

FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

May 21, 2022

- Flood Warning*:**
- Little Saskatchewan River
 - Whitemud River
 - Dauphin Lake
 - Whiteshell Lakes area
 - Winnipeg River
 - Assiniboine River, from Shellmouth Dam to Brandon
 - 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

- Flood Watch*:**
- Shell River
 - Mossy River
 - Roseau River
 - Whitemouth River
 - Birch River (Eastern Manitoba)

Summary

- There is no significant precipitation in the forecast for southern or central Manitoba for the next week.
- Manitoba Environment, Climate and Parks has declared a state of emergency in Whiteshell Provincial Park. Rapidly rising water levels are causing deteriorating and dangerous conditions, posing a significant risk to public safety. Manitobans should not travel into the Whiteshell Provincial Park area. Many highways are flooded, making travel conditions treacherous. Details are available at www.manitobaparks.com.
- Manitoba Parks has ordered the evacuation of Whiteshell Provincial Park's Betula Lake area, including all cottage subdivisions, commercial area, group use, day use, recreational and picnic areas, playgrounds, trails and beaches. Residents in areas near Betula Lake should be prepared to evacuate due to rapidly rising water levels.
- The Winnipeg River is experiencing very high flows and water levels due to significant volumes of water upstream in Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul, both of which are still rising. The Winnipeg River is expected to crest in early June, and water levels are expected to increase further over the next 10 to 15 days. Information on current and forecasted water levels on the Winnipeg River are available on Manitoba Hydro's website: https://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/facilities/water_levels/ and in a recent press release:

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https://www.hydro.mb.ca/articles/2022/05/manitoba_hydro_advises_extreme_caution_on_waterways/

- There are a significant number of provincial and municipal roads that have been damaged or closed in the Parkland region due to flooding. Repairs are underway, prioritized to major arteries, such as PTH 10. 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.
- PTH 30 and the ports of entry at the international border at Gretna were re-opened to traffic yesterday.
- 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 dike closures. No additional closures are anticipated and crews will be removing closures as water levels recede.
- 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

- There is no significant precipitation in the forecast for southern or central Manitoba for the next week.

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.
- Water Levels on the Red River upstream of Winnipeg are stable or declining slowly. 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.

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- Water levels in many drains, creeks, and tributaries in the Red River basin are increasing in response to the recent rain, however, this will be for a short duration and they are expected to begin declining again soon.
- 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 40,555 cfs (1,148.39 cms), and flows upstream of the Floodway Inlet are approximately 81,821 cfs (2,316.91 cms). The water level at James Avenue was at 18.7 ft (5.70 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 27.44 ft (8.36 m).
- PTH 30 and the ports of entry at the international border at Gretna were re-opened to traffic yesterday. 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.

Table 1: Red River Valley Dike Closure Status

Red River Valley Dike Closure Status - May 21, 2022		
Community	Dike Closures	Status
Riverside	North (access road 2E) East and South	Full closure (North closure is ramped for vehicle access)
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 (ramped and open to local traffic)
	South at PR 200	Full closure (ramped for vehicle access)
Ste. Agathe	East at PR 305	Partial closure (PR 305 open)

- Provincial crews continue to monitor dike closures in the Red River, the current dike closures are in place at locations shown in Table 1. The closure on PTH 30 at Gretna has been removed and the highway and the ports of entry at the international border have been re-opened. No additional closures are anticipated and crews will be removing closures as water levels recede.
- 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.

Assiniboine River Basin

- The flood warning for the Assiniboine River from Shellmouth Dam to Brandon and the Little Saskatchewan River remains. A flood watch remains for the Shell River.
- The recent precipitation in the upper Assiniboine River basin in Saskatchewan is increasing water levels and flows on the Assiniboine River and its upstream tributaries. The increased inflows are causing the water level on the Shellmouth reservoir to rise more quickly. Flows and levels on the Assiniboine River downstream of the dam are rising more slowly, due to the operation of the dam storing water.
- The department is operating the Shellmouth Dam in compliance with the operating guidelines and in consultation with the Shellmouth Liaison Committee. As of this morning, the reservoir water level is at 1,400.9 feet (426.99 m), an increase of 0.5 ft (0.15 m). Inflows to the reservoir are approximately 6,332cfs (179.30 cms) and outflows are 3,394 cfs (96.1 cms). Dam operations are continuously assessed and outflows may change in response to conditions.
- Water levels and flows on the Little Saskatchewan River continue to receding at most locations but the rate may slow as a result of the recent precipitation. Flood forecasters are monitoring the conditions closely and will issue updates, as required. 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 6,922 cfs (196.01 cms) and flow on the lower Assiniboine River just east of Portage La Prairie is 9,888 cfs (280.0 cms).

Whitemud River

- A flood warning is issued for the Whitemud River. Water is currently out of bank at a number of locations, and levels on the river are rising rapidly in response to the recent heavy precipitation.

Eastern Region

- A flood warning remains for the Winnipeg River and the Whiteshell lakes area. A flood watch remains for the Whitemouth, Birch, and Roseau Rivers.
- Manitoba Environment, Climate and Parks has declared a state of emergency in Whiteshell Provincial Park. Rapidly rising water levels are causing deteriorating and dangerous conditions, posing a significant risk to public safety. Manitobans should not travel into the Whiteshell Provincial Park area. Many highways are flooded, making travel conditions treacherous. Details are available at www.manitobaparks.com.
- Manitoba Parks has ordered the evacuation of Whiteshell Provincial Park's Betula Lake area, including all cottage subdivisions, commercial area, group use, day use, recreational and picnic areas, playgrounds, trails and beaches. Residents in areas near Betula Lake should be prepared to evacuate due to rapidly rising water levels.

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- The Winnipeg River is experiencing very high flows and water levels due to significant volumes of water upstream in Lake of the Woods and Lac Seul, both of which are still rising. The Winnipeg River is expected to crest in early June, and water levels are expected to increase further over the next 10 to 15 days. Information on current and forecasted water levels on the Winnipeg River are available on Manitoba Hydro's website: https://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/facilities/water_levels/ and in a recent press release: https://www.hydro.mb.ca/articles/2022/05/manitoba_hydro_advises_extreme_caution_on_waterways/
Citizens in these areas are advised to continue to remain vigilant and take any necessary precautions.

Parkland Region

- Water levels and flows on most rivers and drains draining out of the Riding Mountain area are near crest or declining. Rivers and streams further north, draining out of the Duck and Porcupine Mountains are generally stable or declining.
- A flood warning remains for Dauphin Lake. The level of Dauphin Lake has exceeded flood stage and will remain above flood stage until the end of June with normal weather conditions.
- There are a significant number of provincial and municipal roads that have been damaged or closed in the Parkland region due to flooding. Repairs are underway, prioritized to major arteries, such as PTH 10. 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.
- Pumping operations continue to provide internal drainage at the community of Ste. Rose du Lac.

Manitoba Lakes

- Lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Winnipegosis are reported to have some ice remaining but it is degrading quickly, most other lakes are ice-free.
- Outflow from Lake Manitoba through the Fairford River Water Control Structure this morning is approximately 2,483 cfs (70.31 cms). The structure is being operated in accordance with the operating guidelines.
- Lake Winnipeg is at 714.84 (217.88 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.

*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.



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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.