

Floodplain Resilience Plan

Reducing future flood risk while protecting salmon and steelhead.

Portland is a river city, susceptible to periodic flooding that threatens lives and property. Climate change is increasing the types of severe weather events that cause flooding. So, managing the risk of flooding is a City priority.

Improving river and floodplain health and resilience is essential to our communities, our economy and the recovery of ecologically and culturally irreplaceable salmon and steelhead.

In 2016, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a Biological Opinion (BiOp) stating that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program in Oregon negatively impacts protected salmon and steelhead by encouraging floodplain development that reduces habitat. FEMA worked with Oregon jurisdictions to develop a proposed Implementation Plan that responds to the BiOp, Oregon Land Use law and local conditions.

The Floodplain Resilience Plan will comply with federal guidance by:

- Reducing future flood risk by ensuring capacity for flood waters along rivers and streams.
- Expanding and improving floodplain habitat for salmon and steelhead.

Without these actions, Portlanders risk losing access to FEMA's federally-backed flood insurance and disaster relief grants. And, salmon, steelhead and other natural resources will likely suffer.



Updated floodplain development regulations, along with City-led restoration projects, will help ensure Portlanders have continued access to FEMA's federally backed flood insurance and access to financial assistance after floods.

The Floodplain Resilience Plan is a collaboration of City bureaus

When the BiOp was issued, staff began to develop a response that would meet the requirements of the federal government as well as the needs of the community. The effort directly involves several bureaus and agency partners.

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is currently working to:

- Ensure all floodplains are in an Environmental or River overlay zone so that they can be effectively managed.



City of Portland, Oregon | Bureau of Planning and Sustainability | www.portland.gov/bps
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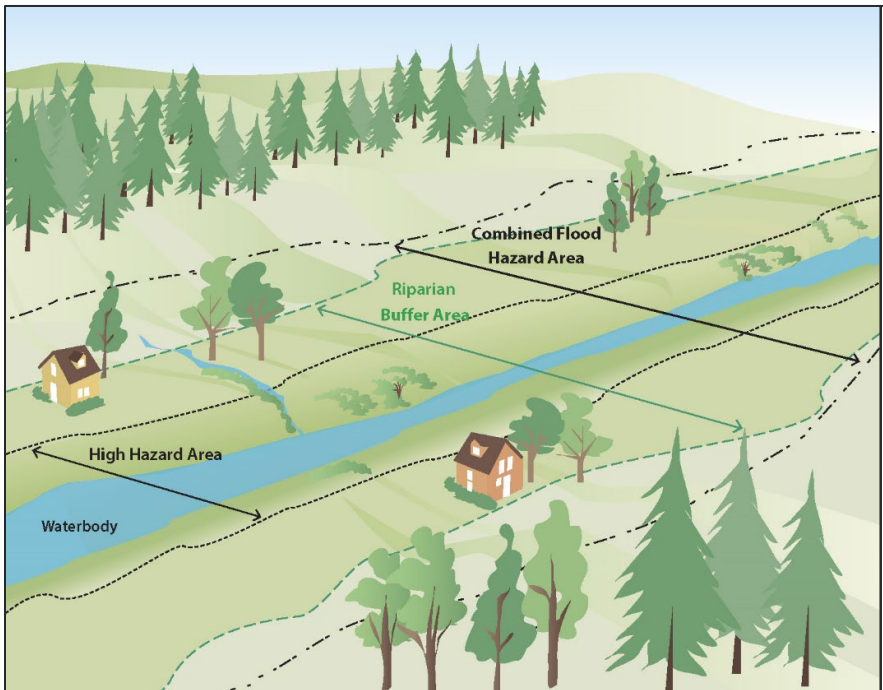
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- Apply new development, building and vegetation requirements to the city's floodplains to improve habitat.
- Apply additional requirements within 170 ft of ordinary high water to expand habitat.
- Increase or require excavation when fill (soil) or structures are placed in the floodplain.
- Communicate with property owners, renters, state, federal and tribal governments, and the community.

The Bureau of Environmental Services is:

- Identifying and creating restoration sites that will improve habitat for salmon and steelhead.
- Evaluating options to support the expansion of mitigation banks as an alternative to onsite mitigation.



Regulatory updates are proposed for the **combined flood hazard area**, which includes the FEMA 100-year floodplain and the 1996 flood area.

Additionally, land within two key areas will be subject to new requirements:

- 1) Development in the **high hazard area**, which are areas very near a river or stream, will be limited and, when allowed, require extra flood storage mitigation.
- 2) Development in the Willamette River **riparian buffer area** (170 feet from ordinary high-water) will require additional mitigation for impacts to riverbank habitat.

Project steps and timeline (2021-2022)

November 2021:	Release of Discussion Draft
November 2021-January 2022:	Public Review of Discussion Draft
Spring 2022:	PSC public hearing, work sessions, and recommendation
Summer 2022:	City Council public hearing/decision

For more information

www.portland.gov/bps/environ-planning/floodplain-project

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