



Questions & Answers for the Channel 6 Floodplain Map Updates

Why did I receive a letter and postcard from the City of Springfield about Channel 6?

You received a letter in the fall 2016 and a postcard in the summer 2017 since you are listed as a property owner along Channel 6 in Springfield or the segment of the I-5 Canal and Q Street Canal that connect Channel 6 to the Willamette River that is part of a floodplain map updates the City of Springfield is completing. The City recently updated the data it uses to map the floodplain along Channel 6 and portions of the I-5 and Q Street Canals that connect Channel 6 to the Willamette River.

Why do updates to the Channel 6 area floodplain map?

Over time, changes have been made to Channel 6 through land development or natural causes, such as erosion, that have changed the specific area along Channel 6 at risk for flooding. The City wants to implement improvements that will reduce the flood risk to structures in the area. Additionally, new technology is now available to more accurately capture topography and determine the floodplain of the channel. The original floodplain maps for Channel 6 from 1985 were made based on data captured in the 1960s and 1970s.

What does this mean to me as a property owner today?

Depending on the location of your property, the status of your property being in or out of the floodplain may change due to the floodplain map updates.

What are the next steps for the City to make updates to the floodplain map?

The City will submit an application to amend the floodplain map panels for Channel 6 to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to approve the updated data and floodplain maps for Channel 6. Once approved, the City can then make improvements to Channel 6 to reduce the flood risk to structures along the channel.

Update - The City's application to amend the floodplain map panels for Channel 6 was approved by FEMA on June 1, 2017.

Why can't the City just make the improvements?

Based on federal regulations, the City must first update the 1985 floodplain map panels with FEMA. Once approved, the City can then make improvements to Channel 6 to reduce the flood risk to structures along the channel.

City of Springfield

Development & Public Works Department

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How long will the entire process take?

The City's application to update the floodplain map based on the 2015 data could take up to one year for FEMA to approve. Once approved, it may take the City 5 to 10 years to implement the improvements to Channel 6 to reduce the flood risk to structures along the channel and submit new data and floodplain maps after improvements are done. The City will keep property owners along Channel 6 informed throughout the process by sending periodic updates via mail.

What projects does the City have planned?

There are two initial projects planned -

1. The culvert under Beverly Street would be up-sized to accommodate future upstream development and prevent potential flooding downstream.
2. The culvert at Don Street would be enlarged to eliminate potential flooding to a nearby home and reduce flooding in Guy Lee Park.

What happens to the status of my property being in or out of the floodplain maps after improvements are made to reduce the flood risk of Channel 6?

After improvements are made by the City to Channel 6, the City will remap the channel and submit new data and floodplain maps to FEMA to approve. The new data and floodplain maps could change the status of your property again. For example, a property may not be in the 1985 floodplain map, then the property is in the floodplain based on data captured in 2015, improvements to reduce the flood risk to structures are made to Channel 6 by the City, and the property goes back to being out of the floodplain maps.

How can I find out the status of my property being in or out of the floodplain?

To find out if the status of your property being in or out of the floodplain may change, contact the City at 541.726.3753 or come to the Development & Public Works Department in the southeast wing of City Hall at 225 Fifth Street from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. You can also review the detailed maps and technical analysis at <http://www.springfield-or.gov/Channel6>.

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