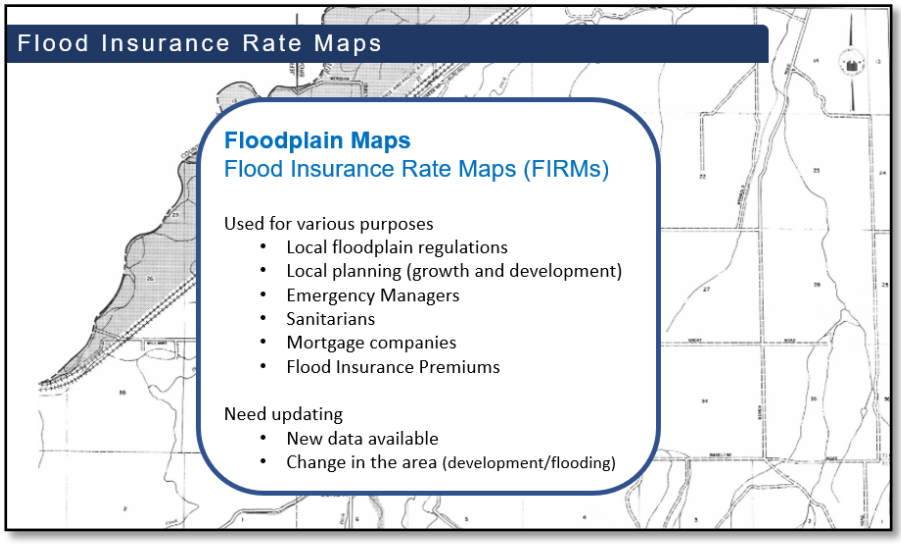
2022 Floodplain Mapping Project

What are floodplain maps?

Floodplain maps help identify risk, and in turn that helps keep people and property out of harm's way. Floodplain mapping projects are a coordinated effort with the state, county, city, and FEMA to identify and reduce flood risk. What these maps show is what is called the 100-year flood event. A better way to think of this is not in terms of years, it's the flood event that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year.



Floodplain maps are called Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). They are used for various purposes in the community. Maps need periodic updating due to high flood events, new data that can improve the accuracy, or if there has been substantial development in the area.

History of floodplain maps in County and City:

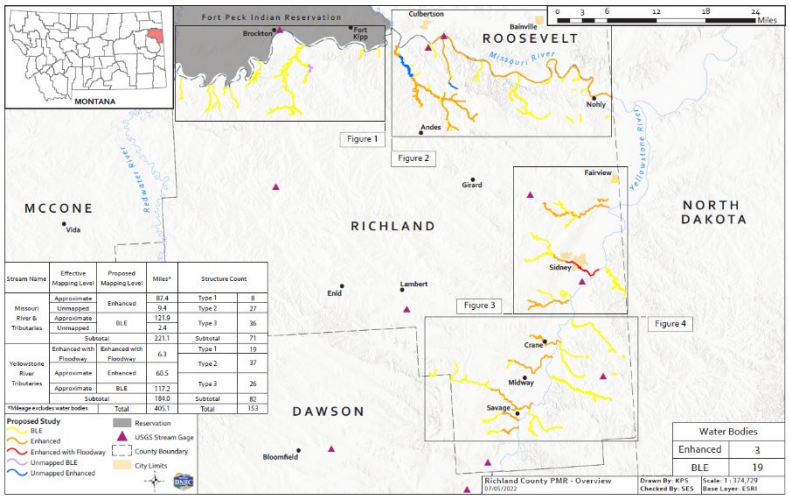
Flood Hazard Boundary maps were initially produced for Richland County in 1978, the City of Sidney in 1975, and the Town of Fairview in 1974. The first detailed flood study was conducted on Lone Tree Creek in 1985 for Richland County and the City of Sidney. Lone Tree Creek runs through the City of Sidney and has caused flooding concerns.

In 2007, Richland County went through Map Modernization to incorporate a 1986 detailed study on the Missouri River from the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes and convert the remaining existing paper FIRMs in the county to digital format. In 2008 a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) was issued for a portion of Lone Tree Creek for bridge and channelization work.

Richland County has consistently requested updated mapping, specifically along the Yellowstone River corridor, due to development pressure from oil production. Due to challenges with administering a Zone A floodplain on the Yellowstone River, Richland County worked with MT DNRC in 2015 to initiate a detailed study on the Yellowstone River. Richland County funded $80,000 of the cost of the project, with $46,000 provided by the state, along with in-house engineering. The resulting 2019 Physical Map Revision (PMR) updated 25 FIRM panels along the Yellowstone River corridor.

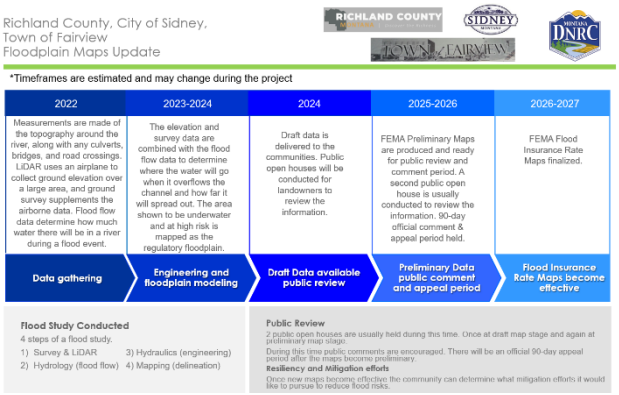
2022 Flood Study:

This project will conduct new floodplain mapping studies on the remaining mapped floodplains in the county, including 6.3 miles of the enhanced with floodway tributaries, 157.3 miles of enhanced tributaries, 24.2 shoreline miles of mapped water bodies, and 241.5 miles of BLE. Funding includes all of the field survey, base map preparation, hydrologic and hydraulic analyses, and floodplain mapping.



Outreach & Engagement:

DNRC will develop a project website for the project that can be used to keep the public informed. DNRC will post information on the project (timelines, figures, completed reports throughout the project), upcoming meeting information & materials. At draft data stage a public viewer will be developed and posted.



Community project support:

In conjunction with the new flood study there are things that the county and town will be asked to help with.

- Providing jurisdictional information (i.e newly annexed areas for the town)
- Provide historic flood information (photos, GIS data)
- At draft data stage the community will send post cards or letters to all affected landowners (list to be provided by DNRC) inviting them to attend a public open house meeting
- Schedule and arrange venue for a joint (county, town, DNRC) public open house
- Prior to the appeal period DNRC will provide a template press release, we ask that the community share these with the local media

Mitigation Plan:

If the county is in the process of updating the county hazard mitigation plan, support for project planning can be provided in conjunction with the new flood study.