



8 April 2011

To: All property owners along Big Cottonwood Creek

Ref: Flood Prevention

Dear Resident,

The City of Holladay is fortunate to have an extensive network of canals and streams including Big Cottonwood Creek. This creek is part of what makes Holladay uniquely beautiful and is classified as a county regional storm drain facility. Flood Prevention is a serious concern for the city and our residents, especially as we approach the snow-melt season. At this time, the snowpack feeding Big Cottonwood Creek is about 120% of normal. Flooding potential along the Creek is not unusually high at this time. However, this could change quickly depending upon precipitation and the rate of warming.

Flood control and maintenance of the creek is the responsibility of Salt Lake County Flood Control. County personnel pay close attention to key points on the Creek during the run-off season. This effort includes keeping equipment on-site at strategic points in the event of an emergency. Salt Lake County staff and Holladay City staff work hard to insure that potential flooding issues are addressed. None-the-less, flooding problems can and occasionally do occur, even in drier years. Your involvement can be critical in identifying and preventing flooding problems before they happen. On behalf of the city and your neighbors, we ask for your help in this effort.

Below are some things that you can do to help in the prevention of flooding:

Firstly, the city and county staffs, while diligent, are limited in number. Often our residents see potential flooding problems that might otherwise be missed. If you have questions, concerns, or are experiencing flooding, we encourage you to call the appropriate entity. If you are unsure who that may be, please feel free to call me or the City of Holladay.

Salt Lake County Flood Control:

801-562-6418

385-468-6101 (after hours)

City of Holladay:

801-272-9450

801-244-6103 (after hours - Tosh Kano's cell phone)

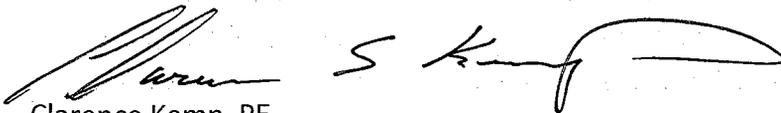
Secondly, please keep streams and streambanks clear of debris. Dumping debris (limbs, garbage, grass clippings, etc.) in the waterways is against the law and is costly to the taxpayer. If you see evidence of this occurring, please contact us. We also ask that our residents be aware of debris accumulating along stream banks. Last year this resulted in serious flooding damage to downstream neighbors, when Big Cottonwood Creek overtopped its banks west of Highland Drive. The flooding was not the result of an unexpected snow-melt event or channel deficiencies. This section of the creek had been inspected by the county a short time before the flooding occurred. This flooding was primarily caused by materials and debris along the upstream banks being captured by the creek as the water levels rose. The result was a quickly-plugged trash grate and several hundred thousand dollars of flood damage to Holladay residents.

Thirdly, know when a permit is needed. The City of Holladay requires a permit to encroach on or modify any creeks or canals. Encroachments include small structures, fences, or modifications to the banks. The protected area for Big Cottonwood Creek is 100 feet on each side. The purpose of this permitting process is not only to prevent potential flooding, but also to protect this valuable community resource.

Lastly, we would like to remind our residents that regular homeowners' insurance policies don't offer protection against flood related losses, only flood insurance does. The City of Holladay participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). You can purchase flood insurance through your own insurance agent or company. Please note that there is a standard 30-day waiting period before new flood insurance policies become effective.

We greatly appreciate your help and involvement in the protection of our waterways and in flood prevention efforts in the City of Holladay.

Sincerely,



Clarence Kemp, PE
Holladay City Engineer
(801) 230-3682 (cell)