

City of Merritt

Atmospheric River Impacts and Recovery



Flood Impacts

The City of Merritt was impacted by three successive atmospheric river events in November 2021, which resulted in widespread flooding of the Coldwater River.

The entire community of 7,100 residents was evacuated. Flooding resulted in the complete shutdown of schools and essential services, as well as the failure of a dike, water delivery system and wastewater treatment plant, a bridge collapse and extensive damage to commercial, residential, and municipal property.



City of Merritt after the floods.

Recovery Funding

- Through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI), the City of Merritt was provided \$24.25 million in Interim Flood Support Funding. \$11.75 million of this was allocated for housing.
- Merritt has received Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) approval for infrastructure projects including replacing garbage and recycling bins, Canford Avenue road repair, general sidewalk repair, dog park, Voght Park pump station and sewer infrastructure repairs.
- Emergency Management BC is funding Merritt's Community Recovery Manager and staff.

Additional Recovery Efforts

- The City of Merritt is moving forward with the purchase of 31 mobile homes.
- Delivery of the mobile homes is scheduled January 2023 to April 2023. These homes will be available at a subsidised rate to flood impacted residents for a 24-month period.
- In addition, the City is exploring the feasibility of constructing 3D printed housing that would potentially provide temporary housing for up to 20 displaced residents.
- The City of Merritt has completed the rebuild of Canford Avenue and restored water delivery and wastewater systems.
- Many smaller projects have been completed or are in progress. These include rebuilding the dog park, repairing two damaged water wells, removing danger trees and repairing sewer mains. Most of these projects are expected to be complete by 2023.
- Through insurance, Merritt has funded the repair of their wastewater treatment plant rapid infiltration system.
- A flood mitigation study, funded with \$329,000 from Emergency Management BC, with options for reinforced diking or managed retreat has been completed.
- Replacement of the Voght Street Bridge is expected to be completed in winter 2023.
- Temporary flood mitigation structures have been installed along the Coldwater River.



Voght Dog Park



Coldwater River – temporary flood mitigation structures – Spring 2022