

## Contact Information

Scott County and its partners are committed to working with interested individuals throughout this project. If you would like to provide input or if you have questions about this project, you are encouraged to contact:

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Scott County Engineer

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## Information on the Web

Thank you for your consideration and patience through the March 2024 tree clearing work. Scan the QR codes below for more information at:

[Scott County Project Page](#)



[City of Carver Project Page](#)



[www.scottcountymn.gov/2036/Merriam-Junction-Regional-Trail](http://www.scottcountymn.gov/2036/Merriam-Junction-Regional-Trail)



Scott County Transportation Services Division  
200 Fourth Avenue West  
Shakopee, MN 55379

Informational Newsletter  
Merriam Junction Trail Project  
Tree Clearing To Occur In March

## Merriam Junction Trail Project Tree Clearing Activity

March 2024



**Notice: Tree Removals to Start in March**



*Rendering of future river crossing of the Merriam Junction Regional Trail*

### Tree clearing begins in March 2024

The initial stages of the Merriam Junction Trail project will be kicking off in March 2024, including brush and tree clearing along portions of the Merriam Junction Trail and the Carver levee. See inside for more information.

## Project Background

Scott County, along with its project partners including the City of Carver and Carver County, have been working and coordinating to design the Merriam Junction Trail.

The Merriam Junction Trail is an approximately 2.2-mile bituminous trail from the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge-Louisville Swamp Unit trailhead parking lot west of US 169 in Scott County along the abandoned Union Pacific rail line to the City of Carver. The project will construct a total of four bridges including a bridge over the Minnesota River linking Scott and Carver County.

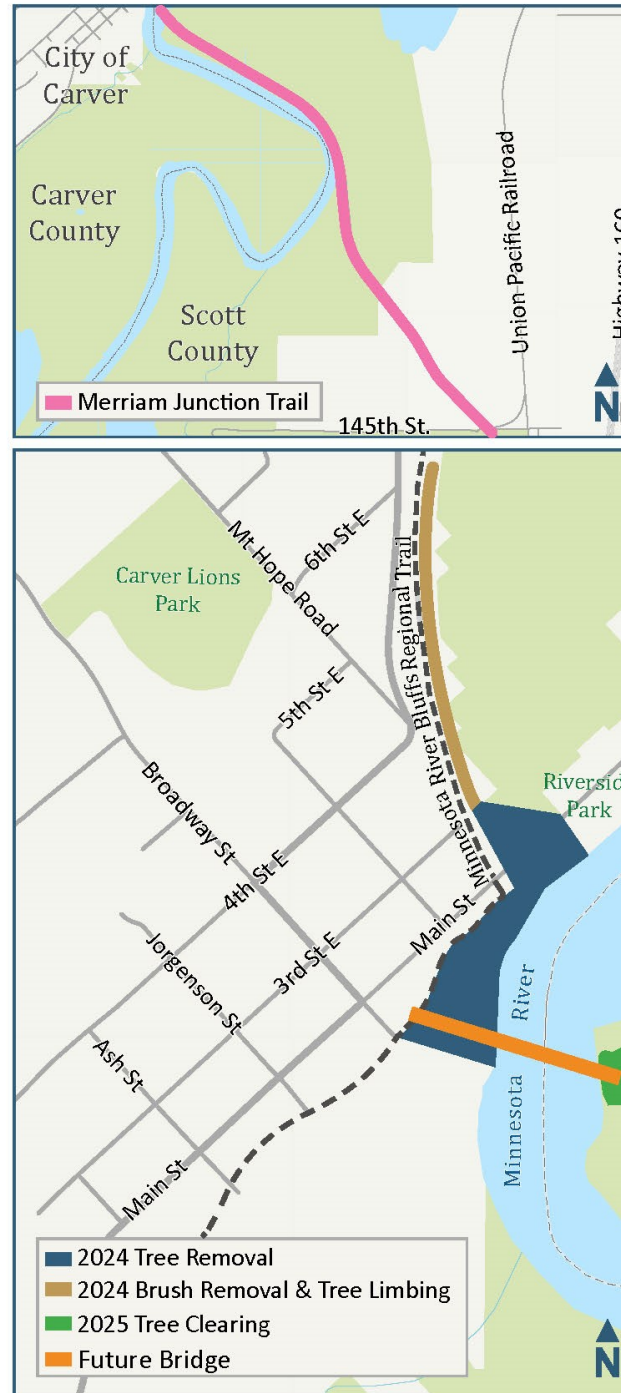
The trail has been included in Carver and Scott counties' regional plans since 2010. The trail project is fully funded for construction and will be starting in the summer of 2024. When completed, the Merriam Junction Trail will connect regional destinations and facilities including Carver County's Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail, the DNR's Minnesota Valley State Trail and Recreation Area and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge-Louisville Swamp Unit.

## Why is March Tree Clearing Happening?

Tree clearing work will occur in March on city-owned property in the Project area (see maps to the right). This work is needed in advance of the start of major construction in order to protect environmentally challenged species in the area. The window for winter tree clearing closes March 31st.

Additional information and updates related to the tree clearing schedule will be posted on the project website once it becomes available.

## Project Area Map



## Upcoming Activities: Summer 2024 to Summer 2026 Work in the City of Carver

Major construction for the trail project will start in the late summer of 2024. Scott County is working closely with the City of Carver and Carver County to limit the length of construction and minimize impacts to the city's residents and businesses. Scott County's contractor will construct a haul route from Old Carver Road to the river that bypasses the downtown business district and connects to a temporary causeway to be built in the river. Bridge construction will occur from the causeway which will be removed from the river at the end of construction. The river bridge is expected to be complete in the early summer of 2026. The trail system on the Scott County side will not be completed until late summer 2027.

Once a contractor is selected for the main trail project, you will be invited to a planned open house (anticipated to take place in late summer of 2024).

## Summer 2024 to Fall 2027 Work in Scott County

The project will focus on bridge construction in the City of Carver in the early stages of the project. This is a benefit to the City's future improvement plans for work on the levee and in the downtown district. Work in Scott County will also start in 2024 and continue through the fall of 2027 to build out the full 2.2-mile trail segment and construct three smaller bridges and stabilize sections of the riverbank.