



Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Iowa Flood Plain Management: A Vision

Planning to reduce damage from floods is best accomplished at the local level.

Communities' Role in Flood Plain Planning

- The planning necessary to reduce damage from floods is best accomplished at the local level.
- All flood-prone communities have a flood plain development plan that drives decisions on what activities are allowed within their flood hazard areas.
- Community development plans incorporate the goals and objectives of the communities' hazard mitigation and emergency response plans as they apply to flood plain development.
- Flood plain development plans are based on high quality data.
- Communities promote the purchase of flood insurance and encourage all property owners within the flood plain to obtain full or partial insurance coverage.

Flood plain concepts are incorporated into designs of buildings and developments.

The State's Role in Flood Plain Management

- Assist local communities and planners by:
 - Identifying areas in the state with a higher risk for flooding.
 - Developing a state-wide flood plain management plan and keeping it up to date.
 - Being involved in the planning for long-term and large scale flood control projects.
 - Conduct regular training for local flood plain management officials.
- Provide technical resources to local communities and planners by:
 - Conducting detailed flood studies.
 - Writing state-wide technical standards for flood plain management.
- Oversight of local permitting programs.
- Encourage engineers and architects to incorporate flood plain management concepts into designs of buildings and developments.
- Protect life and property from dams that are improperly constructed or inadequately maintained.

Digital flood plain maps are available for all of Iowa.

Flood Plain Mapping Program

- Digital flood maps are available for the entire state.
- The state develops certified digital flood plain determinations that are used by local flood plain managers and landowners.
- Flood maps include information for past flood events.
- Flood maps identify the area affected by the Standard Project Flood.

Everyone has access to accurate and timely river crest forecasts.

Disaster Response

- The state conducts real-time FIM (flood inundation mapping) during a flood event.
- Everyone—HSEMD, local emergency officials and the general public—has access to accurate and timely river crest forecasts.
- An inexpensive and community-based staff gage network is used to supplement the crest and discharge data collected during a flood event.
- Post-disaster reports are published that include detailed flood analysis and all relevant data.

