

OVERVIEW OF ESTES PARK FLOOD MITIGATION

PROTECT OUR TOWN & YOUR PROPERTY

WHY IS FLOOD MITIGATION IMPORTANT?

MANY MORE HOMES AND BUSINESSES THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT ARE AT RISK OF PROPERTY DAMAGE AND ECONOMIC LOSS FROM FUTURE FLOOD EVENTS.

The 2013 flood taught us that the 30-plus year-old flood data significantly underestimated flood risk, highlighting the need for new floodplain mapping. These new maps are currently being produced as part of the CO Hazard Mapping Project for flood-affected areas including the Estes Valley.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

By acting now, residents and business owners can help reduce future flood risk and potentially lower flood insurance rates by engaging in mitigation efforts of their own.

WHAT IS THE TOWN DOING?

Floodplain mitigation is an ongoing, long-term activity. The Town is investing in several flood mitigation projects that will protect our community in the future.

These projects fall into three main categories:

- ✓ Improvement
- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Partnerships with Other Entities



AS A COMMUNITY, WE MUST ACT NOW TO REDUCE FLOOD RISK



THROUGH MITIGATION EFFORTS MADE BY THE TOWN OF ESTES PARK, BUSINESS OWNERS AND RESIDENTS, WE CAN HELP:



Reduce property damage and economic loss



Reduce the number of properties placed in new regulatory floodplains



Reduce flood insurance premiums

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Residents and businesses can help with flood mitigation by engaging in educational opportunities, providing feedback and supporting the community's needs. They can also undertake mitigation and resiliency efforts on their own properties.

MAKING THE INVESTMENT IN FLOOD MITIGATION NOW CAN HELP REDUCE FLOOD INSURANCE RATES AND DECREASE PROPERTY DAMAGE WHEN ANOTHER FLOOD OCCURS.

RESIDENTS

- ❑ Seal walls in your basement with waterproofing compounds.
- ❑ When practical, use floodproofing techniques to stop floodwater from entering the home.
- ❑ Relocate equipment, such as electrical, heating, air conditioning, etc., to above the base flood elevation. Consider using your attic, an extra closet, or an elevated platform to store utilities.
- ❑ Add proper flood openings to your foundation.
- ❑ Elevate the structure of your home to above the base flood elevation. This is a more expensive option, but is the fastest way to reduce risk and flood insurance premiums.

BUSINESS OWNERS

- ❑ Ensure that your building, including the basement, is watertight and capable of resisting flood-related forces.
- ❑ Relocate utilities to above the base flood elevation and to be completely enclosed within the building's watertight walls.
- ❑ Elevate the building's structure to above the base flood elevation. This is a more expensive option, but is the fastest way to reduce risk and flood insurance premiums.
- ❑ Install backflow valves to protect buildings from sewage backups.
- ❑ Anchor fuel and propane tanks to prevent them from being swept away.

WHAT IS THE TOWN DOING FOR FLOOD MITIGATION?

As we continue to recover from the 2013 flood, the Town of Estes Park is continuously looking to minimize the impact from future disasters. Since the 2013 flood, mitigation has become a new priority in order to protect our citizens and minimize physical and economic damage. The Town is also aggressively seeking grants to assist with new projects that will reduce flood risk.

FLOOD MITIGATION IS AN ONGOING, LONG-TERM ACTIVITY, SO THERE ARE SEVERAL PROJECTS AND INVESTMENTS THAT MUST BE MADE NOW TO PROTECT US IN THE FUTURE.

THE TOWN'S PROJECTS

IMPROVEMENTS



Historic Fall River Hydroplant

Restoring the channel & stabilizing streambanks to be more resilient to future flooding.



Scott Ponds Dam Repairs

Repair of the two dams in Scott Ponds Natural Area that were damaged during the flood.



Fish Creek Stabilization

Stabilization of creek banks at 10 sites along 4 miles of Fish Creek.



Moraine Avenue Bridge

Pre-grant funding activities to investigate bridge replacement to handle future floodwater.

PLANNING



Hydrology Study

Hydrology study of Fall River, Black Canyon Creek, Dry Gulch and Big Thompson River to further understand flood flows.



Downtown Plan

Planning document to support improved flood resilience, downtown vitality, walkability and redevelopment.



Stormwater Master Plan

Comprehensive planning process to identify drainage infrastructure needs for the Estes Valley to help mitigate flood risk.

PARTNERSHIPS



Collaboration with the Estes Valley Watershed Coalition (EVWC)

Working to align restoration and risk mitigation with community and economic development goals.



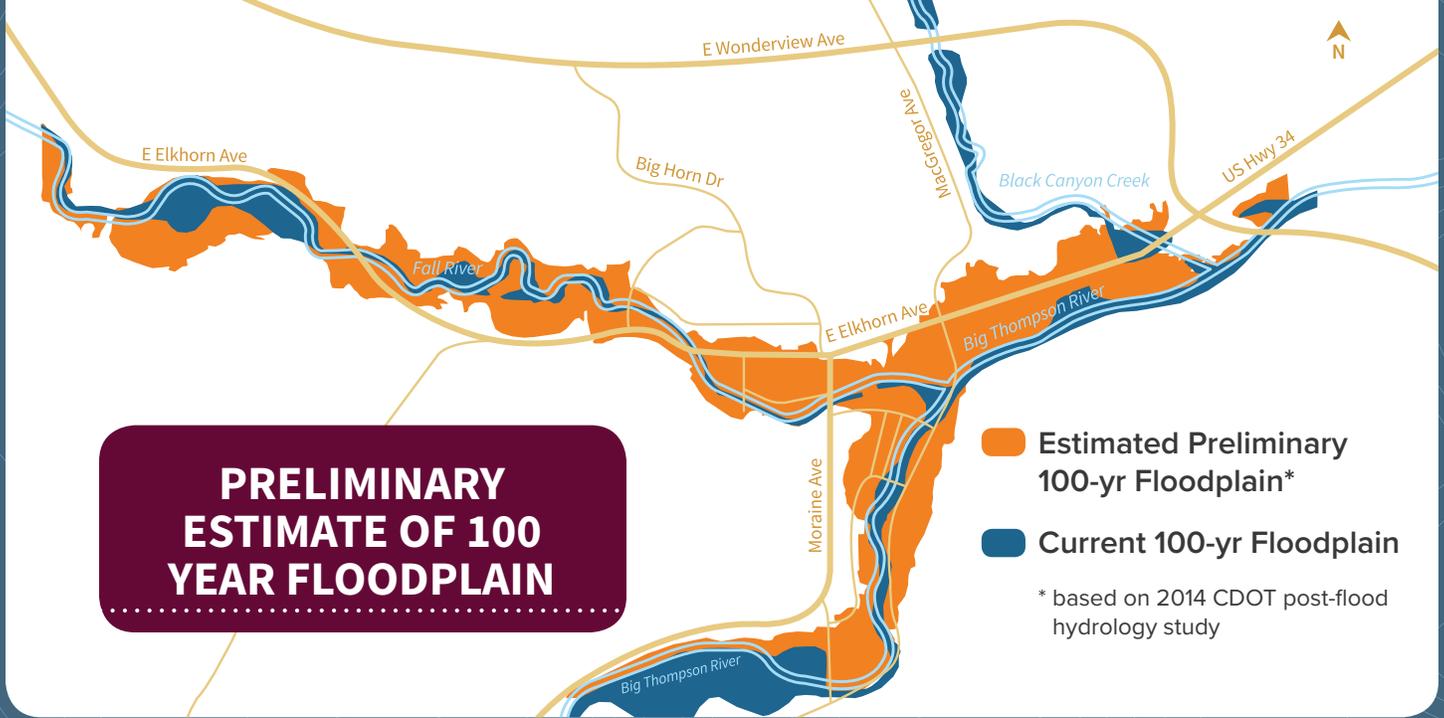
Revised Floodplain Mapping

The state is producing a new floodplain map of the Estes Valley to better estimate flood risk. These maps will be provided to FEMA.



National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System (CRS)

Estes partakes in this federal insurance program and is pursuing participation in the CRS Program.



**PRELIMINARY
ESTIMATE OF 100
YEAR FLOODPLAIN**

**Estimated Preliminary
100-yr Floodplain***

Current 100-yr Floodplain

* based on 2014 CDOT post-flood hydrology study

TERMS TO KNOW

THE DOWNTOWN ESTES LOOP

The Town of Estes Park, along with partners at CDOT and Central Federal Lands Highway Division, are studying the need for realignment of traffic through the downtown core. This initiative is not part of the Town’s flood mitigation program although some benefits may exist. To learn more, visit www.downtownestesloop.com.

REGULATORY FLOODPLAIN

The regulatory floodplain includes the channel of a river and the adjacent low-lying land that is naturally subject to flooding. Mitigation efforts can alter what areas are susceptible to flooding and remove some properties from the floodplain.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP)

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a federal program that Estes Park joined in the early 1970s. Since then, the Town has been active in floodplain management. By participating in the NFIP, flood insurance is available to local property owners, and the Town is eligible for Federal and State funds following a flood event.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program through the NFIP that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities. These activities can help reduce risk and flood insurance premiums. The Town of Estes Park is actively pursuing participation in this program.

Learn more by visiting
www.estes.org/floodmitigation



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