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Greenfield swimming pool closed until Sunday as town cleans up after storm

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GREENFIELD — It looks like the town's swimming pool will be closed until Sunday.

"We're working diligently to clean up after the heavy rains that hit on Wednesday night," said Public Works Director Arthur Baker. "A lot of debris got washed down the river and created blockages."

Baker said the Green River overflowed after absorbing 3.51 inches of rain on Wednesday night and covered the swimming area's concession stand floor with 6 inches of water and lots of silt.

He said the stand, playground and other areas were not damaged.

"We're removing the silt and will have to replace the sand that was washed away from the beach," he said.

Baker said the town will end up paying some overtime to public works employees, but it won't be anywhere near as devastating as it was when Tropical Storm Irene hit in 2011.

"We should have this all cleaned up by Saturday and be ready for a Sunday reopening," said Baker.

"We had a mess in the parking lot and (Nashs Mill) road, too," said Baker. "It's mostly all cosmetic damage and we're thankful for that."

Baker said he's happy beach-goers will be able to get back to the Green River Swimming and Recreation Area well before July 4.

He said a couple of other areas in town flooded, as well, causing headaches, but not a lot of damage.

Baker said a catch basin on Arch Street backed up and the street had to be closed for a couple of hours while crews cleaned up.

"That tends to happen on Arch Street," said Baker.

He said Scout Road, a dirt road that leads to the Boy Scout camp, washed out and left two residents trapped on their properties for several hours.

"They weren't actually trapped, because we had the road cleared and open by 4 a.m.," said Baker.

He said crews started around midnight and worked into Thursday morning.

Baker said while the town reported a rainfall of 3.51 inches on Wednesday night, some areas of Greenfield actually had more than 4 inches of rain fall.

"We were pretty fortunate that more didn't go wrong," said Baker.



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