Our Floodplains

A floodplain is the land adjacent to water bodies that floods first when water levels rise. We often think of them as a nuisance to development, since they can complicate our building processes. However, our floodplains are also a valuable community resource.

**Water Quality Maintenance and Groundwater Recharge.** In New Jersey, we drink our groundwater. Floodplains are a critical filtration system for water entering our watersheds. They can also store excess water by distributing it to our groundwater aquifers.

**Recreation.** Wildlife enthusiasts, birdwatchers, fishermen, hikers and picnickers regularly enjoy the recreational opportunities our floodplains provide.

**Warning System.** Floodplains are sensitive to changes in our natural environment and can alert us to undesirable natural conditions that are developing.

**Agriculture and fishing.** Floodplains play a crucial factor in replenishing nutrients in our soils, which aids both agriculture and fishing.

**Wildlife Habitat.** Waterfowl, fish, and other riverine critters populate our floodplains, where they feed, interact and breed.

**Protecting our floodplains**

Floodplains are an important and delicate part of the larger riverine system. Disrupting a single part of this system can have wide-ranging implications. We have a responsibility to treat our floodplains with care; please us protect them.

**Don’t block culverts or drainage ditches.** The Township’s stream maintenance program removes major blockages such as downed trees. [This](#) is a map of our streams/ditches and [here](#) is a map of known problem sites that the Township maintains regularly.

**Don’t dump waste in/near waterways or storm drains.** Please keep the storm drains, rivers and riverbanks clear of debris.

**Landscape appropriately.** Consider using alternatives to pesticides/fertilizers near waterways.

**Let us know if you see debris in the ditches/streams.** It’s difficult to monitor our entire floodplain 24 hours/day. Please contact the Public Works Department at 973-897-0327.

**Develop responsibly.** Our [local floodplain ordinance](#) serves as protective mechanism for our floodplains. Also, please follow permitting processes and abide by the [Township Code](#).