

Floodplain Fact Sheet

INTRODUCTION

Quesnel is vulnerable to high water events from the Fraser and Quesnel Rivers, as well as Baker Creek. Extreme flooding events might be seen as rare, but they can and sometimes will occur more frequently than expected. This FAQ sheet has been made to help inform residents about the floodplain, as almost the entire North Fraser Drive Landing Plan area is located in the floodplain.

WHAT IS A FLOODPLAIN?

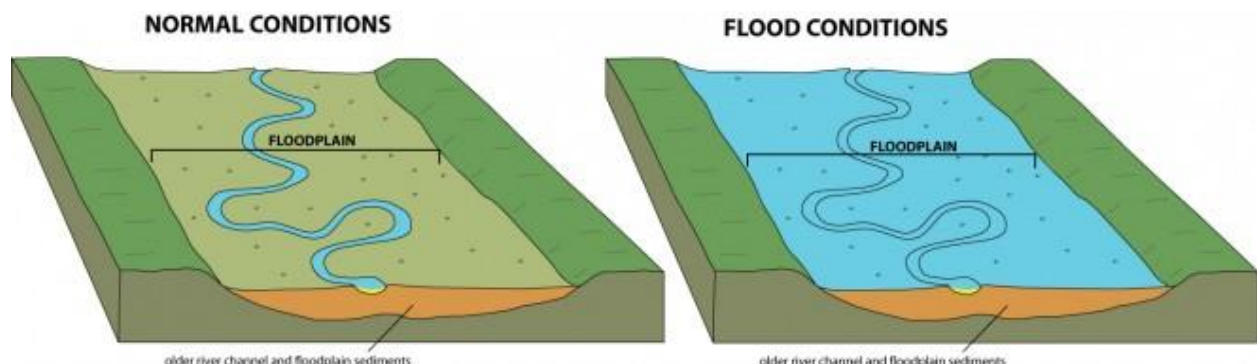
- A **floodplain** is an area of land located beside a body of water which is prone to flooding. In this case, it is the area of land in West Quesnel beside the Fraser River.
- When left in their natural state, **floodplains** store flood waters.
- When **floodplains** are developed, river flooding can increase.

WHAT IS A FLOODPLAIN MAP?

- A **floodplain map** is a document used to identify areas that are at risk of flooding under certain conditions. **Floodplain mapping** is an important land use planning tool and can help increase public awareness of flood risks.

WHAT IS A 1 IN 200-YEAR FLOODPLAIN?

- These terms mean the likelihood of a flood event occurring in any given year.
- For example, a home in a **200-year floodplain** has a one in 200 (or 0.5%) chance of being flooded in any given year.



WHY DID THE CITY UPDATE THEIR FLOODPLAIN MAPPING?

The City's previous floodplain map was a product of the Ministry of Environment from 1992. Responsibility for floodplain mapping was delegated to municipalities in 2003.

Floodplain maps need to be updated as land is developed, more scientific information becomes available, and considerations of climate change. Additionally with improved technology, it is possible to map floodplain areas more accurately. The maps provide minimum standards on how high buildings, structures and infrastructure should be built to lessen potential flood damage.

The City of Quesnel recently updated their floodplain mapping in 2019 and are utilizing it with the floodplain bylaw to regulate building setbacks and elevations.

Floodplain mapping is updated for many reasons, including:

- Public safety
- Environmental Protection
- Protection of properties
- Inform decisions on flood mitigation measures
- Changing weather patterns
- New technology and data

WHAT ARE THE BUILDING RESTRICTIONS IN THE FLOODPLAIN BYLAW?

All new development must raise all living and mechanical space above sea level to the highest flood construction level, calculated by the Building Inspector.

With the help of floodplain mapping, the City's Floodplain Management Bylaw determines specific distances away from the river that development can occur. For example, setbacks that would apply to development in the North Fraser Drive Landing Plan area would be:

- To have a setback of 30 meters from the Natural Boundary of the Fraser and Quesnel Rivers; and
- A 15-meter setback from Baker Creek and any other watercourse.