

Additional information about flood topics is available online

King County Flood Control District

www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org

King County General Flooding Topics

www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/flooding.aspx



King County

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This information is available in alternative formats. Call 206-296-6500 or 711 (TTY Relay).



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River and Floodplain Management in King County



Cedar Grove flooding in 1990

Making Flood Protection a Priority

Reducing flood risk to people and property through comprehensive floodplain management projects and programs

Why is increased flood protection needed?

While King County is recognized as a national leader in progressive floodplain management, many of King County's flood facilities no longer function as originally designed 40 years ago. Furthermore, recent flood events have resulted in federal disaster declarations, highlighting the urgent need to repair the county's aging flood-protection facilities and proactively manage the county's river corridors for flood risk reduction.

Since it is not a question of *IF* there will be another major flood event in King County, but a question of *WHEN* the next event will occur, the King County Flood Control District is embarking on an ambitious work program to reduce flood risk countywide.



Snoqualmie in 2006

How is the King County Flood Control District reducing flood risks?

The King County Flood Control District was established in April 2007 by the Metropolitan King County Council. The purpose of the District is to protect public health and safety, regional economic centers, public and private properties, and major transportation corridors.

The King County Flood Control District is an independent special purpose district of the State of Washington, and the King County Council functions as the District's Board of Supervisors, or primary governing body. The District is also supported by an Advisory Committee of local elected officials and by basin technical committees involving staff participation from a number of King County jurisdictions. In addition, the District partners with a range of external entities—from local tribes and watershed planning groups to state and federal agencies. The District's flood risk reduction projects and programs are implemented by King County through an inter-local agreement.



State Route 202 near Fall City in 2006

River and Floodplain Management Philosophy

The King County Flood Control District recognizes that flooding and channel migration are natural processes. These natural processes become risks when human development is located within flood hazard areas.

The King County Flood Control District's floodplain management program applies structural and non-structural flood risk reduction tools to achieve the following objectives:

- **Manage** river corridors for long-term flood risk reduction
- **Reduce risks** to public safety and economic loss while considering fish and wildlife habitat, open space, agriculture, and recreation
- **Accommodate and protect** the natural function of rivers to prevent an increase in flood risks and to create self-maintaining river systems

Snoqualmie River in 2006



King County Flood Hazard Management Plan

The **King County Flood Hazard Management Plan** was adopted by the King County Council in January 2007. The plan contains an array of programmatic and capital project recommendations aimed at reducing flood risks and improving public safety countywide.

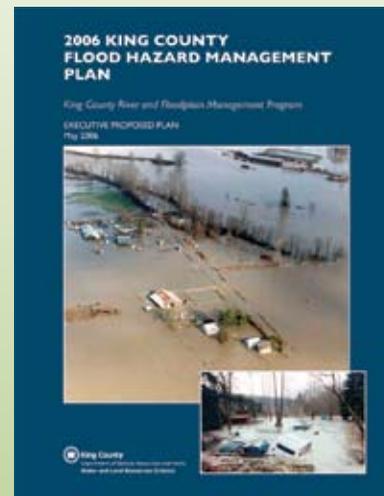
Examples of recommended activities to achieve plan goals include the following:

Capital Improvement Projects

- Flood facility repairs
- Levee setbacks and removals
- Home elevations
- Acquisition of flood-prone properties

Floodplain Management Programs

- Regional Flood Warning Center and emergency response
- Flood facility maintenance
- Public education and outreach
- Mapping and technical studies
- Citizen inquiries and public response



Plan Implementation



Home elevation during construction

The King County Flood Control District provides funding to support implementation of the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan, a comprehensive 10-year strategy to reduce flood risks to tens of thousands of people and to protect billions of dollars in economic infrastructure.

Home elevation near the end of construction



Example of a Levee Setback

Many of King County's flood levees are too steep. A levee setback improves the stability of the structure, increases flood storage and conveyance, and improves habitat for salmon species protected under the Endangered Species Act by increasing connections between the river and floodplain.



Bioengineered levee setback—Narita Levee, Green River

Levee setback four years after construction—Narita Levee, Green River (same location as above)

