



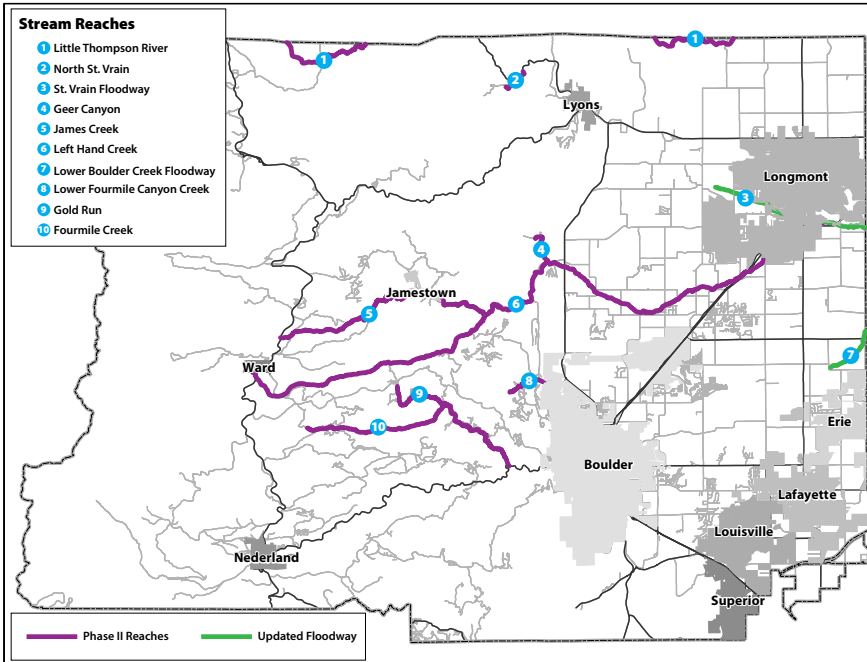
# BOULDER COUNTY FLOODPLAIN REMAPPING NEWSLETTER

## 7<sup>th</sup> Edition – Spring 2018

In response to the 2013 flood event, the state-funded **Colorado Hazard Mapping Program (CHAMP)** is updating local flood hazard information including regulatory floodplain maps for the Front Range's most affected waterways. For a refresher on what floodplain areas are in Phase I vs. Phase II of the floodplain updates, visit [www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.com](http://www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.com) to see a map and listing of the areas included in this study.



### PUBLIC HEARINGS ON FLOODPLAIN MAP UPDATES



Beginning in January 2018, Boulder County Floodplain Management staff and partners began extensive technical reviews and public outreach for floodplain mapping updates to the CHAMP Phase II stream reaches (purple on map) and revised floodway analyses for portions of St. Vrain and Boulder Creeks (green on map).

Now, County staff are proposing zoning map amendments based on these data and other best available information, to the Boulder County Floodplain, part of the Floodplain Overlay Zoning District under the Boulder County Land Use Code. Local adoption of these map amendments will result in local regulatory changes for the affected areas comparable to the changes that occurred in conjunction with the June 2017 Phase I adoption, but will not cause changes to flood insurance policies. Any flood insurance changes will occur only after FEMA review and adoption of the mapping as new effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), expected for all reaches in 2021.

**Planning Commission Public Hearing – June 20, 2018**

- 1325 Pearl St., Boulder County Courthouse, Commissioners Hearing Room, 3rd floor
- Hearing begins at 1:30 p.m.; see agenda for estimated start time for this item (Docket Z-17-0002) – <https://bit.ly/2GFw0c>
- For a live webstream of the hearing and archived video of past hearings, visit the Public Meetings, Hearings, Records & Video Archives at: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/government/public-meetings/hearings-and-records/>

**Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing – late July 2018**

In the upcoming public hearings, County staff will present the proposed zoning map amendments to the Boulder County Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners. The hearings are open to the public and public testimony will be taken. Comments may also be submitted in advance. Details for public hearings and related materials will be available at [www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.com](http://www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.com)

#### PHASE I ESTIMATED TIMELINE:



#### PHASE II ESTIMATED TIMELINE:



## SPRING FLOOD AWARENESS

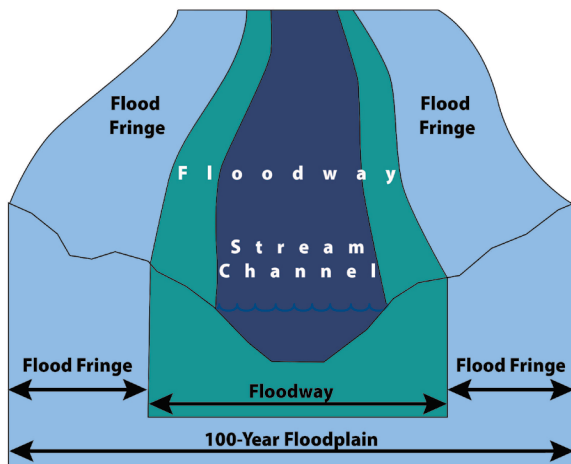
In Boulder County, flash flooding is a very serious danger, especially during the spring and summer months (April through October). Flash floods occur swiftly and without warning. The immediate danger is from the strength of the water current as it surges through an area, carrying debris and causing injuries and drowning. A flash flood would most likely result from a heavy rainstorm that stalls over any of the creek basins. As little as three to four hours of rain in the foothills could begin to overflow stream banks. *How can you prepare for an event like this?*

### Before a flood:

- 🔥 Know your neighborhood flood history and low-lying areas.
- 🔥 Consider purchasing flood insurance; most homeowner's policies do not cover damage from rising water. Your insurance agent will have more information about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- 🔥 Determine if your home and workplace are in a flood plain.
- 🔥 Stay alert for changing weather conditions.
- 🔥 When conditions indicate the potential for flooding, get out of low-lying areas, canyons and areas downstream from dams.
- 🔥 If flooding becomes very likely, consider filling up sinks, bathtubs and other containers with clean water.



## FLOODPLAINS 101



The **regulatory floodplain** delineates the predicted flood height and inundation boundaries of a flood that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. This is also known as the "100-year flood". The predicted water level during the 1% annual chance event is called the **base flood elevation**.

The **floodway** is a regulatory term that, put simply, can be thought of as the portion of the floodplain, including and surrounding the channel, that conveys most of the water. As such, water in the floodway is generally deeper, faster, and more dangerous and destructive than in other parts of the floodplain.

Need a refresher on how maps are revised? Or do you want to better understand how Boulder County regulates development to make informed decisions on your property? Visit our 'Floodplain Information' webpage at <https://bit.ly/2s2jQ1H> for detailed explanations of these questions, and more.

## STAY INFORMED ABOUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

### Websites

Visit [www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.com](http://www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.com) where the county provides information about regulatory floodplains, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and CHAMP activities.

### Newsletters & Listserv

Boulder County will publish newsletters regularly as new information becomes available. Each newsletter will provide updates on the floodplain remapping process and will be available online and via email listserv.

**Not on our remapping listserv?** Registration is available on the Boulder County remapping website.

### In Our Next Newsletter:

Later this year, we will provide updates on the local adoption of our second phase of floodplain mapping updates. We will also provide updates on when the Preliminary FIRMs will be released and what outreach residents can expect from that process.

### Social Media

Important news will also be distributed via Boulder County's social media outlets on Facebook and Twitter at [www.Facebook.com/bouldercounty](http://www.Facebook.com/bouldercounty) and [www.Twitter.com/BoCoDOT](http://www.Twitter.com/BoCoDOT)

### Contact

Floodplain ReMapping Contact  
Erin Cooper, CFM  
720-564-2866

[floodplainmapscomment@bouldercounty.org](mailto:floodplainmapscomment@bouldercounty.org)

All Boulder County residents are eligible for flood insurance because even homes not located near the floodplain may suffer flood damage. You can learn more about flood insurance at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).



NATIONAL FLOOD  
INSURANCE PROGRAM