



# Department of Public Safety

## Emergency Management Division

March 27, 2023

Dear Resident,

As you are probably aware, current predictions of potential spring flooding are widespread across the State of Minnesota, including the Lower Mississippi River basin from St. Paul to Hastings. At this point it is too early to precisely predict to what extent the flooding will impact the City of Cottage Grove. This letter is being delivered to Cottage Grove residents of the River Acres neighborhood and Lower Grey Cloud Island to inform you that the city's Emergency Management Planning Team has met and is continuing to meet to discuss our preparations and response to potential spring flooding.

Situational awareness is extremely important to assist public safety personnel in understanding the nature, scale, and scope of an incident and for planning and coordinating an effective response. One of the ways to accomplish this for flooding is to obtain aerial views of the river and shoreline. The Cottage Grove Police Department has an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)—commonly referred to as a drone—that is used to gather information for the sole purpose of protecting lives and property. Any use of a UAV will be in strict accordance with constitutional and privacy rights and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. This spring, you may or may not see the UAV in operation but be assured that our operators and observers always take precautions to avoid inadvertently capturing images of areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

The use of sandbags is a simple but effective way to prevent or reduce flood damage; properly filled and placed sandbags and polyethylene plastic sheeting can act as a barrier to divert moving water around or away from buildings. On April 8 & 9, volunteers will be filling sandbags that can be delivered on pallets by our Public Works employees to residents on River Acres Rd who have historically built sandbag dikes. If you live in one of these homes, please call Public Works at 651-458-2808 to let them know your address, the length and height of the dike you want to build, and when you will need sandbags and poly to be delivered. Additionally, let them know if you will need volunteers to help you build a dike.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and visit the Flood Preparedness and Response Section in the Alert Center on the City of Cottage Grove's website at [www.cottagegrovemn.gov/AlertCenter](http://www.cottagegrovemn.gov/AlertCenter) for additional information and updates.

Respectfully,

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