

Early spring like temps causing minor flooding around the Metro

By [Catherine Ross](#) on Feb 20, 2017 at 10:45 p.m.



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Fargo -- It's an unseasonable sight around the region.

Rain and early snow melting are causing rivers to rise.

Standing about 15 feet from the normal Red River banks at Lindenwood Park, wading through several inches of water is undeniable.

Minor flooding closed down the pedestrian bridge, but it is not expected to pose any major threats.

A warm spell is melting snow, breaking up ice and swelling the Red beyond its normal boundaries.

Curious onlookers are venturing out to see the early thaw and even some wildlife are popping their heads up.

"The beaver was neat to see," said Brad Neznik of Moorhead.

It's not unusual to see high water blocking the path between Fargo and Moorhead, where

the river is just above flood stage at 18 feet.

"It's just kind of routine. When the water comes up, they raise the pedestrian bridge, you deal with it," said Mark Miller of Fargo.

It is a strangely spring-like sight for this time of year.

"Flooding on the Red River of the North in February is kind of weird. I don't think I've ever seen it here in 30 years," said WDAY Meteorologist John Wheeler.

It's not just the F-M metro.

The National Weather Service is forecasting minor flooding from Hallock to Hawley in Minnesota, with flood warnings for the Maple, Two Rivers and Buffalo rivers, but they're nowhere near crisis levels.

"We don't even start worrying about really having to take any action or do anything on the Red River until it gets up around major flood stage, which for example in Fargo now, that's up over 30 feet," said Wheeler.

Near the banks, city projects provide even more protection and peace of mind.

"There's pumps, there's all this mitigation that they did, so it's pretty reassuring. I'm not worried at all," said Neznik.

Some seasoned flood-fighters are calling it little more than an inconvenience.

"No, I think we'll be able to take this one in stride pretty well," said Miller.

The river is expected to crest Thursday, at 21 feet.

As far as spring flooding, we don't have to worry about an entire winter's worth of snow any more and any risks would come from future rain and snowfall.



Catherine Ross

Catherine joined the WDAY 6 News team as a reporter and photographer in April of 2014 and is honored to bring you stories from around the Red River Valley. She grew up in a suburb of Minneapolis and got her first taste of the news industry during a high school mentorship at Fox 9 in the Twin Cities. Catherine graduated from Emerson College in Boston where she participated in the student-run TV station WEBN and spent a semester in Washington, DC working at Voice of America. Those opportunities gave her a front-row seat to the 2012 Presidential election cycle, reporting at the Iowa Caucuses, Republican National Convention and President Obama's second inauguration. Now happy to be back closer to family, Catherine enjoys exploring the nature and culture of the upper Midwest. She's an avid runner, novice foodie and lifelong Twins fan. If you have any story ideas or just want to say hello, Catherine would love to hear from you!

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