



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
3400 – 30 Street
Vernon, BC
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 12, 2020

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Residents reminded to avoid creeks and creek banks during severe weather

The City of Vernon is reminding residents to be extremely cautious and avoid all creeks and creek banks as water levels continue to fluctuate from rain storms and spring melt.

Creek banks may experience erosion as water levels rise.

Polson Park remains closed to vehicle traffic until further notice.

As of 8:00 a.m. on June 12, pedestrians and cyclists are able to access Polson Park, however, they are asked to stay off the turf and away from all water for safety purposes. If the level of Vernon Creek rises again, Polson Park may be closed to all users.

As of 9:27 a.m. on June 12, 2020, Environment Canada issued a Severe Thunderstorm Watch for the North Okanagan – including Vernon. Heavy rainfall may cause creeks to experience surges.

City of Vernon crews are working to keep our creeks flowing and to minimize any potential impacts from heavy rains. This includes actively monitoring the roughly 55 sites throughout the City and assessing these locations for hazards and clearing them of debris.

On top of the work to minimize the potential impacts of flooding through our community, crews are also assessing City-owned properties affected by storm-water seepage and taking all necessary steps to curtail any potential damage.

If residents experience flooding on their private property, they are advised to contact a private restoration company. Flood protection for homes and private property is an owner's responsibility. This responsibility includes having the necessary equipment ready to protect their homes and sandbagging if necessary.

Residents can access sand and sandbags at two City of Vernon locations:

1. **Behind City Yards off Pleasant Valley Road** (1900 – 48 Avenue)
2. **Kin Racetrack parking lot** (3445 – 43 Avenue)

Under normal circumstances, two people can fill sandbags together. However, we ask that residents observe modifications that align with COVID-19 safety measures, such as physical distancing.

If residents see flooding or a creek blockage, they can call Operations Services: 250-549-6757 during the day; or 250-542-5361 during evenings and weekends.

The City of Vernon will provide updates as they become available. For more information on flooding and flood protection, please visit: www.vernon.ca/flooding.