

Link to warning on homepage of Florence Parks & Recreation Department and on page for Wildwood Park:

IMPORTANT WARNING REGARDING CYPRESS CREEK

The City of Florence reminds citizens of the potential hazards associated with recreational use of Cypress Creek. There is a low-head dam, or weir, located approximately 5000 feet downstream of the Cox Creek Parkway bridge which spans the entire width of the creek at the location of Florence Utilities' water treatment facility. Boating, swimming, and wading within 100 feet of the dam is prohibited.

Strong currents and turbulent water above and below the dam can cause watercraft to overturn and can trap and drown a person, even if he or she is a strong swimmer. These currents can exist even when the water level is low and the creek is flowing slowly.

To avoid the risk of death or serious injury, users of Cypress Creek **MUST EXIT THE CREEK AND USE THE PORTAGE TRAIL** located on the downstream right (west) side of the Creek approximately 300 feet upstream of the dam. The portage trail is a short gravel path where users of the creek can safely carry their canoe, kayak, or inner tube around the hazards associated with the dam. The entrance to the portage trail is clearly marked by a red and white sign.

In addition to use of the portage trail, recreational users of Cypress Creek are reminded to always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) any time they are on the water.

Furthermore, while the City of Florence is prevented by federal regulations from forbidding navigation of Cypress Creek, **RECREATIONAL USERS ARE DISCOURAGED FROM THE USE OF CYPRESS CREEK DURING OR AFTER PERIODS OF HEAVY RAINFALL** as the current becomes much stronger and the danger along the creek and in the area of the low-head dam, or weir, increases substantially.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Florence Water Department at 256-760-6490.