

**City of Owatonna Flood Plan  
DRAFT March 15, 2022**

Flooding can happen at any time. Common causes include high river levels due to spring snow melt and heavy precipitation events. There are many flood planning steps that can be taken to increase protection and reduce severity of impact to city infrastructure, business, and homes in the City of Owatonna.

**Main Elevations:**

Straight River – 1120 ft NGVD29

Maple Creek - 1168 ft

**Flood stage:**

**Moderate Flood stage:**

**Major flood stage:**

**Flood Forecasts:**

Flood forecasts are issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) [Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service](#). Generally daily updates are issued about 4 am and 10 am. Forecasts extend for a seven-day period.

Straight River Gage: The forecasted flood elevation is provided on a real-time basis measured at the [Straight River Gage](#) at W Bridge St (landscaped area on northeast riverbank) off Walnut Avenue (frontage road along river). Data is collected at 15-minute intervals and transmitted by satellite at 1-hour intervals. Hydrograph available [here](#).

Maple Creek Gage: The forecasted flood elevation is provided on a real-time basis measured at the [Maple Creek Gage](#) at Dane Road (CR-35) and bridge 7452, gage is on the northeast bank. Data is collected at 15-minute intervals and transmitted by satellite at 1-hour intervals. Hydrograph available [here](#).

**Preliminary actions of the City of Owatonna officials/staff:**

- Monitor rising water conditions through the river gages and hydrographs. Review daily forecast provided by the NWS
- Declare an emergency by Mayor, establishes flood relief with date of eligibility for pre-flood and post-flood expenses
- Consider opening EOC
- Advise City Departments of pending conditions and to make staffing plans
- City staff meet to review issues or forecasts and review specific department responsibilities
- Develop Incident Action Plan for any actions, set staff meetings to review conditions
- Confirm availability of sandbags and sand, order as necessary, arrange for volunteers to fill
- Make flood information updates to city webpage, issue public information releases and set public information meetings

**Provide general advisory to residents in floodplain areas:**

- Rising water conditions, flooding areas, forecasts
- Provide information on the availability of sand and sandbags
- Determine if volunteer labor is needed to assist in filling and placing sandbags
- Determine if there are any residents with access and functional needs who need assistance

**Flood Actions:**

- Close park areas in flood areas
- Protect trees and other park improvements if ice is present
- Relocate picnic tables
- Close any park bathrooms in flood areas
- Restrict access to areas with high water
- Close walking and bike pathways in flood areas
- Check pumping stations
- Check manhole covers
- Monitor city buildings in the floodplain
- Identify any above ground fuel tanks in flood areas
- Close stormwater outlets in flood areas
- Monitor conditions at affected buildings in flood areas
- Monitor traffic conditions and adjust signals along straight river due to flood conditions
- Take pictures of flood areas
- Clean up debris as flood waters recede and document locations
- Increase garbage and recycling pick up and drop off locations and times for resident clean up

**Continuing Considerations:**

- Provide regular updates to Mayor, City Council, residents, businesses, and property owners
- Coordinate efforts with Steele County Emergency & Risk Management Department
- Request activation of Steele County CERT- can assist with sheltering, damage assessment and cleanup efforts
- Request activation of the American Red Cross - can assist with sheltering, damage assessment, and cleanup efforts
- Request assistance with the United Way – can assist with processing monetary donations, donations of goods, United Way 2-1-1 for resident hotline for damage reporting
- All city departments maintain records, take pictures, track expenses incurred by the city due to flood
- Solicit volunteer labor which may include boy scout troops, community action programs, church groups, work release programs, and other organizations for recovery and cleanup
- Require sign in and job assignments for all volunteer labor

**Resources for sandbagging:**

[USACE Flood Fight Handbook](#)

Owatonna Sandbag Policy (attached)

Right of Entry Agreement for sandbagging (Attached)

Review sandbag volunteer call list in Everbridge

**Requesting technical assistance from the following agencies for best course of action:**

- Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District
- MN Dept. of Natural Resources
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Minnesota Duty Officer notice of event and status

**Neighborhood areas for pre-planning flood protection:**

Maple Creek Drive

Actions:

- Notice to residents
- Placement of street barricades
- Placement of sandbags
- Placement of pumps

Bridge Street

Maple Drive

North Elm

Creekview

Lemond Road