

Floodplain Maps Frequently Asked Questions

Are the floodplain maps on the City of Chilliwack's website accurate?

Yes, the limits of the floodplain are accurately portrayed on the City's floodplain maps. Updates were made to the floodplain maps in 2007 to reflect new Fraser River flood water level information from the Province. The provincial Fraser River water level estimates are based on the 1894 flood of record, estimated to be approximately a 1 in 500 year flood. The Province's flood water level information is for the river (areas outside the dykes).

Therefore, the floodplain is accurately shown on maps available on the City's website, based on the 2007 update. When the next mapping update is completed, it is not expected to significantly change the extent of the floodplain area.

Will the City of Chilliwack update the floodplain maps?

Yes, a consultant will be hired to carry out detailed floodplain mapping, which will use the estimated flood water levels for the Fraser River to estimate what the water levels would be across the entire floodplain if there were no dykes. This mapping will be done using Fraser River flood water level estimates released by the Province in 2014.

The City is waiting for information from the Province regarding funding assistance for that work, but significant changes to the floodplain map are not anticipated since some floodplain modelling work was carried out by a consultant in 2007, and there have not been significant changes to the Province's Fraser River flood water levels since that time.

What is the City doing to prepare for floods?

The City has been undertaking dyke upgrades using up-to-date Fraser River flood water level estimates from the Province.

The City of Chilliwack has an ongoing \$30 million program to raise the dyke system to match the most current elevation published by the Province.

The East Dyke from the CHIP intake to the Hope River has been upgraded, the recently completed Young Road dyke project is an integral part of this strategy. Further upgrades will be constructed when matching funds are available from the federal and provincial governments.

The City also has comprehensive Flood Response Plans for both the Fraser River and Vedder River, which outline flood response activities that the City will undertake in order to protect public safety and minimize potential impacts to infrastructure and property in the event of a large flood.