

KANSAS

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT TIPS



August 2024

Navigating Annexations in Growing Communities: A Guide for Local Floodplain Managers

According to a recent 2023 report from the Des Moines Register, Des Moines, IA stands out as the fastest-growing major metropolitan area in the Midwest, with a notable population increase of 16.3% from 2012-2022. Surging population growth not only signifies burgeoning opportunities but can also introduce complexities, particularly in terms of land annexations—a process where municipalities expand jurisdiction to include additional areas, extending services, laws, and voting rights to new sectors.

As local floodplain managers, it is crucial to understand how these changes can influence community floodplain management, especially in relation to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Here are several key considerations:

1. **Impact on Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs):** Does the annexation introduce new SFHAs? Such changes necessitate updates to local floodplain ordinances to meet enhanced regulatory requirements as specified under 44 CFR 60.3. This ensures that your community continues to enforce adequate flood risk reduction measures.
2. **Updating Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs):** Annexations may add new panels to your community's FIRMs. It is imperative to adopt these new panels to maintain accurate and current flood risk data, helping to guide development and mitigation strategies effectively.
3. **Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ):** With annexations, the reach of ETJ can shift, impacting who is covered under NFIP within those areas. Understanding these jurisdictional limits is vital to manage eligibility and pricing of flood insurance policies correctly.

Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Considerations:

Addressing the challenges and responsibilities associated with annexations, especially under the purview of SI/SD determinations, is crucial. SI/SD refers to the FEMA requirements that a substantially damaged or improved structure must be brought into compliance with current floodplain management regulations. As communities grow and annex new areas, ensuring that these standards are met not only preserves the integrity of floodplain management but also secures the safety and sustainability of the infrastructure and its residents.

Impacts From Annexation:

Furthermore, changes due to annexations may affect the NFIP coverage status of properties. For instance, if an annexing community does not participate in the NFIP, newly annexed areas from participating communities might face a lapse in eligibility for flood insurance. Conversely, previously unprotected areas entering NFIP-participating communities due to annexation can access coverage essential to obtaining federally backed mortgages and flood disaster assistance if the annexation is properly reported. Additionally, when a community with a high Community Rating System (CRS) rating annexes land from a community with a lower rating or a community that does not participate in CRS, policyholders in the annexed area will be eligible for a greater level of flood insurance discount.

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Office and state authorities about any boundary modifications due to annexations. This is not just a regulatory requirement—as stipulated in 44 CFR 59.22(a)(9)(v)—but also a best practice to ensure all FIRMs accurately reflect the current extent of community boundaries. This notification should include a map of the updated jurisdiction and any relevant legal descriptions.

In FEMA Region 7, for example, a proactive approach is taken in collaborating with insurance companies to update community information on flood insurance policies whenever a CRS discount is involved. This proactive update ensures that property owners within the annexed area receive appropriate discounts and maintain their flood insurance in alignment with their current community's standing.

Conclusion

Effective floodplain management in the face of rapid urban growth and annexations is a critical responsibility for local floodplain managers. By staying informed and prepared to implement changes to floodplain ordinances and NFIP coverage, you can significantly mitigate flood risks and protect the community's property and life safety. This strategic approach not only upholds federal regulations but also fosters a resilient and well-prepared community.

How Can We Support You?

Have ideas on training or you want to learn more about a topic, email us at FEMA-R7-Floodplain@fema.dhs.gov.

Recreational Vehicles in the Floodplain

Recreational vehicles are common in Kansas and are often driven to or stored in floodplains, which are commonly used as recreation areas. At times, they are modified to more permanent fixtures without air in the tires, attached decks or other construction, and may be left in place for years at a time. The requirements for recreation vehicles were written in a way that supports the use of floodplains for camping areas as long as recreational vehicles can be driven out of the floodplain when floods are forecasted. Recreational and camping areas are a good use of the floodplain where recreational vehicles can be driven away when floods are predicted rather than extensive residential uses. Standard requirements for recreational vehicles are:

- Be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days, or
- Be fully licensed and ready for highway use*; or
- Meet the permitting, elevation, and anchoring requirements for manufactured homes;

The 180-day consecutive day requirement can be enforced by adopting a requirement for local park administrators to keep track of when recreational vehicles arrive at the park and when they leave. Those records can be kept in a log and the dates tracked. The community official can also use photo documentation.

Fully licensed and ready for highway use means the vehicle is on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site by only quick-disconnect type utilities, and security device. The vehicle also has no permanently attached additions.

Areas that are prone to flash flooding are not recommended for recreational vehicles, if there is not sufficient warning time to safely evacuate in the case of a flood. Over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. Never drive around the barriers blocking a flooded road. Just 2 feet of rushing water can carry away most SUVs and trucks; it is never safe to drive or walk into flood waters.

Staff Changes

Tara Lanzrath has left the KDA-DWR Floodplain Team to pursue new opportunities at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as the Region VII Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch Chief. Cheyenne Sun Eagle who has been the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Specialist for four years has taken the position of State NFIP Coordinator. A new Floodplain Specialist has joined the KDA-DWR Floodplain Team in Topeka. Kaitlyn Rowell joined the team in July and is adjusting well to her new role. She graduated from Virginia Tech in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Land Restoration Management. She has spent the last four years working for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation as a Conservation Assistant in Richmond, Virginia.

She also worked with the U.S. Forest Service, Greening Youth Foundation as a Resource Assistance Program Intern as well as a Research Assistant with the Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education at Virginia Tech. The KDA-DWR Floodplain Team is very excited to have her onboard.



Kaitlyn Rowell, NFIP Specialist

2024 ASFPM Conference

From June 23-28, the KDA-DWR Floodplain Team attended the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) 2024 annual conference in Salt Lake City, UT. At the conference, team members learned about resiliency, risk management, strategic planning, updates, local stories and projects for mitigation, mapping, modeling, and more. The goal of the annual ASFPM conference is to bring together floodplain professionals in all aspects of floodplain management to foster new relationships and provide a vast array of educational and networking opportunities.

Maria Neeland, engineer with Benesch and mapping contractor with KDA-DWR, presented with Joanna Rohlf, Kansas Mapping Coordinator with KDA-DWR on “Leveraging a “Liberal” Partnership for Mapping Success in Kansas.” Joanna also helped to lead the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Discussion. Cheyenne Sun Eagle, NFIP Coordinator for Kansas moderated a plenary session, “From Devastation to Success: State and Local Experiences”. The Floodplain Team also enjoyed a number of social events hosted by the conference. Next year’s conference will be held in New Orleans, LA, May 18-22, 2025. Local floodplain managers are encouraged to attend. For more information, visit: [2025 ASFPM Conference](#).



Bruce Bender Accepts Honorary Membership Award



ASFPM Luncheon

Training Opportunities

KAFM Pre-Conference Training (Lawrence)

Conference Registration

Exploring Flood Risk Products with ArcGIS Pro with William Pace, CFM will be held August 27th, 2024 - from 1:00pm - 5:00 pm. Registration is limited. [Registration Link](#)

Floodplain Managers Review Session with Cheyenne Sun Eagle, CFM will be held August 29th, 2024 - 2:30pm - 4:30pm. Registration is limited. [Registration Link](#)

NFIP 101: Introduction to Floodplain Management (CEC-eligible)

This course is intended for those just beginning a career in floodplain management to provide the skills to administer and enforce floodplain management ordinances, as well as communication techniques to explain the impact of floodplain management decisions on insurance, public safety, and health. It includes an overview of regulations based on types of flood hazards identified, substantial improvement and damage, and the permitting process. Approved for 12 ASFPM CECs. Users must complete all units and knowledge checks to earn a certificate. It can also be taken for no credit as a reference guide or refresher. This free online course can be taken any time and found [here](#).

Floodplain Team Office Hours

The KDA-DWR Floodplain Team conducts community floodplain office hours. This is being rolled out as an opportunity for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating communities, or those interested in the program to join a virtual recurring meeting during designated hours to ask any floodplain mapping or regulatory questions.

Virtual office hours held the first Monday of each month from 11:00-12:00 P.M. Click [here](#) to register.

Find more information about floodplain management from Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources online at:

<http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain>

Email saves money on postage. The electronic newsletter also has links and the photos are in color. In the case that you are getting this newsletter by postal mail and would prefer email please contact Cheyenne Sun Eagle at: cheyenne.suneagle@ks.gov.

To find and register for upcoming training, as well as recordings of previous trainings, please see our new
Floodplain Management Training webpage at:

<https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain/training>
[National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\) Resources Page \(ks.gov\)](#)

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Floodplain Program
Training Registration Form

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Name, date and location of training you will attend _____

*Please share this invitation with anyone else who could benefit from the training.

**Classroom locations will be sent to registered participants one week before the training.

**To find and register for upcoming training, as well as recordings of previous trainings, please see our new Floodplain Management Training webpage at: <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/dwr/floodplain/training>

** Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in training. Persons who require special accommodations must make their needs known at least five working days prior to training. For more information, including special accommodations, please contact Cheyenne Sun Eagle at 785-276-9359 or by email Cheyenne.Suneagle@ks.gov.

Please scan and email your registration to: cheyenne.suneagle@ks.gov

Or mail to:

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
1131 SW Winding Road, Suite 400
TOPEKA, KS 66615

For questions about training, please contact Cheyenne Sun Eagle by email at cheyenne.suneagle@ks.gov or by phone at 785-276-9359.

Please help us keep our records current. If the name that appears on this newsletter is for an individual no longer with your organization, please call 785-276-9359 or email cheyenne.suneagle@ks.gov to report the change.

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Topeka Field Office
Floodplain Management
1131 SW Winding Road, Suite 400
Topeka, KS 66615

Kansas Association For Floodplain Management 2024 Conference in Lawrence

The 2024 KAFM Conference will be August 28-29 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Lawrence, Kansas.

Association of State Floodplain Managers 2025 Conference in New Orleans

The 2025 ASFPM Conference will be May 18-22, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**KDA/DWR Water Structures
Floodplain Program Staff**

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