



Flood Update

Chippewa River Update

Thursday, September 22, 2016, 7:30 a.m.

At 5:00 a.m. this morning, the Chippewa River gauge at Grand Avenue read 765.7, which is approximately seven (7) feet below the downtown flood stage of elevation 773. Lower sections of the Chippewa River Trail in the city of Eau Claire are currently closed.

Recent rains in the upper Chippewa River watershed will result in increased runoff passing through the river system. The gauge at Grand Avenue began rising on Wednesday. Forecasted rain in the upper Chippewa River watershed may result in rising river gauge readings through Saturday, September 24th, in Eau Claire.

The current crest projection is 769.4 for Saturday evening, 3.6 feet below flood stage. 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 and Riverview Park will also flood. River water is anticipated to encroach upon the lower sections of the trail Thursday morning, the 22nd. At the projected crest, the Madison Street and Farwell Street underpasses are expected to be inundated. 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
September 22, 2016
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