

City of Des Moines
Public Works Department
“Protecting the Public’s Safety, Health and Waterways”

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

To: *Richard A. Clark, City Manager*
From: *William G. Stowe, Assistant City Manager/Public Works/Engineering*
Re: *Birdland Area Update*

On June 14, 2008, extremely high flows on the Des Moines River resulted in a breach on the Birdland levee west of the west terminus of New York Street at approximately 3:15 AM. An emergency berm was constructed on 2nd Avenue to contain flows, but it was overtopped at approximately 5:30 AM. Residences and businesses in the area have suffered damages from the inundation of flood water.

Levee Repair

The breach on the Birdland levee is being repaired under contract. The breach repair will consist of placing of 6,000 tons of rock to create a stable base topped by 1,500 cubic yards of impervious clay. Forty foot of sheet piling will then be placed on the river side to provide protection to the newly constructed levee section. Placement of the rock will take 2-3 days, placement of the clay will require 1 additional day. Placement of the sheet piling will take another 3 days. Weather permitting, repairs should be completed by early next week.

Dewatering

The Birdland area is served by two permanent storm pump stations: one at 2nd and Birdland (new after 1993) and one at Oxford and Guthrie. Both storm water pumping stations are operating at full capacity. Portable pumps have been placed in the vicinity of the 6th Avenue river bridge and at the west end of Polar Bear Way west of 6th Avenue. Dewatering operations will continue around the clock until all flood waters are removed.

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Cleanup

Arrangements have been made under emergency order to place 40 cubic yard roll-off containers at convenient locations in the Birdland area to assist residents and businesses with the disposal of flood damaged items. The roll-off units will continue to be serviced until such time as the quantities of materials to be disposed of can be handled through the Public Works Department’s routine Municipal Trash Collection Program.

WGS/js/lf