

FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

May 18, 2022

Flood Warning*:

- Rivers and drains in the Parkland region draining off the Duck and Porcupine Mountains, including the Pine, Garland, Duck, and Sclater Rivers, and Mink Creek
- Dauphin Lake
- Red River, Emerson to the Red River Floodway Channel Inlet
- Shannon Creek
- Morris and Little Morris Rivers
- Red River, Red River Floodway Channel Outlet to Lake Winnipeg
- Fisher River, while river is reported in bank at most locations, flooding of low-lying areas persists
- Assiniboine River, from Shellmouth Dam to Brandon
- Birdtail Creek
- Little Saskatchewan River
- Rolling River
- Whiteshell Lakes area
- Winnipeg River

Flood Watch*:

- Roseau River
- Rat River
- Whitemouth River
- Birch River (Eastern Manitoba)
- Shell River
- Mossy River & tributaries, including Fishing and Fork Rivers and Shanty Creek
- Whitemud River

The Hydrologic Forecast Centre has issued an overland flood warning for the areas highlighted in red on figure 1 below. Water levels on streams and drains are high and soils are saturated, heavy rains could result in overland flooding and potential for flash flooding, particularly for waterways that drain from higher elevations. Depending on the amount and intensity of rain, water levels could rise rapidly and threaten low-lying or nearby properties, as well as roads, crossings, and other infrastructure.

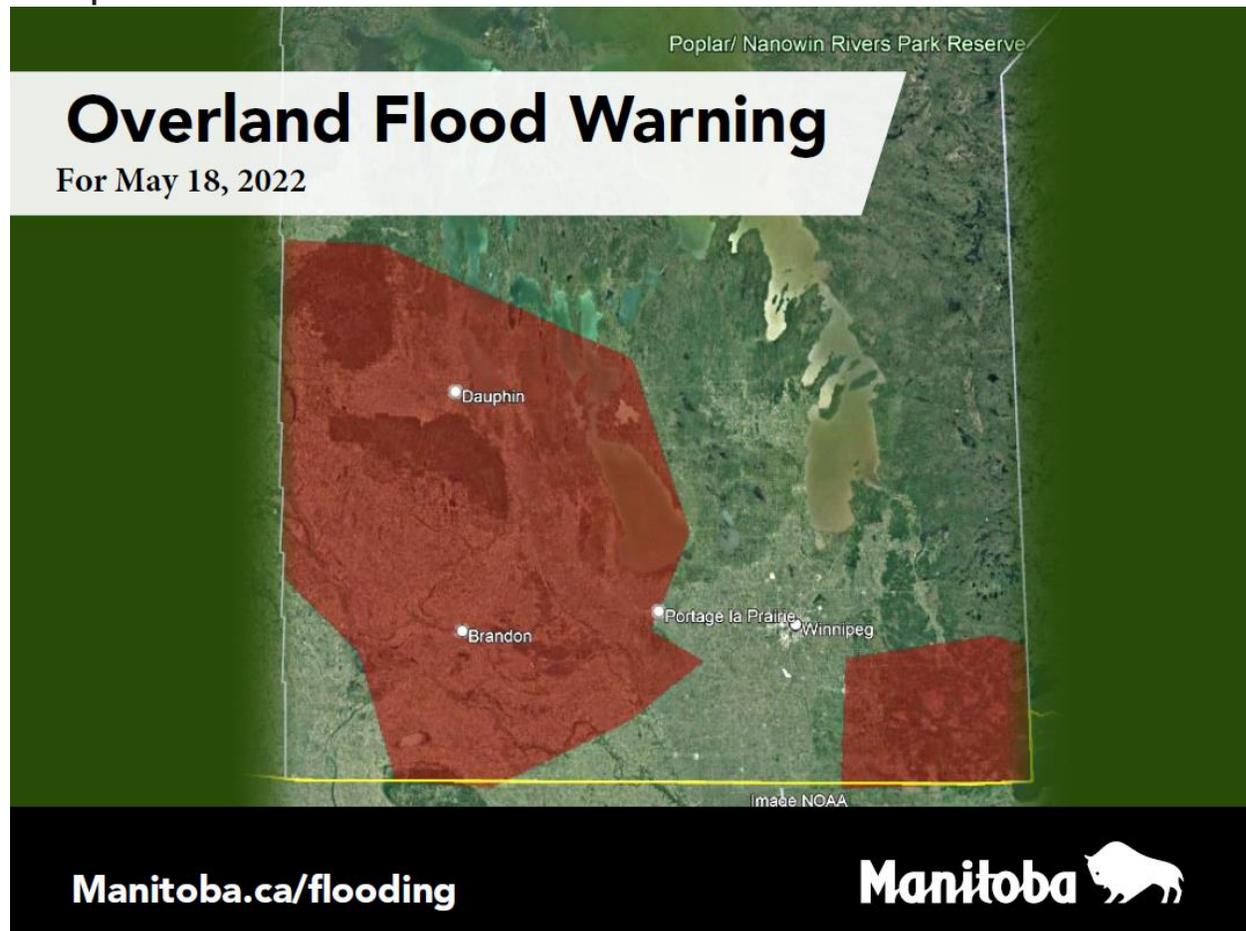


Figure 1: Areas under overland flood warning

Summary

- By Friday most of southern Manitoba is expected to receive a total 20 to 50 mm of precipitation. Some localized areas could receive higher amounts of precipitation, with some weather models calling for as much as 90 mm of rain with thunderstorms. A rain-snow mix is possible in some areas of higher elevation. Depending on the amount, location and intensity of the rainfall, flows and water levels in some areas of the province will be impacted. Flood forecasters are monitoring the system, and will issue updated water level forecasts as required.
- An overland flood warning for much of western and southeastern Manitoba, as shown in figure 1, remains in place. While water levels on most streams and drains are declining, some water bodies remain high and soils in most areas are saturated. Any additional rain may cause overland flooding, as well as flash flooding on rivers and drains, particularly those waterways that drain from higher elevations. Depending on the amount and intensity of rain, water levels could rise rapidly and impacts to roads and crossing infrastructure could be similar to what was experienced over the weekend.
- There are a significant number of provincial and municipal roads that have been damaged or closed in the Parkland region due to flooding conditions. Provincial crews are currently deployed to assess the full impact of the weather system and respond as

Transportation and Infrastructure

required. Motorists who are not in the Parkland region are asked to avoid the area, and those who are already in the area, and are required to travel, are strongly encouraged to plan their routes before travelling by checking 511 (www.manitoba511.ca/ or by calling 511). Motorists are reminded to stay off of closed roads and to not attempt travel across inundated roads or damaged bridges.

- The Red River is declining very slowly at all locations upstream of Winnipeg. The river is expected to remain high for an extended duration, likely into June. For the latest forecast information, please check the latest flood sheet on the department's website.
- The Red River Floodway and Portage Diversion continue operation. Provincial crews are deployed to a number of communities in the Red River Valley running pumping operations, as well as monitoring and implementing dike closures, as required.
- Manitobans are reminded to stay clear of the Red River floodway inlet and outlet structures, the Portage Diversion gate structures in the Portage Reservoirs, and actively flowing spillways on dams. Manitobans are also reminded to stay off waterways in flood stage including creeks, streams, rivers and the floodway. High flows, debris, and cold water temperatures present a significant hazard.
- Current water level data and forecast information is available on the department's website at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.
- Flooding has impacted communities and properties, resulting in damages, mitigation activities and evacuations across southern and central Manitoba. Any questions or concerns about flood mitigation should be directed first to the municipal authority. Questions about forecasts, water levels, provincial waterways, or provincial water control infrastructure can be directed to 204-945-1165 or by email to floodinfo@gov.mb.ca.

Weather

- Southern Manitoba received 5-25 mm of precipitation between Tuesday and Wednesday morning, with the highest amounts falling in the upper Assiniboine River basin and in the Parkland region
- In total, by Friday most of southern Manitoba is expected to receive a total 20 to 50 mm of precipitation. Some localized areas could receive higher amounts, with some weather models calling for as much as 90 mm of rain with thunderstorms. A rain-snow mix is possible in some areas of higher elevation. Depending on the amount, location and intensity of the rainfall, flows and water levels in some areas of the province will be impacted. Flood forecasters are monitoring the system and will issue updated water level forecasts as required.

Red River Basin

- A flood warning remains for the Red River from Emerson to the Red River Floodway inlet, and from the outlet to Lake Winnipeg. A flood warning remains for the following Red River tributaries: Shannon Creek as well as the Morris, and Little Morris Rivers.

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- The Red River is declining very slowly at all locations upstream of Winnipeg. The river is expected to remain high for an extended duration, likely into June. For the latest forecast information, please check the latest flood sheet on the department's website.
- Water levels in many drains, creeks, and tributaries in the Red River basin are close to capacity and declining, but the forecasted precipitation could slow down this decline.
- The Red River Floodway continues to operate under rule 1 to lower water levels in Winnipeg while keeping water levels at or slightly below natural upstream of the inlet control structure. As of this morning, flow in the Floodway channel was 40,259 cfs (1,140.0 cms), and flows upstream of the Floodway Inlet are approximately 83,021 cfs (2,350.89 cms). The water level at James Avenue was at 18.8 ft (5.73 m) and the estimated water level that would occur at James Avenue without the operation of the Red River Floodway, Portage Diversion, and Shellmouth Dam is 27.27 ft (8.31 m).
- PTH 75 remains closed at the north and south ends of Morris. A detour utilizing PTH 3 through Carman and south to Winkler and onto PTH 14 to return to PTH 75 is in effect.
- Provincial crews are deployed in a number of communities in the Red River Valley implementing, and monitoring ring dike closures, as required. Dike closures are in place at locations shown in Table 1. Note railway closures are not included.
- Provincial crews are running pumping operations at 35 different pump sites to facilitate internal drainage inside ring dike communities. Pumping operations are underway at Noyes, Emerson, West Lynne, Dominion City, Letellier, St. Jean Baptiste, Morris, Rosenort, Riverside, St. Adolphe, St. Agathe, Niverville, Aubigny and Brunkild.

Table 1: Red River Valley Dike Closure Status

Red River Valley Dike Closure Status - May 18, 2022		
Community	Dike Closures	Status
Riverside	North (access road 2E) , East and South	Full closure (North closure is ramped for vehicle access)
Gretna	Border PTH 30	Full closure (planning to be re-opened this week)
Emerson	at Noyes	Full closure
West Lynne	North West Lynne	Full closure
St. Jean Baptiste	East at PR 246	Full closure
	South East at Access Road	Full closure
Morris	North at PTH 75	Full closure
	West at PTH 23	Full closure
	South at PTH 75	Full closure
Brunkild	South at PTH 3	Partial closure (2 lanes open)
St. Adolphe	North at PR 200	Full closure
	West at Access Road	Full closure
	East at PR 210	Full closure
	South at PR 200	Full closure (ramped for vehicle access)
Ste. Agathe	East at PR 305.	Partial closure (PR 305 open)

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Assiniboine River Basin

- The flood warning for the Assiniboine River from Shellmouth Dam to Brandon remains. A flood warning remains for the Little Saskatchewan and Rolling Rivers, and Birdtail Creek. A flood watch is issued for the Shell River.
- The forecasted precipitation is expected to affect the upper Assiniboine River basin in Saskatchewan and increase inflows into Shellmouth Dam. Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) continues to coordinate operations with stakeholders and advises that further increases of outflow from the dam may be necessary, depending on the amount of rain received.
- The department is operating the Shellmouth Dam in consultation with the Shellmouth Liaison Committee to reduce the risk of flooding downstream on the Assiniboine River, while at the same time providing sufficient storage for water supply and recreational activities. As of this morning, the reservoir water level is at 1,399.8 feet (426.66 m), an increase of 0.2 ft (0.06 m). Inflows to the reservoir are approximately 4,577 cfs (129.61 cms) and outflows are 3,337 cfs (94.49 cms). Dam operations are continuously assessed and outflows may change in response to conditions.
- Water levels and flows on the Little Saskatchewan River are high and near crest at most locations. Additional rainfall could cause river levels to increase further. Records flows in the town of Minnedosa have triggered mitigation activities by local authorities to flood protect residences, municipal infrastructure and commercial buildings. Provincial staff are in regular communication with the town of Minnedosa and are monitoring the situation closely.
- The Portage Diversion is operating to limit discharge to the Lower Assiniboine from the Portage Reservoir to approximately 10,000 cfs, in accordance with the operating guidelines. As of this morning, flow down the diversion channel is 5,085 cfs (143.99 cms) and flow on the lower Assiniboine River just east of Portage La Prairie is 10,135 cfs (286.99 cms).

Whitemud River

- A flood watch is issued for the Whitemud River. Water levels on the river are declining, however, runoff from the forecasted rain may cause water levels to rise rapidly.

Eastern Region

- A flood warning remains for Winnipeg River and the Whiteshell lakes area. A flood watch remains for the Whitemouth, Birch, Rat and Roseau Rivers. An overland flood warning is remains for southeastern Manitoba, water levels on streams and drains are high and soils are saturated, heavy rains could result in overland flooding. Depending on the amount and intensity of rain, water levels could rise rapidly and threaten low-lying or nearby properties, as well as road, crossing and other infrastructure.
- The Whiteshell lakes area and Winnipeg River basin have received minimal precipitation from the system so far. From today until Friday, higher amounts of precipitation are expected. Very high flows and water levels are being experienced on the lakes and rivers in this area and the expected precipitation will cause them to rise further. Residents and property owners in these areas are advised to continue remain vigilant and take any necessary precautions.

Interlake Region

- A flood warning remains for the Fisher River, while the river is reported in bank at most locations, flooding of low-lying areas persists. Local authorities and provincial crews are monitoring conditions and responding as required.
- Water levels are decreasing on streams and drains across the Interlake region. Provincial crews continue to closely monitor the weather forecast and local conditions.

Parkland Region

- An overland flood warning for western Manitoba, including the parkland region, remains. The flood warning for all rivers and drains in the Parkland region draining out of the Duck and Porcupine Mountains remains. A flood watch is issued for the Mossy River and tributaries, including the Fork and Fishing Rivers, and Shanty Creek.
- While water levels on most rivers and drains are declining, they remain high and soils in the area are saturated. The precipitation this week may cause overland flooding as well as flash flooding on rivers and drains, particularly those waterways that drain from higher elevations. Depending on the amount and intensity of rain, water levels could rise rapidly and impacts to roads and crossing infrastructure could be similar to what was experienced over the weekend. Property owners are advised to continue to remain vigilant and take any necessary precautions.
- There are a significant number of provincial and municipal roads that have been damaged or closed in the Parkland region due to flooding conditions. Provincial crews are currently deployed to assess the full impact of the weather system and respond as required. Priority is being given to restoring vehicle access on critical highways and provincial roads in the area. Motorists who are not in the Parkland region are asked to avoid the area, and those who are already in the area and are required to travel are strongly encouraged to plan their routes before travelling by checking 511 (<http://www.manitoba511.ca/> or by calling 511). Motorists are reminded to stay off of closed roads and to not attempt travel across inundated roads or damaged bridges.
- A flood warning remains for Dauphin Lake. The level of Dauphin Lake has reached flood stage and will remain above flood stage until the end of June with normal weather conditions.
- Pumping operations to provide internal drainage at the community of Ste. Rose du Lac continues. Crews are monitoring the water levels and will implement dike closures if required.

Manitoba Lakes

- Ice cover is degrading quickly on all major Manitoba lakes, only Lake Winnipeg is reported to retain any significant amount of ice cover. Many lakes are ice-free.
- Outflow from Lake Manitoba through the Fairford River Water Control Structure this morning is approximately 2,560 cfs (72.49 cms). The structure is being operated in accordance with the operating guidelines.

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- Lake Winnipeg is at 714.6 ft (217.81 m) today and rising towards the upper end of its operation range. Provincial officials are collaborating with Manitoba Hydro to monitor conditions and forecasts for the lake.
- Manitoba Lakes are being closely monitored and will be further assessed once the outcome of the forecasted precipitation is known.

***Definitions**

Flood Warning: A flood warning is issued when river or lake levels are exceeding or are expected to be exceeding flood stage within the next 24 hours.

Flood Watch: A flood watch is issued when river or lake levels are approaching and likely to reach flood stage, but likely not within the next 24 hours.

High Water Advisory: A high water advisory is issued when a heavy storm or high flows are expected and may cause water levels to rise, but not necessarily reach flood stage. A high water advisory can be an early indicator for conditions that may develop into a flood watch or flood warning.