



## Snyder County Conservation District

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### Floodplain Management Fact Sheet

#### Floodplain Management?

How can a natural and destructive event such as a flood be managed? People have been trying to prevent flooding since almost the beginning of time. Dams, dikes, walls and levees have been built to keep floods from destroying towns and cities. Homes and business have tried to take precautions in limiting flood damage.

Since the late-20th century, local, state and federal governments have been working together to limit future flood damage. Local flood and building ordinances and surveys completed by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) aid municipal leaders in preventing flood damage for new and existing structures.

#### What is a floodplain?

Floodplain = A relatively flat or low land area which is subject to partial or complete inundation from an adjoining or nearby stream, river or watercourse; and/or any area subject to the unusual and rapid accumulation of surface waters from any source.

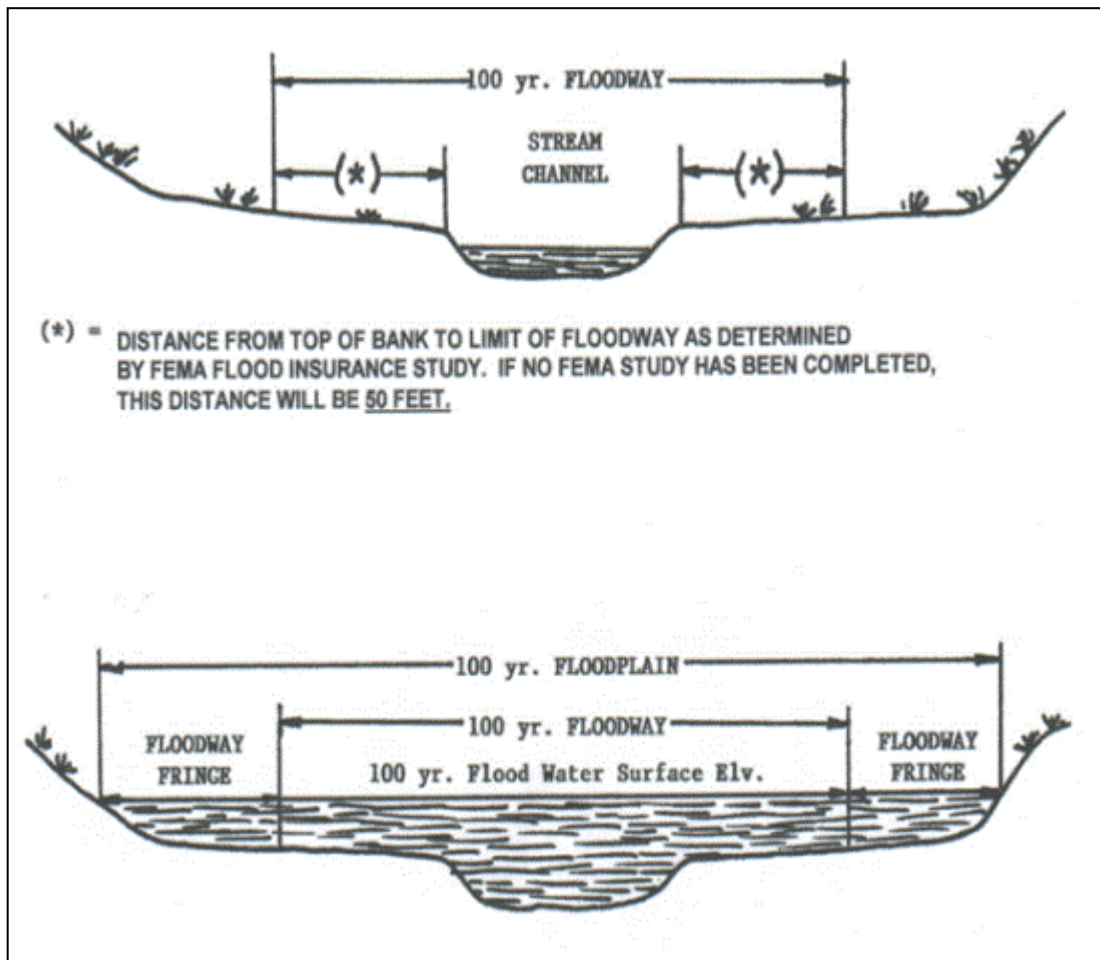
Floodway = the designated area of a floodplain required to carry and discharge flood waters of a given magnitude. The floodway shall be capable of accommodating a flood for the 100 year magnitude.

Figure 1 shows an example of a 100 year floodplain. (Now FEMA refers this location as an area with a 1% annual chance flood.)

Municipalities should have maps that show 100 year (1% annual chance) floodplains within their borders. Figure 2 shows a portion of one borough's floodplain map. It was created from FEMA during its research for insurance studies. These studies and maps are estimates of where flooding would occur during a major flooding event, such as a 100 year (1% annual chance) flood.

On the particular map shown in Figure 2, the blue shaded areas represents area that would be under water during a 100 year (1% annual chance) flood (floodplain). The blue shaded area with white stripes represents the area within a floodway (major section of the floodplain) during a 100 year (1% annual chance) flood. (Note: Different municipalities have different types of maps due to the severity of the flood risk.)

Figure 1:



In Closing ...

As mentioned before, this information can be provided by municipalities throughout the county. Additional information and resources can be obtained for individual and municipal use from PA Department of Community & Economic Development's (DCED's) Governor's Center for Local Government Services at 1-888-223-6837. The Snyder County Conservation District also has some materials as well.

*Note: Much of this information on this web page has come from FEMA and DCED.*

Figure 2:



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