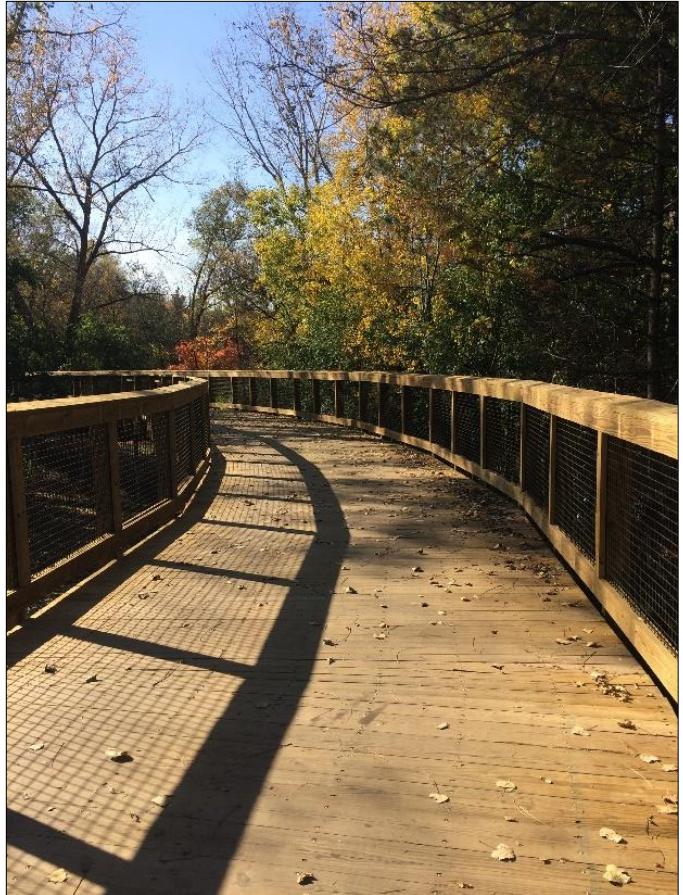




Newsworthy items for October 27, 2017

Board of Commissioners

Paved trail construction is complete on Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail – Edina West Segment



The paved trail portions of the West Segment of the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail are substantially complete and open for use. Minor restoration work, signage and striping will continue through the fall. The contractor is finishing up the boardwalk between Duncan Lane and Londonderry Drive and will have it open for use by Nov. 3. The final boardwalk segment between Walnut Ridge Park and the Vernon/Gleason intersection will be built during the coming winter, making the entire Edina segment of the trail fully complete and ready for use by spring 2018.

Volunteer Forest tree planting ceremony is Sunday, Nov. 5

Commissioners are invited to attend the annual Volunteer Forest tree planting ceremony, scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Sumac Knoll group camp at Hyland Lake Park Reserve. Trees are planted in the Volunteer Forest in honor of each 250-hour milestone a volunteer reaches after he or she has accumulated 4,000 volunteer hours. This year the Park District will recognize five volunteers for their significant service.

The individuals who will be recognized this year are:

Deb Endly (4,500 hours)
Bob Iverson (5,000 hours)
Gene Lau (8,750 hours)
Sue Leizinger (5,000 hours)
Paul Schlick (6,000 hours)

This is an outdoor event and the ground may be wet. The entrance to the Sumac Knoll group camp is off Bush Lake Road, south of the Recreation Area entrance. Look for temporary Volunteer Forest event signs.

Restoration of Oliver Faribault House at The Landing nears completion

After more than five years of preservation planning, archaeological surveys, grant writing and construction management, the restoration of the Oliver Faribault House is nearly complete. Just a few items remain on the contractor's punch list, and staff have begun moving furnishings back into the house in preparation for a "soft" reopening this December — just in time for the 2017 "Folkways of the Holidays" season. With the major work complete, the Faribault House looks almost as good as the day it was built.



Before



After

The distinctively French-Canadian log home — thought to be the oldest house in Scott County — was originally built by Oliver Faribault in 1844, about a mile west of where it now stands. There, beside a freshwater spring that still bears his name, Faribault taught Euro-American farming techniques and traded with the Dakota people living at Tinta-Otonwa (Chief Shakopee's village, now the City of Shakopee). For over a century, generations of Oliver's descendants lived in the home until 1969, when it was moved to The Landing. The Faribault House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, and has since anchored fur-trade programming at the park.

In 2011, staff noted that the house was beginning to lean significantly to the northeast. It was determined that the 1970s-era block foundation was failing and that a significant restoration effort would be necessary given the damage sustained by the historic home. Unfortunately, construction of any kind at The Landing is notoriously difficult, given the park's rich archaeological resources. Before any ground-disturbing work could proceed, archaeological surveys were conducted to recover artifacts that would otherwise be impacted by construction of the new foundation. In 2015, during one of these surveys, a 10,000-year-old (older than the Egyptian pyramids) Paleo-Indian era spear point (photo at right) was uncovered — the first of its kind found in Scott County.



Once archaeological fieldwork was completed in 2016, and more than \$200,000 in grant funding was secured from the Minnesota Historical Society for the restoration effort, the "bricks-and mortar" work could proceed. In the six months since construction began last April, the nearly 175-year-old house has been held together with chains, lifted roughly seven feet off the ground and rolled aside on rails to accommodate construction of a new, more permanent foundation. All of the chinking material that filled the gaps between the logs has been removed and replaced with a new material that more closely replicates the look of the original. Several major structural beams beneath the house have been repaired or replaced, and sections of the original Tamarack logs that had rotted with time have been seamlessly replaced with new logs harvested from northern Minnesota. In addition to repairing or replacing major structural elements, the house received new windows that more accurately reflect the type of glass that would have been available in 1844, and a graded, crushed limestone path provides a level of accessibility to the historic home.

While the Faribault House is expected to be open for this year's Folkways of the Holidays programs, a more formal grand opening celebration that will highlight all of the work and craftsmanship that has gone into the restoration is planned for next spring.



Foundation and log repair — before (left) and after (right).

Earned media update



MA Rosko of **Fox 9 Morning News** was at Richardson Nature Center to do segments on apple cidering.

Sven Sundgaard and Alicia Lewis of **KARE11** paid a visit to Schaper Park and taped this great [segment](#).

Finally, **CCX Media** aired [this story](#) on getting out to see the fall colors at Eastman Nature Center.