



Flood Update

Chippewa River Update

Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

At 3:00 p.m. this afternoon, the Chippewa River gauge at Grand Avenue read 764.4, which is approximately eight and six tenths (8.6) feet below the downtown flood stage of elevation 773. Lower sections of the Chippewa River Trail in the city of Eau Claire are currently open.

Spring flooding along the Chippewa River in Eau Claire typically occurs due to melting snow in the upper watershed. Current information provided by the National Weather Service indicates that one inch of rain fell in the upper Chippewa River watershed. Warm temperatures and rainfall forecast for the remainder of this week are expected to melt the remaining snow cover and create flood conditions.

The current crest projection is 775 for Friday evening. At this gauge reading, water will have inundated the Chippewa River Trail at Hobbs Boat Landing and the trail behind the Haas Fine Arts Center, near the UW-Eau Claire Foot Bridge. Lower areas of Owen Park will also flood, including the tennis courts. Lower areas along Riverview Drive may also see water. Additional rainfall in the upper watershed or operational releases from upstream hydroelectric facilities could modify the crest projections.

Flood waters can generate stronger, faster currents. In addition, lower water temperatures increase the risk of hypothermia. Extreme caution should be exercised by persons using the rivers for boating, canoeing, kayaking, shore-side fishing, tubing, swimming, wading, or activities near the water. Hazards involving high water levels, strong currents, floating or submerged wood debris or trees, and obscured pilings are present on the Chippewa River.

The City will continue to monitor the river closely and report information as it is obtained. Residents along or near the river are also asked to monitor nearby river conditions in order to have as much advanced warning of those changes. Information is available on the City web site at www.eauclairewi.gov and on the Public Works Message Line at (715) 839-6002. For further information about this news release or river elevations, please contact the City of Eau Claire, Department of Public Works at (715) 839-4934.

For Immediate Release
March 15, 2016
5:00 p.m.