

PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY

WHAT IS A FLOODPLAIN?

Floodplains are areas of land near a watercourse not ordinarily under water but, may be flooded by water from weather events. Extreme rainfall or snowmelt can produce very high flows in rivers, stream or creeks; causing water levels to rise, and inundate areas not normally covered by water.

May I develop in a protected area?

Knowing how far flooding could extent in the event of an extreme storm is important for land use planning and emergency management. Floodplain maps establish protection areas to safely guide development projects. Flooding could prevent people from evacuating flooded areas and can cause damage to private property and public infrastructure. South Nation Conservation's (SNC) mission is to protect people and property from natural hazards, including flooding and unstable slopes.

What is 1:100 year flood?

A 1:100 year flood is a major flood that risks causing serious damage to people and property. These major floods have a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. To compare, a 1:50 year flood has a 2% chance of occurring in any given year. If a major flood occurs this does not mean that it cannot reoccur the next year.

How are the boundaries of a floodplain determined?

Floodplains are determined from information gathered, analyzed and synthesized through a flood study. These technical studies use topographical information and infrastructure surveys to determine the extent of a floodplain. The floodplain boundaries are then illustrated on detailed maps.

What should I do if I am in a floodplain?

Property owners can reduce the risk of flooding by: raising building lots; directing development outside of the floodplain; or using an appropriate design.

Development in a floodplain?

Rules governing what development can or cannot occur in a floodplain are primarily established in the Provincial Policy Statement for land use activities that require an approval under the Planning Act. The Conservation Authorities Act and Building Code Act also set requirements for development within floodplains.

