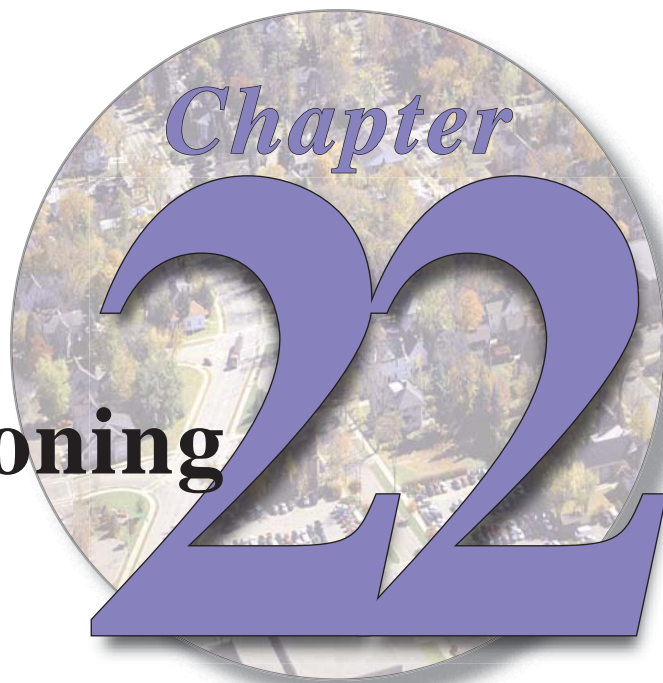


Floodplain Zoning



Where does floodplain zoning apply?

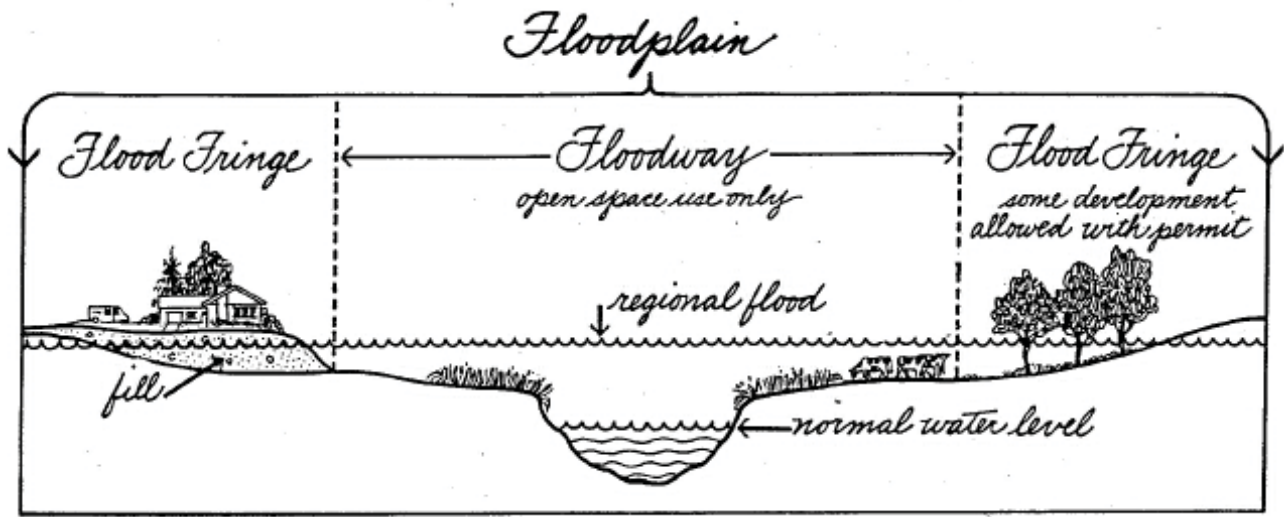
A community that has been issued official floodplain maps by the DNR must adopt and administer a floodplain zoning ordinance.²²⁰ As a consequence, citizens in the community become eligible to apply for federal flood insurance. A state administrative rule (NR 116) sets minimum standards for local ordinances.

The **floodplain** consists of lands that are subject to flooding during the regional flood. The floodplain includes floodway and flood fringe zones. Regional flood elevations are calculated by hydraulic models that consider the size of a drainage basin, amount of precipitation and land characteristics. They are also based on evidence of previous flooding.

The **floodway** consists of the channel of a river or stream, and those portions of the floodplain adjoining the channel that are required to carry the regional flood discharge. The floodway is the most dangerous part of the floodplain. It is characterized by deeper moving water.

²²⁰ Wis. Stat. § 87.30(1)

Figure 41: Floodplain Illustration



The **flood fringe** is the portion of the floodplain landward of the floodway. It is generally associated with standing water rather than flowing water and with shallower depths.

What are the purposes of floodplain zoning?

The purposes of floodplain zoning are to protect human life, health and to minimize property damages and economic losses.