

## City crews prepare for rising Rock River

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Officials are preparing for minor flooding in downtown Janesville this weekend, but it could have been much worse, city operations director John Whitcomb said.

The National Weather Service is predicting the Rock River to rise sometime Sunday to 10½ feet, which is 1½ feet above flood level.

That could be enough to cause minor problems near the intersection of Main Street and Centerway and in the Mole-Sadler subdivision near Riverside Park, Whitcomb said.

"That might back up enough to have some water ponding in the street," he said.

The prediction is considerably milder than an earlier warning issued by the National Weather Service. On Tuesday, the weather service predicted the river would crest at 12 feet, which would have been the second-highest since the city started keeping records in 1915, Whitcomb said.



**Sandbags line the sidewalk behind buildings in the 100 block of North Main Street in downtown Janesville today after the National Weather Service issued a flood warning Tuesday.**  
Dan Lassiter/Gazette Staff

The weather service backed off those predictions early this morning.

As of 4:30 a.m., the river was at 9.7 feet. City crews placed sandbags along the east river wall from Centerway to Milwaukee Street, but water had not topped the wall as of mid-morning.

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