



Department of Public Safety

Emergency Management Division

April 4, 2023

Dear Resident,

This follow-up letter is being delivered to Cottage Grove residents in the River Acres neighborhood to keep you informed of the city's Emergency Management Planning Team's preparations and response to potential spring riverine flooding.

In 2011, the Mississippi River crest measured 690 feet in Cottage Grove, in 2014 it measured 691.1 feet, and in 2019 it measured 692.2 feet—only 5 feet above flood stage in the Moderate Flood Stage level. The red line on the enclosed River Acres 2019 Flood Map shows where that 692-foot elevation is throughout your neighborhood. Based on the most recent National Weather Service flood probability forecast, River Acres residents only have a 25% chance of exceeding that level and only a 6% chance of reaching the Major Flood Stage level that begins at 694.3 feet. As always, the threat of seeing major flooding will still depend on what kind of rainfall/temperature patterns we get throughout the month of April.

Our last letter to you explained that volunteers would be filling sandbags on April 8th and 9th which could be delivered on pallets. To date, we have only received two requests for a total of 100 sandbags. Given that the most recent flood forecast does not show an elevated probability of needing sandbags for the protection of primary residences, we will not be soliciting help from volunteers to fill sandbags this weekend. Instead, residents who wish to fill and put sandbags on their property for the protection of accessory structures may call Public Works at 651-458-2808 to request sand and bags. Public Works will deliver materials and a funnel device to assist in filling sandbags to the paved curve in the 8100 block of River Acres Road for your use. The first delivery is scheduled for Thursday, April 6th for all requests received by 4:00pm on Wednesday April 5th.

The city's Emergency Management Planning Team will continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis to assess if the threat of severe flooding has increased. If additional protective measures are needed—such as sandbag dikes to protect homes—we will re-evaluate the need for volunteer assistance in filling sandbags.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and visit the city's Flood Preparedness and Response webpage at <https://www.cottagegovm.n.gov/676/Flood-Preparedness-and-Response> for additional information and updates.

Respectfully,

Gwen Martin
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