

Backgrounder on Floodplain Mapping

June 10, 2019

Floodplain Mapping Projects

Otonabee Conservation is currently conducting **Floodplain Mapping Projects** in the following areas:

- Meade Creek
- Curtis Creek
- Kawartha Lakes South
- Kawartha Lakes North
- Lakefield
- Norwood (Ouse River)
- Baxter Creek
- Jackson Creek

While each project is driven by site-specific elements, the purpose and process of floodplain mapping is the same for all of them. This backgrounder provides foundational information about floodplain hazards and their management. Up-to-date information about each project will be made available on our website at <https://www.otonabeeconservation.com/programs/floodplain-mapping>. Please visit the site for updates.

Understanding Floodplain Mapping

During a flood, water levels rise. Areas not normally covered by water may be inundated. This could be because of land elevations, jams of ice and debris, and built environment features such as pavement and houses.

Floodplain maps use data and technical models to predict the path of floodwaters – the area known as the floodplain. It is important to remember that a floodplain map does not create a flooding hazard; it simply shows where the flooding is.

Floodplain mapping is a tool to protect and respect the floodplain. Flooding poses danger to people and property. Knowing the extent of the floodplain is important in reducing potential property damage and risks to public safety, environmental protection and emergency management. Effective floodplain management is a key goal of Otonabee Conservation.

Once finalized, floodplain maps become planning tools used by municipalities.

About the Floodplain Mapping Process

How are floodplain maps created?

The process for mapping flooding hazards is set out in federal and provincial guidelines. Technical studies of the area are conducted which help experts to create predictive models that allow us to map the size and the shape of the floodplain.

Who is involved in floodplain mapping?

- Otonabee Conservation specialists with expertise in water resources engineering and geographic information systems perform the necessary studies. Once they have all the information they need and have created hydrologic models, they create the floodplain map.
- Otonabee Conservation works closely with local municipalities and other partners throughout the mapping process.
- Communities are informed at every step of the process. For example, we will notify property owners when the project begins and let them know that we may need to access their property.

How does floodplain mapping affect residents?

Floodplain maps help protect property and human life. There are planning documents that are used to guide decisions about land use and development. The floodplain map helps to determine where new buildings may be located, if the property in question is at risk during a flood or storm event. In some cases, it may be necessary for property owners to take measures to protect existing buildings from flooding. We will communicate with all involved if further action is needed to reduce potential risks.

If you would like to talk to Otonabee Conservation staff about how floodplain mapping might affect your property, please check out our project-specific pages (forthcoming) or call (705) 745-5791 and ask to speak to planning and permitting staff.

What should I do if I see flooding?

If you are concerned about current flooding conditions, please check our website for flood messages or call our Flood Watch Hotline at (705) 745-5791, extension 228.

How can I learn more?

Visit our website for updates on floodplain mapping in your area. To receive updates on floodplain mapping in your area, simply send a message to floodplainmapping@otonabeeconservation.com.

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