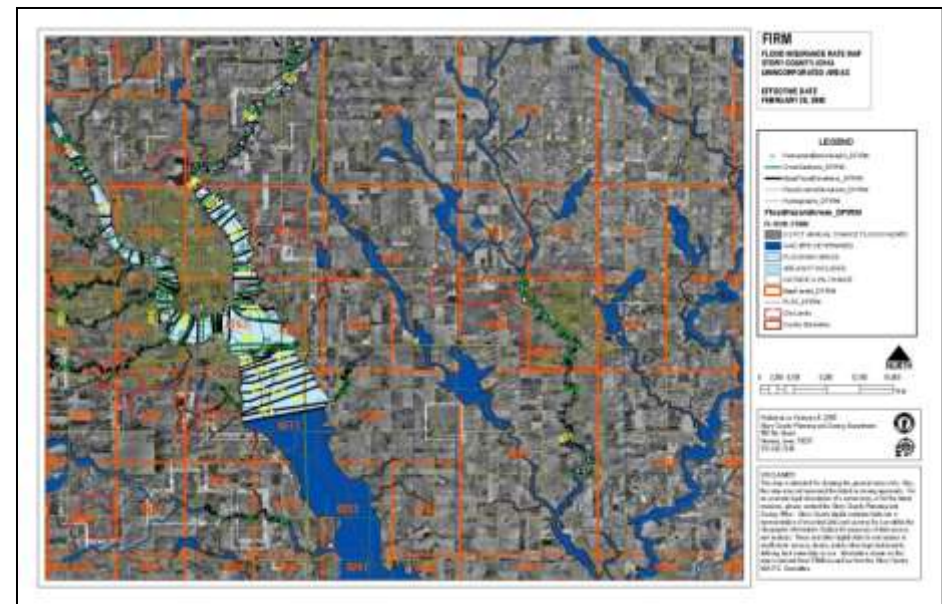


# Floodplain Management Program

*for the Unincorporated Areas of  
Story County, Iowa*

Story County Planning and Zoning Department  
Story County Administration  
900 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Nevada, Iowa 50201

Adopted by the Story County Board of Supervisors  
Ordinance No. 162 – December 2006  
Amended by Ordinance No. 164 – February 2007  
Amended by Ordinance No. 183 – December 2007  
Amended by Ordinance No. 202 - June 2010



REPRINTED IN JULY 2010

## ORDINANCE NO. 162

An Ordinance establishing a Floodplain Management Program for the unincorporated areas of Story County, Iowa, intended and designed to manage the use and development of land in those areas which would be inundated during a 1% annual chance or greater flood to minimize damage to property and threats to personal safety by protecting floodways from developmental encroachment which would increase flood levels or impede the free flow of flood waters, and by requiring special site planning and construction standards in the floodway fringe.

The Ordinance is required to meet the minimum requirements for acceptance in the National Flood Insurance Program for counties which have a detailed Flood Insurance Study (FIS) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED** by the Board of Supervisors of Story County, Iowa;

### **SECTION ONE - Statutory Authority, Purpose, and Findings of Fact**

#### **A. Statutory Authority**

This Ordinance is a special-purpose ordinance established under authority of Chapter 331 of the *Code of Iowa*, as amended. This Ordinance establishes a development permit system which requires a permit for all development within areas of significant flood hazard as identified by the Flood Insurance for Story County, Iowa, and Incorporated Communities dated February 20, 2008. (AMENDED – ORDINANCE NO. 164, ORDINANCE NO. 202.)

#### **B. Purpose**

It is the purpose of this Ordinance to protect and preserve the rights, privileges and property of Story County and its residents, and to preserve and improve the peace, safety, health, welfare, and comfort and convenience of its residents by minimizing those flood losses described in this Ordinance with provisions designed to:

1. Reserve sufficient floodplain area for the conveyance of flood flows so that flood heights and velocities will not be increased substantially.
2. Restrict or prohibit uses which are dangerous to health, safety or property in times of flood or which cause excessive increases in flood heights or velocities.

3. Require that uses vulnerable to floods, including public facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction or substantial improvement.
4. Protect individuals from buying lands which may not be suited for intended purposes because of flood hazard.
5. Assure that eligibility is maintained for property owners in the community to purchase flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program.

**C. Findings of Fact**

1. The flood hazard areas of Story County are subject to periodic inundation which can result in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare of the community.
2. These flood losses, hazards, and related adverse effects are caused by the: (i) occupancy of flood hazard areas by uses vulnerable to flood damages which create hazardous conditions as a result of being inadequately elevated or otherwise protected from flooding; and (ii) cumulative effect of obstructions on the floodplain causing increases in flood heights and velocities.
3. This Ordinance relies upon engineering methodology for analyzing flood hazards consistent with the standards established by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**SECTION TWO - General Provisions**

**A. Lands to Which Ordinance Applies**

The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to all lands within the jurisdiction of Story County shown on the Official Floodplain Map as being within the boundaries of the Floodway, Floodway Fringe, and the General Floodplain Districts, as established herein.

**B. Establishment of Official Floodplain Map**

The Flood Insurance Rate Maps prepared as part of the Flood Insurance Study for Story County, Iowa, and Incorporated Communities dated February 20, 2008, are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be the Official Floodplain Map. The flood profiles and all explanatory material contained with the Flood Insurance Study are also declared to be a part of this Ordinance. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 183.)

**C. Rules for Interpretation of District Boundaries**

The boundaries of the district areas shall be determined by scaling distances on the Official Floodplain Map. When an interpretation is needed as to the exact location of a boundary, the Planning and Zoning Director (Director) shall make the necessary interpretation. The Story County Board of Adjustment shall hear and decide appeals when it is alleged that there is an error in any requirement, decision, or determination made by the Director in the enforcement or administration of this Ordinance.

D. Compliance

No structure or land shall hereafter be used and no structure shall be located, extended, converted or structurally altered without full compliance with the terms of this Ordinance and other applicable regulations which apply to uses within the jurisdiction of this Ordinance.

E. Abrogation and Greater Restrictions

It is not intended by this Ordinance to repeal, abrogate or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. However, where this Ordinance imposes greater restrictions, the provision of this Ordinance shall prevail. All other ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency only.

F. Interpretation

In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be held to be minimum requirements and shall be liberally construed in favor of the governing body and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal of any other powers granted by State statutes.

G. Warning and Disclaimer of Liability

The standards required by this Ordinance are considered reasonable for regulatory purposes. This Ordinance does not imply that areas outside the designated Floodplain District areas will be free from flooding or flood damages. This Ordinance shall not create liability on the part of Story County or any officer or employee thereof, for any flood damages that result from reliance on this Ordinance or any administrative decision lawfully made there under.

H. Severability

If any section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION THREE - Establishment of Districts**

- A. The floodplain areas within the jurisdiction of this Ordinance are hereby divided into the following districts:
1. Floodway District (FW),
  2. Floodway Fringe District (FF), and
  3. General Floodplain District (FP).

B. District Boundaries

The boundaries shall be as shown on the Official Floodplain Map. Within these districts, all uses not allowed as Permitted Uses or permissible as Conditional Uses as defined below are prohibited unless a variance to the terms of this Ordinance is granted after due consideration by the Story County Board of Adjustment. In no case shall the Story County Board of Adjustment grant a variance to Ordinance No. 162, as amended, which authorizes a permitted use not allowed in a particular zoning district as established in the *Story County Land Development Regulations*. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202.)

**SECTION FOUR– “FW” Floodway District**

A. Statement of Intent

It is the intent of the "FW" Floodway District that the identified area is designed to carry flood waters and is to be protected from developmental encroachment which would increase flood levels or cause unnecessary damage to personal property or pose unnecessary threats to personal safety.

1. Buildings and structures which impede the free flow of flood waters will not be allowed.

B. Permitted Uses

The following uses shall be permitted within the Floodway District to the extent they are not prohibited by any other ordinance or underlying zoning district as defined in the *Story County Land Development Regulations* and provided they do not include placement of structures, factory-built homes, fill or other obstruction, the storage of material or equipment, excavation or alteration of a watercourse.

1. Agricultural uses such as general farming, pasture, grazing, outdoor plant nurseries, horticulture, viticulture, truck farming, forestry, sod farming and wild crop harvesting.
2. Industrial-commercial uses such as loading areas, parking areas, airport landing strips.
3. Private and public recreational uses such as golf courses, tennis courts, driving ranges, archery ranges, picnic grounds, boat launching ramps, swimming areas, parks, wildlife and nature preserves, game farms, fish hatcheries, shooting preserves, target ranges, trap and skeet ranges, hunting and fishing areas, hiking and horseback riding trails.
4. Residential uses such as lawns, gardens, parking areas and play areas.
5. Such other open-space uses similar in nature to the above uses.

C. Development Standards

All uses in the "FW" Floodway District shall comply with the applicable requirements from the *Story County Land Development Regulations* as well as all development standards contained herein. The following standards shall be met:

1. No use shall cause any increase in the 1% annual chance or greater flood level. Consideration of the effects of any development on flood levels shall be based upon the assumption that an equal degree of development would be allowed for similarly situated lands.

2. All uses within the "FW" Floodway District shall:
  - a. Be consistent with the need to minimize flood damage.
  - b. Use construction methods and practices that will minimize flood damage.
  - c. Use construction materials and utility equipment that are resistant to flood damage.
3. No use shall affect the capacity or conveyance of the channel or floodway of any tributary to the main stream, drainage ditch or any other drainage facility or system.
4. Utilities, if permitted, shall meet the applicable development standards of the Floodway Fringe District and shall be constructed or aligned to present the minimum possible resistance to flood flows.
5. Buildings, if permitted, shall be designed for low flood damage potential and shall not be for human habitation.
6. Storage of materials or equipment that are buoyant, flammable, explosive or injurious to human, animal or plant life is prohibited.
  - a. Storage of other material may be allowed if readily removable from the "FW" Floodway District within an approved timeframe available after flood warning subject to submission and approval by the Director of an evacuation plan.
7. Watercourse alterations or relocations (channel changes and modifications) must be designed to maintain the flood carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion.
  - a. Such alterations or relocations must be approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources prior to approval of a permit by Story County.
8. Any fill allowed in the floodway must be shown to have some beneficial purpose and shall be limited to the minimum amount necessary.
9. Pipeline river or stream crossings shall be buried in the streambed and banks or otherwise sufficiently protected to prevent rupture due to channel degradation and meandering or due to the action of flood flows.  
(AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202.)

## **SECTION FIVE– “FF” Floodway Fringe District**

### **A. Statement of Intent**

The intent of the “FF” Floodway Fringe District is to require special site planning and construction standards to minimize the threats to personal safety and damage to property caused by flooding.

### **B. Permitted Uses**

All uses within the “FF” Floodway Fringe District shall be permitted to the extent that they are not prohibited by any other ordinance or underlying zoning district as defined in the *Story County Land Development Regulations* and provided they meet applicable performance standards of the “FF” Floodway Fringe District.

### C. Development Standards

All uses in the "FF" Floodway Fringe District shall comply with the applicable requirements from the *Story County Land Development Regulations* as well as all development standards contained herein. The following standards shall be met:

#### 1. All new and substantially-improved structures shall:

- a. Be adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement of the structure.
- b. Use construction methods and practices that will minimize flood damage.
- c. Use construction materials and utility equipment that are resistant to flood damage.
- d. Fully enclosed areas below the "lowest floor" (not including basements) that are subject to flooding shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
  - (1) A minimum of two openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided.
  - (2) The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade.
  - (3) Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices provided they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.Such areas shall be used solely for parking of vehicles, building access and low damage potential storage.
- e. New and substantially-improved structures must be designed (or modified) and adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy.
- f. New and substantially-improved structures must be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.

#### 2. Residential buildings

All new or substantially improved residential structures shall have the lowest floor, including basements, elevated a minimum of eighteen (18) inches above the 1% annual chance or greater flood level. Construction shall be upon compacted fill which shall, at all points, be no lower than eighteen (18) inches above the 1% annual chance or greater flood level and extend at such elevation at least eighteen (18) feet beyond the limits of any structure erected thereon.

- a. Alternate methods of elevating (such as piers) may be allowed, subject to favorable consideration by the Board of Adjustment, where existing topography, street grades, or other factors preclude elevating by fill. In such cases, the methods used must be adequate to support the structure as well as withstand the various forces and hazards associated with flooding.
- b. All new residential buildings shall be provided with a means of access which will be passable by wheeled vehicles during the 1% annual chance or greater flood.

### 3. Non-residential buildings

All new or substantially improved non-residential buildings shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated a minimum of eighteen (18) inches above the 1% annual chance or greater flood level, or together with attendant utility and sanitary systems, be floodproofed to such a level.

- a. When floodproofing is utilized, a professional engineer registered in the State of Iowa shall certify that the floodproofing methods used are adequate to withstand the flood depths, pressures, velocities, impact and uplift forces and other factors associated with the 1% annual chance or greater flood; and that the structure, below the 1% annual chance or greater flood level is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water.
- b. A record of the certification indicating the specific elevation (in relation to NGVD 1929) to which any structures are floodproofed shall be maintained by the Director.

### 4. Factory-built homes

- a. All factory-built homes, including those placed in existing factory-built home parks or subdivisions, shall be elevated on a permanent foundation such that the lowest floor of the structure is a minimum of eighteen (18) inches above the 1% annual chance or greater flood level.
- b. All factory-built homes, including those places in existing factory-built home parks or subdivisions, shall be anchored to resist flotation, collapse or lateral movement. The following specific requirements (or their equivalent) shall be met:
  - (1) Over-the-top ties shall be provided at each of the four corners of the factory-built home, with two (2) additional ties per side at intermediate locations and factory-built homes less than fifty (50) feet long requiring one (1) additional tie per side;
  - (2) Frame ties shall be provided at each corner of the home with five (5) additional ties per side at intermediate points and factory-built homes less than fifty (50) feet long requiring four (4) additional per side;
  - (3) All components of the anchoring system shall be capable of carrying a force of 4800 pounds;
  - (4) Any additions to factory-built homes shall be similarly anchored.

### 5. Utility and Sanitary Systems

- a. On-site wastewater disposal and water supply systems, including geothermal wells, shall be located or designed to avoid impairment to the system or contamination from the system during flooding.
- b. All new and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system as well as the discharge of effluent into flood waters.
- c. Wastewater treatment facilities (other than on-site systems) shall be provided with a level of flood protection equal to or greater than eighteen (18) inches above the 1% annual chance or greater flood elevation.
- d. All new or replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system. Water supply treatment facilities (other than on-site systems) shall be provided with a level of protection equal to or greater than eighteen (18) inches above the 1% annual chance or greater flood elevation.



- e. Utilities such as gas or electrical systems shall be located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage to the system and the risk associated with such flood damaged or impaired systems.
6. Storage of materials and equipment that are flammable, explosive or injurious to human, animal or plant life is prohibited unless elevated a minimum of eighteen (18) inches above the 1% annual chance or greater flood level. Other material and equipment must either be similarly elevated or (i) not be subject to major flood damage and be anchored to prevent movement due to flood waters or (ii) be readily removable from the area within the time available after flood warning subject to submission and approval by the Director of an evacuation plan.
  7. Flood control structural works such as levees, flood walls, etc. shall provide, at a minimum, protection from a 1% annual chance or greater flood with a minimum of three (3) feet of design freeboard and shall provide for adequate interior drainage. Structural flood control works shall be approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
  8. Watercourse alterations or relocations must be designed to maintain the flood carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion.
    - a. Such alterations or relocations must be approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources prior to approval of a permit by Story County.
  9. No use shall affect the capacity or conveyance of the channel or floodway of any tributary to the main stream, drainage ditch, or other drainage facility or system.
  10. Subdivisions (including factory-built home parks and subdivisions) shall be consistent with the need to minimize flood damages and shall have adequate drainage provided to reduce exposure to flood damage.
    - a. Development associated with subdivision proposals (including the installation of public utilities) shall meet the applicable development standards of this Ordinance as well as those regulations defined in the *Story County Land Development Regulations*.
    - b. Subdivision proposals intended for residential development shall provide all lots with a means of vehicular access that will remain dry during occurrence of the 1% annual chance or greater flood.
    - c. Proposed subdivision plats greater than five (5) acres or fifty (50) lots (whichever is fewer) shall include base flood elevation data for those areas located within the Floodway, Floodway Fringe, or General Floodplain Districts on the preliminary plat and final plat.
  12. Accessory Structures
    - a. Detached garages, sheds, and similar structures accessory to a residential use are exempt from the 1% annual chance or greater flood elevation requirements where the following criteria are satisfied.
      - (1) The structure shall not be used for human habitation.

- (2) The structure shall be designed to have low flood damage potential.
- (3) The structure shall be constructed and placed on the building site so as to offer minimum resistance to the flow of floodwaters.
- (4) The structure shall be firmly anchored to prevent flotation which may result in damage to other structures.
- (5) The structure's service facilities such as electrical and heating equipment shall be elevated or floodproofed to at least one (1) foot above the 1% annual chance or greater flood level.

b. Exemption from the 1% annual chance or greater flood elevation requirements for such a structure may result in increased premium rates for flood insurance coverage of the structure and its contents.

#### 12. Recreational Vehicles

a. Recreational vehicles are exempt from the requirements of Section 5.C.5 of this Ordinance regarding anchoring and elevation of factory-built homes when the following criteria are satisfied.

- (1) The recreational vehicle shall be located on the site for less than 180 consecutive days; and,
- (2) The recreational vehicle must be fully licensed and ready for highway use. A recreational vehicle is ready for highway use if it is on its wheels or jacking system and is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices and has no permanently attached additions.

b. Recreational vehicles that are located on the site for more than 180 consecutive days and are not ready for highway use must satisfy requirements of Section 5.C.5 of this Ordinance regarding anchoring and elevation of factory-built homes.

13. Pipeline river or stream crossings shall be buried in the streambed and banks or otherwise sufficiently protected to prevent rupture due to channel degradation and meandering.

(AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

### **SECTION SIX – “GF” General Floodplain District**

#### **A. Statement of Intent**

The "GF" General Floodplain reflects those areas which would be inundated during a 1% annual chance or greater flood, but for which specific flood elevations and Floodway and Floodway Fringe limits have not been established. It is the intent of the "GF " General Floodplain to impose the development standards of the Floodway and Floodway Fringe after a determination is made to identify the Floodway and Floodway Fringe areas on an individual project basis.

#### **B. Applicant's Burden to Define Floodway and Floodway Fringe Boundary.**

Where 1% annual chance or greater flood data has not been provided in the Flood Insurance Study, the burden to demonstrate the boundary of the Floodway and Floodway Fringe rests on the applicant.

### C. Permitted Uses.

The following uses shall be permitted within the General Floodplain District to the extent they are not prohibited by any other ordinance or underlying zoning district as defined in the *Story County Land Development Regulations* and provided they do not include placement of structures, factory-built homes, fill or other obstructions, the storage of materials or equipment, excavation or alteration of a watercourse.

1. Agricultural uses such as general farming, pasture, grazing, outdoor plant nurseries, horticulture, viticulture, truck farming, forestry, sod farming and wild crop harvesting.
2. Industrial-commercial uses such as loading areas, parking areas, airport landing strips.
3. Private and public recreational uses such as golf courses, tennis courts, driving ranges, archery ranges, picnic grounds, boat launching ramps, swimming areas, parks, wildlife and nature preserves, game farms, fish hatcheries, shooting preserves, target ranges, trap and skeet ranges, hunting and fishing areas, hiking and horseback riding trails.
4. Residential uses such as lawns, gardens, parking areas and play areas. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)
5. Replacement or Newly-Constructed Bridges and/or Culverts. The requirement to define the floodway and floodway fringe boundary does not apply to proposed replacement or newly constructed bridges and/or culverts wherein the bridge and/or culvert is:
  - a. located in a rural (unincorporated) area where the stream drains less than one hundred (100) square miles or in an urban (incorporated) area where the stream drains less than two (2) square miles; and
  - b. not associated with a channel modification that constitutes a channel change as specified in 567-71.2(1) b, Iowa Administrative Code.

D. In cases of bridges and/or culverts not in compliance with the aforementioned criteria, as well as projects not associated with bridges and/or culverts located within the "GF" General Floodplain, the following development standards shall apply and review by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is required.

### E. Development Standards.

The applicant for a Floodplain Development Permit shall provide sufficient technical information to make a determination as to whether the land involved is either partly or wholly within the Floodway and Floodway Fringe and to determine the 1% annual chance or greater flood elevation.

1. All uses or portions thereof to be located in the Floodway shall meet the applicable standards of the "FW" Floodway, including no increase in base flood elevation.
2. All uses or portions thereof to be located in the Floodway Fringe shall meet the standards of the "FF" Floodway Fringe.

## **SECTION SEVEN – Administration**

### **A. Appointment, Duties and Responsibilities of Director**

The Story County Planning and Zoning Director is hereby appointed to implement and administer the provisions of this Ordinance

### **B. Duties and Responsibilities of the Director**

Duties and responsibilities of the Director shall include, but not necessarily be limited to the following:

1. Review all floodplain development permit applications to assure that the provisions of this Ordinance are satisfied.
2. Review floodplain development applications to assure that all necessary permits have been obtained from federal, state and local governmental agencies including approval when required from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for floodplain construction.
3. Record and maintain records of (i) elevation (in relation to NGVD 1929) of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new or substantially improved structures or (ii) elevation to which new or substantially improved structures have been floodproofed.
4. Notify adjacent communities/counties and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources prior to any proposed alteration or relocation of a watercourse and submit evidence of such notifications to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
5. Keep a record of all permits, appeals and such other transactions and correspondence pertaining to the administration of this Ordinance.
6. Submit to the Federal Insurance Administrator an annual report concerning the community's participation, utilizing the annual report form supplied by the Federal Insurance Administrator.
7. Notify the Federal Insurance Administration of any annexations or modifications to the County's boundaries.  
Review subdivision proposals to insure such proposals are consistent with the purpose of this Ordinance and advise the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Supervisors of potential conflict. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

### **C. Floodplain Development Permit**

1. **Permit Required.** A **Floodplain Development Permit** issued by the Director shall be secured prior to any floodplain development (any man-made change to improved and unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations), including the placement of factory-built homes.)
2. **Application for Permit.** Application shall be made on forms furnished by the Director and shall include the following:
  - a. Description of the work to be covered by the permit for which application is to be made.
  - b. Description of the land on which the proposed work is to be done (i.e., lot, block, track, street address or similar description) that will readily identify and locate the work to be done.
  - c. Identification of the use or occupancy for which the proposed work is intended.
  - d. Elevation of the 1% annual chance or greater flood.
  - e. Elevation (in relation to NGVD 1929) of the lowest floor (including basement) of buildings or of the level to which a building is to be floodproofed.

- f. For buildings being improved or rebuilt, the estimated cost of improvements and market value of the building prior to the improvements.
- g. Such other information as the Director deems reasonably necessary (e.g., drawings or a site plan) for the purpose of this Ordinance. Upon completion of the work, additional information may be required to be submitted, such as a no-rise certification, elevation certificate, and/or other required engineering documents as determined by the Director.
- 3. Action on Permit Application. The Director shall, within a reasonable time, make a determination as to whether the proposed floodplain development meets the applicable standards of this Ordinance and shall approve or deny the application. For denials, the applicant shall be informed, in writing, of the specific reasons therefore. The Director shall not issue permits for variances except as directed by the Story County Board of Adjustment.
- 4. Construction and Use to be as Provided in Application and Plans. Floodplain Development Permits issued on the basis of approved plans and applications authorize only the use, arrangement, and construction set forth in such approved plans and applications and no other use, arrangement or construction.
  - a. Any use, arrangement, or construction at variance with that authorized shall be deemed a violation of this Ordinance.
  - b. The applicant shall be required to submit certification by a professional engineer or land surveyor, as appropriate, registered in the State of Iowa, that the finished fill, building floor elevations, floodproofing, or other flood protection measures were accomplished in compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance, prior to the use or occupancy of any structure. Such certifications shall be on FEMA forms.

D. Conditional Uses, Appeals and Variances

- 1. Appointment and Duties of Board of Adjustment. A Board of Adjustment is hereby established which shall hear and decide (i) applications for Conditional Uses upon which the Board is authorized to pass under the *Story County Land Development Regulations*, (ii) appeals, and (iii) requests for variances to the provisions of this Ordinance, and shall take any other action required of the Board.
- 2. Conditional Uses. Requests for Conditional Uses shall be submitted to the Director, who shall forward such to the Board of Adjustment for consideration, following such procedures as established in Chapter 10 of the *Story County Land Development Regulations*. Such requests shall include information ordinarily submitted with applications as well as any additional information deemed necessary to the Board of Adjustment.
- 3. Appeals. Where it is alleged there is any error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement of this Ordinance, the aggrieved party may appeal such action. The notice of appeal shall be filed with the Board of Adjustment and with the official from whom the appeal is taken and shall set forth the specific reason for the appeal. The official from whom the appeal is taken shall transmit to the Board of Adjustment all the documents constituting the record upon which the action appealed from was taken.
- 4. Variance. The Board of Adjustment may authorize upon request in specific cases such variances from the terms of this Ordinance that will not be contrary to the public interest where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship. Variances granted must meet the following applicable standards.

- a. Variances shall only be granted upon:
    - (i) a showing of good and sufficient cause;
    - (ii) a determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship to the applicant; and
    - (iii) a determination that the granting of the variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or victimization of the public or conflict with existing local codes or ordinances.
  - b. Variances shall not be issued within any designated floodway if any increase in flood levels during the 1% annual chance or greater flood would result. Consideration of the effects of any development on flood levels shall be based upon the assumption that an equal degree of development would be allowed for similarly situated lands.
  - c. Variances shall only be granted upon a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.
  - d. In cases where the variance involves a lower level of flood protection for buildings than what is ordinarily required by this Ordinance, the applicant shall be notified in writing over the signature of the Director that: (i) the issuance of a variance will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage and (ii) such construction increases risks to life and property.
  - e. All variances granted shall have the concurrence or approval of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
5. Hearings and Decisions of the Board of Adjustment
- a. Hearings. Upon the filing with the Board of Adjustment of an Appeal, an application for a Conditional Use or a request for a Variance, the Board shall hold a public hearing. The Board shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing and give public notice thereof, as well as due notice to parties in interest. At the hearing, any party may appear in person or by agent or attorney and present written or oral evidence. The Board may require the appellant or applicant to provide such information as is reasonably deemed necessary and may request the technical assistance and/or evaluation of a professional engineer or other expert person or agency, including the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
  - b. Decisions. The Board shall arrive at a decision on an Appeal, Conditional Use or Variance within a reasonable time. In passing upon an Appeal, the Board may, so long as such action is in conformity with the provisions of this Ordinance, reverse or affirm, wholly or in part, or modify the order, requirement, decision, or determination appealed from, and it shall make its decision, in writing, setting forth the findings of fact and the reasons for its decision. In granting a Conditional Use or Variance, the Board shall consider such factors as contained in this section and all other relevant sections of this Ordinance and may prescribe such conditions as contained herein.
    - (1) Factors Upon Which the Decision of the Board of Adjustment Shall be Based. In passing upon applications for Variances, the Board shall consider all relevant factors specified in other sections of this Ordinance and:
      - (a) The danger to life and property due to increased flood heights or velocities caused by encroachments.
      - (b) The danger that materials may be swept on to other land or downstream to the injury of others.
      - (c) The proposed water supply and sanitation systems and the ability of these systems to prevent disease, contamination and unsanitary conditions.

- (d) The susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner.
  - (e) The importance of the services provided by the proposed facility to the County.
  - (f) The requirements of the facility for a floodplain location.
  - (g) The availability of alternative locations not subject to flooding for the proposed use.
  - (h) The compatibility of the proposed use with existing development and development anticipated in the foreseeable future.
  - (i) The relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive plan and floodplain management program for the area.
  - (j) The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles.
  - (k) The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise and sediment transport of the flood water expected at the site.
  - (l) The cost of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions, including maintenance and repair of public utilities (sewer, gas, electrical and water systems), facilities, streets and bridges.
  - (m) Such other factors which are relevant to the purpose of this Ordinance.
- (2) Conditions Attached to Variances - Upon consideration of the factors listed above, the Board of Adjustment may attach conditions to the granting of variances as it deems necessary to further the purpose of this Ordinance. Such conditions may include, but not necessarily be limited to:
- (a) Modification of waste disposal and water supply facilities.
  - (b) Limitation of periods of use and operation.
  - (c) Imposition of operational controls, sureties, and deed restrictions.
  - (d) Requirements for construction of channel modifications, dikes, levees, and other protective measures, provided such are approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and are deemed the only practical alternative to achieving the purpose of this Ordinance.
  - (e) Floodproofing measures. Floodproofing measures shall be designed consistent with the flood protection elevation for the particular area, flood velocities, durations, rate of rise, hydrostatic and hydrodynamic forces, and other factors associated with the regulatory flood. The Board of Adjustment shall require that the applicant submit a plan or document certified by a registered professional engineer that the floodproofing measures are consistent with the regulatory flood protection elevation and associated flood factors for the particular area.
6. Appeals to the Court - Any person or persons, jointly or severally, aggrieved by any decision of the Board of Adjustment may present to a court of record a petition, duly verified, setting forth that such decision is illegal, in whole or in part, specifying the grounds of the illegality. Such petition shall be presented to the court within thirty (30) days after the filing of the decision in the office of the Board.

## **SECTION EIGHT - Nonconforming Uses**

- A. A structure or the use of a structure or premises which was lawful before the passage or amendment of this Ordinance, but which is not in conformity with the provisions of this Ordinance, may be continued subject to the following conditions:
  - 1. If such use is discontinued for six (6) consecutive months, any future use of the building premises shall conform to this Ordinance.
  - 2. Uses or adjuncts thereof that are or become nuisances shall not be entitled to continue as nonconforming uses.
  - 3. If any nonconforming use or structure is destroyed by any means, including flood, it shall not be reconstructed if the cost is more than fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred, unless it is reconstructed in conformity with the provisions of this Ordinance.
- B. Except as provided in Section 8.A.2, any use which has been permitted as a Conditional Use or Variance shall be considered a conforming use.

## **SECTION NINE - Penalties for Violation**

- A. Violations of the provisions of this Ordinance or failure to comply with any of the requirements (including violations of conditions and safeguards established in connection with grants of Conditional Uses or Variances) shall be enforced in accordance with the *Story County Administrative Rules (for Citing County Infractions and Enforcing State Statues)*, as amended and adopted by the Story County Board of Supervisors.
- B. Nothing herein contained shall prevent Story County from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy a violation.

## **SECTION TEN - Amendments**

- A. The regulations and standards set forth in this Ordinance may from time to time be amended, supplemented, changed, or repealed. No amendment, supplement, change, or modification shall be undertaken without prior approval of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

## **SECTION ELEVEN - Administrative Procedures for Floodplain Management and Regulation**

- A. Story County implements the floodplain management responsibilities of this Ordinance through the *Administrative Procedures for Floodplain Management and Regulation* that outline the requirements and regulations that will be applied to any development within the floodplain.



B. The Administrative Procedures contain the following:

1. Statement of Intent
2. Applicable Regulations
3. Floodplain Manager
4. Floodplain Permits
5. Enforcement
6. Variances and Appeals Process
7. Records
8. Fees
9. Maintenance and Updates to Administrative Forms
10. Map Appeals and Revisions
11. Maintenance of Floodplain Maps and Flood Data
12. Biennial Reports
13. Post Flood Standard Operating Procedures
14. Streambank Stabilization Measures

C. The *Administrative Procedures for Floodplain Management and Regulation* are adopted by the Story County Board of Supervisors by resolution and are reviewed on a biennial basis and amended as required.

## **SECTION TWELVE - Definitions**

A. Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this Ordinance shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this Ordinance its most reasonable application.

BASE FLOOD - The flood having one (1) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year for a given area. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

BASEMENT - Any enclosed area of a building which has its floor or lowest level below ground level (subgrade) on all sides. Also see "lowest floor."

DEVELOPMENT - Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to building or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations. "Development" does not include "minor projects" or "routine maintenance of existing buildings and facilities" as defined this section. It also does not include gardening, plowing, and/or similar practices that do not involve filling, grading, and/or excavating. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

EXISTING CONSTRUCTION - Any structure for which the "start of construction" commenced before the effective date of the first floodplain management regulations adopted by Story County. May also be referred to as "existing structure". (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

EXISTING FACTORY-BUILT HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION - A factory-built home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the factory-built homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed before the effective date of the first floodplain management regulations adopted by Story County. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

EXPANSION OF EXISTING FACTORY-BUILT HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION - The preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the factory-built homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads).

FACTORY-BUILT HOME - Any structure, designed for residential use, which is wholly or in substantial part, made, fabricated, formed or assembled in manufacturing facilities for installation or assembly and installation, on a building site. For the purpose of this Ordinance, factory-built homes include mobile homes, manufactured homes and modular homes and recreational vehicles which are placed on a site for greater than 180 consecutive days and not fully licensed for and ready for highway use.

FACTORY-BUILT HOME PARK - A parcel or contiguous parcels of land divided into two or more factory-built home lots for sale or lease.

FLOOD - A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas resulting from the overflow of streams or rivers or from the unusual and rapid runoff of surface waters from any source.

FLOOD ELEVATION - The elevation floodwaters would reach at a particular site during the occurrence of a specific flood. For instance, the 100-year flood elevation is the elevation of flood waters related to the occurrence of the 100-year flood.

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) - The official map prepared as part of (but published separately from) the Flood Insurance Study which delineates both the flood hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

FLOODPLAIN- Any land area susceptible to being inundated by water as a result of a flood.

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT** - An overall program of corrective and preventive measures for reducing flood damages and promoting the wise use of floodplains, including but not limited to emergency preparedness plans, flood control works, floodproofing and floodplain management regulations.

**FLOODPROOFING** - Any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures, including utility and sanitary facilities, which will reduce or eliminate flood damage to such structures.

**FLOODWAY** - The channel of a river or stream and those portions of the floodplains adjoining the channel, which are reasonably required to carry and discharge flood waters or flood flows so that confinement of flood flows to the floodway area will not cumulatively increase the water surface elevation of the base flood by more than one (1) foot.

**FLOODWAY FRINGE** - Those portions of the floodplain, other than the floodway, which can be filled, leveed, or otherwise obstructed without causing substantially higher flood levels or flow velocities.

**HISTORIC STRUCTURE** - Any structure that is:

- a. Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places, maintained by the Department of Interior, or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing of the National Register;
- b. Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- c. Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or,
- d. Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified by either i) an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or ii) directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

**LOWEST FLOOR** - The floor of the lowest enclosed area in a building including a basement except when all the following criteria are met:

- a. The enclosed area is designed to flood to equalize hydrostatic pressure during floods with walls or openings that satisfy the provisions of this Ordinance; and
- b. The enclosed area is unfinished (not carpeted, drywalled, etc.) and used solely for low damage potential uses such as building access, parking or storage; and
- c. Machinery and service facilities (e.g., hot water heater, furnace, electrical service) contained in the enclosed area are located at least eighteen (18) inches above the 1% annual chance or greater flood level; and
- d. The enclosed area is not a "basement" as defined in this section.

In cases where the lowest enclosed area satisfies criteria a, b, c, and d above, the lowest floor is the floor of the next highest enclosed area that does not satisfy the criteria above. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

MINOR PROJECTS - Small development activities (except for filling, grading and excavating) valued at less than \$500. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

NEW CONSTRUCTION - (new buildings, factory-built home parks) - Those structures or development for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of the first floodplain management regulations adopted by Story County. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

NEW FACTORY-BUILT HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION - A factory-built home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the factory-built homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or after the effective date of the first floodplain management regulations adopted by Story County. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

ONE PERCENT (1%) ANNUAL CHANCE OR GREATER FLOOD - A flood, the magnitude of which has a one (1) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year or which, on the average, will be equaled or exceeded a least once every one hundred (100) years. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE - A vehicle which is:

- a. Built on a single chassis;
- b. Four hundred (400) square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;
- c. Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
- d. Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as a temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

REPETITIVE LOSS - Any flood related damage sustained by a structure on two separate occasions during a ten-year period for which the cost of repairs at the time of each such flood event, on the average, equals or exceeds 25% of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES - Repairs necessary to keep a structure in a safe and habitable condition that do not trigger a building permit, provided they are not associated with a general improvement of the structure or repair or a damaged structure. Such repairs may include:

- a. Normal maintenance of structures such as re-roofing, replacing roofing tiles and replacing siding;

- b. Exterior and interior painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops, and similar finish work;
- c. Basement sealing;
- d. Repairing or replacing damaged or broken window panes;
- e. Repairing plumbing systems, electrical systems, heating or air conditioning systems and repairing wells or septic systems.

**SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA** - The land within a community subject to the "1% annual chance or greater flood". This land is identified as Zone A on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

**START OF CONSTRUCTION** - Includes substantial improvement, and means the date the development permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement, or other improvement, was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement or permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as pouring of a slab or footings, the installation of pile, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a factory-built home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings, piers, or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. For a substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

**STRUCTURE** - Anything constructed or erected on the ground or attached to the ground, including, but not limited to, buildings, factories, sheds, cabins, factory-built homes, storage tanks, and other similar uses.

**SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE** - Damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damage condition would equal or exceed fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. Substantial damage also means flood-related damages sustained by a structure on two separate occasions during a ten-year period for which the costs of repairs at the time of such flood event, on the average, equals or exceeds 25 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

**SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT** - Any improvement to a structure which satisfies either of the following criteria:

1. Any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement. The term includes structures which have incurred "repetitive loss" or substantial damage, regardless of the actual repair work performed.

2. Any addition which increases the original floor area of a building by 25 percent or more. All additions constructed after June 1, 1983, shall be added to any proposed addition in determining whether the total increase in original floor space would exceed 25 percent.

The term does not, however, include any project for improvement of a structure to comply with existing state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which are solely necessary to assure safe conditions for the existing use. The term also does not include any alteration of an "historic structure", provided the alteration will not preclude the structure's designation as an "historic structure". (AMENDED - ORDINANCE NO. 202)

VARIANCE - A grant of relief by a community from the terms of the floodplain management regulations.

VIOLATION - The failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's floodplain management regulations.