



CITY OF BAYPORT
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Date: March 14, 2023

To: City Property Owners / Residents in Potential Flood Zones

From: Matthew Kline, Interim City Administrator / Public Works Director

RE: Preliminary Spring Flood Forecast

This correspondence is being disseminated to properties that are located in close proximity to the St. Croix River, within the 100-year flood zone, and/or may be impacted by flood conditions in localized areas of the city as indicated by Washington County flood and elevation mapping. On March 9, 2023, the National Weather Service provided an updated flood forecast for the St. Croix River, which indicated the probability of a major flood event this year. A major flood event is triggered when the river reaches an elevation of 689', which has an 11% chance of occurring in any given year. Considering the current snow pack conditions throughout the state, the prediction for this year is 73%.

The National Weather Service will provide an updated flood forecast on March 23 based on snow pack, prospective precipitation and temperatures, frost depth, and soil conditions. Cooler temperatures with freezing temps at night will help prolong an influx of water runoff and potential flooding. Higher temperatures will likely cause an abrupt rise in the river and result in flood conditions.

At this time, flood conditions are not imminent, but the city is taking a proactive approach to provide property owners with the following information should flood conditions warrant action.

Flood Elevation Determination

To prepare for appropriate action, property owners should be familiar with areas of their property that are subject to potential flooding. To assist in determining the elevation of a property, visit the city's website and click on "Flood Information" at the bottom of home page to view Washington County and DNR flood elevation maps. This information can then be used to compare flood level predictions issued by the National Weather Service. In flood prone areas, be sure to relocate personal belongings, vehicles, recreational equipment, etc. to an area not subject to flood conditions or off-premise, which will greatly reduce the potential for flood damage.

Public Outreach / Communication

During flood events, the city's website will be the primary source of communication to provide updates on river elevation, sand bag availability, street closures, parking restrictions, etc. The city will supplement the website with direct communication to affected properties.

Parking Restrictions / Street Closures

As flood conditions warrant, the city may implement parking restrictions and/or street closures for safety reasons. The city will work with affected property owners to identify alternatives for on-street parking and street access, as feasible.

Sandbags

Depending upon flood predictions and volunteer/staff capacity, the city will make an effort to supply a

limited number of sandbags to property owners on a first-come, first served request basis. The city will coordinate distribution, collection, and disposal of sandbags, but property owners shall be advised that a nominal fee may apply. Property owners are also responsible for placement of sandbags on their own property.

Be advised that depending upon soil conditions and proximity to the St. Croix River, the installation of sandbags may or may not be an effective solution to deter or prevent flooding. If not installed properly or under the right conditions, sandbags can actually have an adverse effect on a flood zone property. In certain areas, cobble and sand soil conditions allow water to permeate up from the ground to create flood conditions, despite not having a direct connection to the river shoreline or tributary (this typically occurs in the Lakeside Park ballfield area annually). Sandbags can trap permeated water by not allowing an outlet for drainage.

Utilities

Gas/Electric

Xcel Energy will have personnel checking gas and electrical meters within flood areas. If meters are in danger, Xcel may remove the meters for safety reasons.

City Water

The municipal water system will remain functional during a flood event. Keeping the water system pressurized prevents contaminated river water from entering the system. As warranted, the city will remove water meters and replace them with temporary pipes to prevent damage.

City Sewer

Floor drains and lower level bathrooms are direct conduits to the city sewer system and infiltration of river water into the sewer can cause backups and disruption. During flood events, property owners will be required to plug direct sewer connections to prevent flood water from entering the system and stop sewage from backing up into the house. A plumber is best suited to complete this type of work, which often includes placement of a reinforced plug over the floor drain to withstand sewer main pressure. The Public Works Department can also provide guidance on appropriate methods for direct connection plugs.

Flood Preparation / Relief Assistance

Community Thread has offered limited flood assistance during past flood events.

Phone: 651-439-7434 Email: contact@communitythreadmn.org

Please be sure to check the city's website on a consistent basis for current river level data, forecasts, and other flood resources. Please feel free to direct flood related questions to City Hall by email office@ci.bayport.mn.us or 651-275-4404.