

Flood Mitigation FAQ

What has the Town done to mitigate flooding risks?

- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** The Town has undertaken the 18th Ave rehabilitation project to upgrade aging underground infrastructure, including water, wastewater, and storm sewers, to better handle heavy rain events and to minimize the inflow in the sanitary sewers.
- **Sanitary Sewer Upgrades:** Projects like the 54th Street and 10th Ave sanitary upgrades are part of a comprehensive plan to reduce sewer backups caused by inflow and infiltration during heavy rains.
- **Regular Maintenance:** Routine street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, and debris removal are conducted to ensure proper drainage.
- **Backflow/Sump Pump Programs:** Council has approved Administration to set aside \$50,000 in funding to be used for a subsidy program. Residents can apply before having a Backflow Preventor or Sump Pump installed to participate in the program to be reimbursed 50% of the cost to install these flood mitigation devices. For more information visit [Sanitary Sewer Installation Program: The Town of Edson](#)

What was the Town's response to the recent heavy rain event?

- **Immediate Action:** Crews from Public Works and Parks were dispatched to remove fallen trees, pump water, and clear debris from the streets, catch basins and other drainage points.
- **Inspections:** Quick site inspections were performed to assess any damage and ensure that newly installed drainage systems functioned correctly.

How effective were the recent infrastructure improvements during the heavy rain?

- **Positive Outcomes:** The newly paved areas on 18th Ave showed no signs of pooling water for a long time, indicating that both surface and underground drainage systems worked effectively.
- **Prevented Overflow:** On 6th Ave East of 48th Street, the newly installed culverts prevented overflow, although debris clogged some catch basins, which was dealt with immediately and will be addressed through regular maintenance.

What are the future plans for flood mitigation in the Town?

- **Continued Upgrades:** Ongoing projects, such as the completion of the 54th Street and the 10th Ave sanitary upgrade, will further enhance the Town's ability to manage heavy rain events.
- **New Sanitary Upgrade Projects:** There will be a series of new sanitary upgrade projects in the coming years to complete the plan of upgrading the sanitary sewers in the problematic areas within the Town based on the study and assessment was conducted by one of our consulting engineering firms.
- **Implementation of Flood Mitigation and Drainage System Upgrades for Wase Creek:** The objective is to enhance the flood resilience of the Wase Creek drainage system, particularly in areas identified as high-risk during large flood events. This should include Creek widening, Culvert removal or upsizing and road regrading and accessing the need of constructing a dry pond.
- **Regular Maintenance:** Increased focus on maintaining catch basins and other drainage infrastructure free of debris.
- **Erosion Control:** Inspections and necessary repairs will be conducted on clay embankments and other erosion-prone areas to prevent future issues.

How can residents stay informed about the Town's flood mitigation efforts?

- **Website Updates:** Regular updates will be posted on the Town's website, including progress reports on current projects and any new initiatives.
- **Public Notices:** Notices will be published ahead of any construction activities or major maintenance works that might affect traffic or local services.
- **Council Meetings:** The residents can either attend or watch the Council meetings broadcast to stay informed on the Town's plan for future project and the budget availability.

Flood Mitigation FAQ cont.

Why do we see some of the parking lots and the streets flooding during heavy rain events? Shouldn't the Town's storm sewers have enough capacity to accommodate the rain?

Below are some of the factors that can significantly impact how the storm system is functioning during rain events:

- **High Wind During the Storm:** A lot on the Catch Basins congestion was due to high winds removing tree branches, and leaves which clogged the Catch Basins grates causing the bigger storm water backups.
- **Intensity of Rainfall:** A 50 or a 100-year storm (Which means a storm that has 2% or 1% chance of occurring in any given year) brings an intense amount of rain in a short period. Even if a storm sewer system is well-designed, it might not be able to handle such a high volume of water quickly enough.
- **Infrastructure Limitations:** Many storm sewer systems are older and may not have been upgraded to handle current rainfall intensities or the increased volume of runoff due to urban development and increased impervious surfaces (like asphalt and concrete).
- **Storm Sewer Capacity:** Storm sewer systems are often designed based on historical weather patterns and expected future conditions. If the Town receives a rare rain event, and while systems are built to handle less severe storms, they might not have the capacity to manage the extreme volumes associated with the storm.
- **Drainage Design:** Some parking lots are designed with shallow depressions or detention basins to capture and store stormwater temporarily. These areas are typically engineered to hold water for a period before it is slowly released to the underground sewer system or allowed to infiltrate into the ground (If the parking lot is not paved).

What should residents do during heavy rain events to help prevent flooding?

- **Clear Debris:** Ensure that leaves, trash, and other debris are not blocking gutters and drains near your property.
- **Stay Informed:** Monitor the Town's website and local news for updates and advisories during heavy rain events.
- **Report Issues:** Report any blocked drains, fallen trees, or other hazards to the Town's Public Works department promptly by using the "Report a Problem" portal on the Town's website.

What should residents do to prevent flooding during future heavy rain events?

We strongly encourage all residents to do the following:

- **Install a Sewer Backflow Preventer Valve:** This device helps prevent sewer backup into your home during heavy rains or sanitary system overflows.
- **Verify Proper Drainage of your Weeping Tile:** Verify that your weeping tile is not connected to the sanitary sewer service. If it is, consider redirecting the weeping tile to drain on the surface instead. This will help prevent excess water from entering the sanitary sewer system, thereby reducing the risk of backups and flooding.
- **Install and Maintain Your Sump Pump:** If you don't have a sump pump in your basement, it is strongly recommended that you install one. Additionally, regularly test your sump pump to ensure it is functioning properly and in good condition. Keeping your sump pump operational at all times will help manage excess water during heavy rain events and reduce the risk of basement flooding.

Who can residents contact for more information or to report flooding issues?

Emergency Services: For immediate hazards or emergencies, **call 911**

For immediate assistance please contact Public Works Department: **(780)723-6461**

To report property damage due to flooding please contact the

Town Office at **(780)723-4401 Ext 121** or email **flood@edson.ca**