

Working in FLOODPLAINS

Floodplains are natural areas near streams where floodwaters go after a heavy rain event.

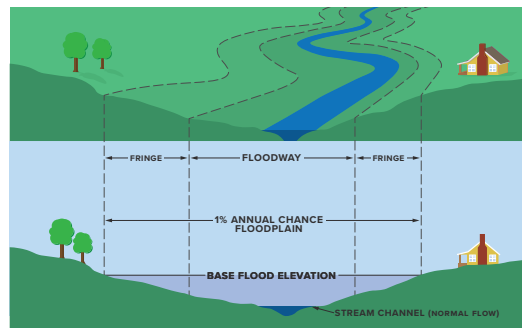
These areas serve many purposes, including:

- Storing floodwaters
- Preventing erosion downstream
- Preventing damage to neighboring property
- Providing natural areas for fish, wildlife, and plants

Flood Control Act

When is a Permit Needed?

In some instances, construction of certain projects can proceed without a permit from DNR, when the project meets certain criteria. Indiana's Flood Control Act (IC 14-28-1) requires approval from the DNR for most proposals to construct in the floodway of a stream with a drainage area greater than one square mile. The floodway is part of the floodplain and includes the channel of a river or stream and the surrounding area required to carry floodwaters. It excludes the adjoining flood fringe.



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Permit Exemptions

The following projects may not require a permit:

- Logjam removal
- Outfall structures
- Utility line crossings
- Creek rock removal
- Bank stabilization*
- Tree removal*
- Gold panning
- Agriculture fence
- Rural stream crossing
- Maintenance of crops, pastures and forests
- Wetland restoration
 - when collaborating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, and/or the Indiana DNR
- Home reconstruction
 - when on the same footprint of an existing home when elevating the structure to the flood protection grade

* Pending approval from the Natural Resources Commission

Review the exemption criteria at dnr.IN.gov/water/regulatory-permit-programs/exemptions/

If your project isn't covered above, it may require a formal permit application and review. For the application form and additional information, visit dnr.IN.gov/water/regulatory-permit-programs.

Where are floodplains?

Visit the Indiana Floodplain Information Portal to see the mapped floodplains.

infip.dnr.IN.gov

Do I need a permit?


Not sure if a permit is required?


Submit an inquiry for your project site for an answer from both DNR Division of Water and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

waterways.IN.gov

Contact Us

Contact the DNR Division of Water:

 water_inquiry@dnr.IN.gov

 877 928-3755 (toll-free)

Note that the permit exemptions discussed here only cover the jurisdiction of the DNR Division of Water under the Flood Control Act. The DNR oversees several other water-related statutes. Many of the projects listed here will still require approval from local floodplain administrator's offices. Additionally, IDEM and/or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may also have jurisdiction over many of these projects.

For more information, visit

on.IN.gov/water