million Flood Mitigation Grant for Carver's Levee Improvement Project. This is the largest amount the city has received so far. To date, we've secured \$8.8 million on the estimated \$13 million project. The next steps will be to get shovels in the ground and begin construction, which will likely begin in 2024/25.

Finally, after Minnesota legalized marijuana, Carver adopted an ordinance last month making the use of cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower potency edibles and/or hemp derived consumer products in a public place in our community a petty misdemeanor. This is similar to the restrictions on "open containers" of alcohol. The City of Carver was also one of the first communities to adopt an interim ordinance/moratorium prohibiting the operation of cannabis businesses in Carver through Jan. 1, 2025. This will allow the City time to study local regulation of cannabis businesses in Carver.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. I can be reached via email at [CJohnson@CityOfCarver.com](mailto:CJohnson@CityOfCarver.com) or call/text me at 612-702-7703. As always, I look forward to hearing from you!

Courtney Johnson is the mayor of the city of Carver. She welcomes questions or comments, and can be reached at [cjohnson@cityofcarver.com](mailto:cjohnson@cityofcarver.com). Follow Johnson on Facebook (@CarverMayorCourtney) and Instagram (@Carver\_Mayor\_Courtney).