



# Washington County

## Planning and Parks Department

### PRESS RELEASE

January 2014

Contact: Phillip J. Gaudet, Land Resources Manager

#### **FEMA Floodplain Maps**

If you have received a letter from a bank or lending institution requiring you to obtain flood insurance for your property it is probably due to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) new floodplain maps. FEMA required Washington County to adopt revised floodplain maps for the unincorporated areas of the County excluding cities and villages in the County who will have to adopt their own revised floodplain maps. This requirement is the result of FEMA's "map modernization" effort which was started over six years ago. The County adopted these maps on November 19, 2013 and that allowed Washington County to remain in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The revised maps have removed the floodway/floodfringe zoning district designation for many floodplain areas in the County and this change results in the majority of the floodplains now mapped as a general floodplain zoning district or unstudied floodplain. This change occurred because previous floodplain studies done many years ago have been determined to be inadequate by current standards to accurately show floodway and floodfringe zoning districts. This means future development in the general floodplain zoning districts will likely require a floodplain impact analysis study be completed by an owner prior to any permit approvals for those areas.

If you have received a letter from a bank or lending institution stating you need to obtain flood insurance, the Washington County Planning & Parks Department (Land Use Division) recommends first contacting the bank or lending institution to discuss the reason for the requirement. Ask the bank or lending institution if they will consider any information you have (such as a survey), that shows the extent of the floodplain on your property. If you do not have a survey or any other information to present to the bank or lending institution, you can view Washington County's Interactive Map to locate the floodplain on your property. This web based interactive map is located on the Washington County website @ <http://maps.co.washington.wi.us>.

If you have questions or wish to discuss your floodplain issues with County staff, you can contact the Washington County Planning & Parks Department (Land Use Division) at 262-335-4445. The office is located at the Washington County Public Agency Center, 333 E Washington St, Suite 2300, West Bend, WI 53095. The Department website can be found @ [www.co.washington.wi.us](http://www.co.washington.wi.us). The fax number is 262-335-6868. Email questions can be sent to [Phil.Gaudet@co.washington.wi.us](mailto:Phil.Gaudet@co.washington.wi.us).

