



Transportation Department

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Unincorporated Boulder County Floodplain Remapping Project Information

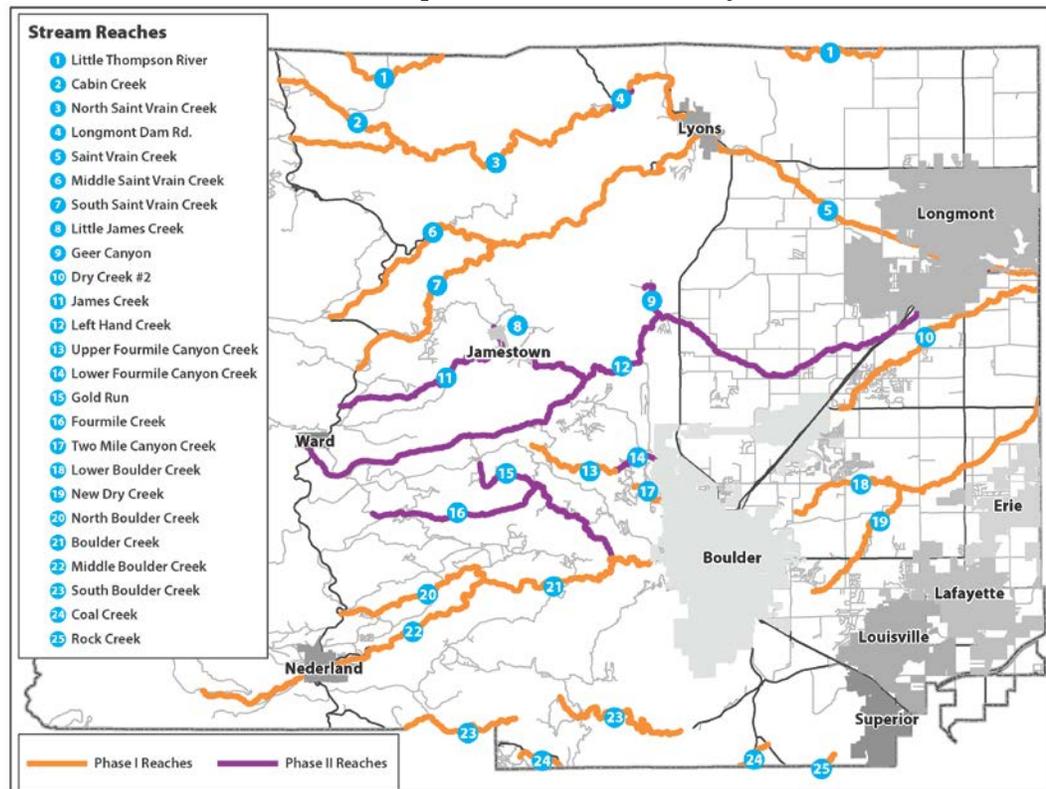
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What is the Floodplain Remapping Project?

The 2013 flood significantly changed creek size, shape, and location in many areas throughout Boulder County and the Front Range. In response to these impacts, the State of Colorado has taken steps towards bolstering long-term planning and resiliency efforts by funding the Colorado Hazard Mapping Program (CHAMP) that is updating local flood hazard information including new hydrology information and regulatory floodplain maps for the most affected waterways. This study is being prepared by AECOM, a nationally-recognized engineering firm, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB).

Boulder County is supporting this initiative and related post-flood mapping studies in the stream reaches throughout unincorporated Boulder County because accurate floodplain maps provide detailed information for property owners on their own flood risks and enable proactive measures to protect people and property before the next significant flood event.

CHAMP Phase I & Phase II Stream Reaches undergoing floodplain mapping updates in unincorporated Boulder County:



(continued on next page)

What the county is doing:

Boulder County's Floodplain Management team is reviewing CHAMP data and draft maps for accuracy and holding public meetings to receive local community knowledge. Comments from a technical review team and from community members will ultimately be sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The county will host public hearings before the maps are locally adopted and during the formal FEMA appeals period, before the maps are incorporated on the FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs).

What's happened so far?

- In September 2016, updates to the Boulder County Land Use Code were put in place to allow updates to floodplain maps based on post-flood studies and to improve floodplain management throughout unincorporated Boulder County.
- On June 1, 2017, approximately 160 miles of floodplain revisions to the Boulder County Regulatory Floodplain, which were based on Phase I of the State CHAMP and related studies, were adopted for local regulatory purposes. (see map on previous page for Phase I reaches shown in orange)

Where are we now?

Phase II draft map data from the CHAMP remapping team has been released to Boulder County for review. This dataset includes an additional 70 miles of floodplain that is being remapped or mapped by the State for the first time. Phase II includes the following streams within unincorporated Boulder County (also see map on previous page for Phase II stream reaches shown in purple):

- *Fourmile Creek*
- *Gold Run*
- *Left Hand Creek*
- *James Creek*
- *Little James Creek*
- *Geer Canyon*
- *Lower Fourmile Canyon Creek (below Anne U. White trailhead)*
- *North St. Vrain Creek (at Longmont Dam Rd.)*

In early 2018, Boulder County will be hosting public meetings to review the Phase II draft maps. Property owners along each reach will receive postcard notifications and the meetings and details will also be available at www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.com. Anyone is able to sign up for our email listserv where we will share updates about meetings, newsletters, and weather cancellations.

How you can get involved:

We want the draft maps to accurately reflect local conditions and, for this reason, are looking for community input on the draft map data. We encourage you to attend an upcoming public meeting where Boulder County staff will guide attendees through the draft map information and collect comments to provide to the CHAMP team as additional input for their next iteration of modeling. We are looking for feedback based on local knowledge that may not be indicated by the draft data. This information is critical for accurate mapping, not only on individual properties but for the entire river corridor.

The best way to stay up-to-date about the upcoming public meetings and other news for Phase II floodplain areas is to join our email listserv by visiting www.BoCoFloodplainRemapping.com. Visit the website for information coming soon on meeting dates and locations, plus find more details about how you can provide your comments on specific properties to Boulder County if you can't attend a community meeting.

Remember – anyone can purchase flood insurance

Boulder County is one of the most at-risk Colorado communities for flash flooding, but you and your clients can be prepared by insuring properties against flood hazards. 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 and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) at www.FloodSmart.gov.

**For more information, contact Erin Cooper, Floodplain Specialist, CFM:
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