

## **Amendments to Chapter 18.20, Definitions**

### **18.20.206.1 Area of special flood hazard**

“Area of special flood hazard” means the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. Designation on maps always includes the letter “A” or “V.”The area may be designated as Zone A on the FIRM. After detailed ratemaking has been completed in preparation for publication of the flood insurance rate map, Zone A usually is refined into Zones A, AO, AH, A1-30, AE, A99, AR, AR/A1-30, AR/AE, AR/AO, AR/AH, AR/A, VO, or V1-30, VE, or V. For purposes of these regulations, the term “special flood hazard area” is synonymous in meaning with the phrase “area of special flood hazard”.

### **18.20.228 Bankfull width.**

“Bankfull width” means:

(a) For streams - The measurement of the lateral extent of the water surface elevation perpendicular to the channel at bankfull depth. In cases where multiple channels exist, bankfull width is the sum of the individual channel widths along the cross-section.

(b) For lakes, ponds, and impoundments - Line of mean high water.

(c) For periodically inundated areas of associated wetlands - Line of periodic inundation, which will be found by examining the edge of inundation to ascertain where the presence and action of waters are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to mark upon the soil a character distinct from that of the abutting upland.

### **18.20.230 Base flood.**

“Base flood” means at the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, often referred to as the “100-year flood.” Designation on the FIRM always includes the letter “A” or “V.”

### **18.20.240 Base flood elevation**

“Base flood elevation” means the water surface elevation of the *base flood* in relation to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929/~~North American Vertical Datum 1988.~~

### **18.20.453 Channel width and gradient.**

“Channel width and gradient” means a measurement over a representative section of at least 500 linear feet with at least 10 evenly spaced measurement points along the normal stream channel but excluding unusually wide areas of negligible gradient such as marshy or swampy areas, beaver ponds and impoundments. Channel gradient may be determined utilizing stream profiles plotted from United States geological survey topographic maps.

**18.20.1055 Fish habitat.**

"Fish habitat" means habitat that is used by any fish at any life stage at any time of the year, including potential habitat likely to be used by fish that could be recovered by *restoration* or management and off-channel habitat.

**18.20.1057 Flood or flooding**

"Flood" or "flooding" means:

A. A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:

1. The overflow of inland waters.

2. The unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.

3. Mudslides (i.e., mudflows) which are proximately caused by flooding as defined in paragraph A.2. of this definition and are akin to a river of liquid and flowing mud on the surfaces of normally dry land areas, as when earth is carried by a current of water and deposited along the path of the current.

B. The collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or other body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels or suddenly caused by an unusually high water level in a natural body of water, accompanied by a severe storm, or by an unanticipated force of nature, such as flash flood or an abnormal tidal surge, or by some similarly unusual and unforeseeable event which results in flooding as defined in paragraph A.2. of this definition.

**18.20.105990 Flood insurance elevation study for King County**

"Flood insurance elevation study for King County" means the official report provided by the Federal Insurance Administration which includes flood profiles and the *flood insurance rate map*. means an examination, evaluation and determination of flood hazards and, if appropriate, corresponding water surface elevations, or an examination, evaluation and determination of mudslide (i.e., mudflow) and/or flood-related erosion hazards.

**18.20.1060 Flood fringe**

"Flood fringe" means that portion of the *floodplain area of special flood hazard* outside of the *zero-rise floodway* which is covered by floodwaters during the *base flood*, generally associated with standing water rather than rapidly flowing water.

**18.20.1070 Flood hazard areas**

"Flood hazard areas" means those areas in the *City* subject to inundation by the *base flood* (see "area of special flood hazard") and those areas subject to flood risks from *channel relocation* or *stream meander* including, but not limited to, *streams*, *lakes*, *wetlands* and closed depressions.

The latter flood hazard areas may extend outside of the area of special flood hazard mapped by FEMA, but are defined and designated by the City.

#### 18.20.1080 Flood insurance rate map (FIRM)

“Flood insurance rate map (FIRM)” means the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration Insurance Administrator has delineated ~~some~~ both the special flood hazard areas and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. ~~both the areas of special flood hazards and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.~~ A FIRM that has been made available digitally is called a Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM).

#### 18.20.1090 Flood insurance study (FIS) for King County

“Flood insurance study for King County” means the official report provided by the Federal Insurance Administration which includes flood profiles and the flood insurance rate map. See “Flood elevation study.”

#### 18.20.1110 Floodplain

“Floodplain” means the total area subject to inundation by the base flood. means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source (see definition of “flooding”).

#### 18.20.1120 Floodproofing

“Floodproofing” means any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents adaptations which will make a structure that is below the flood protection elevation substantially impermeable to the passage of water and resistant to hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads including the impacts of buoyancy.

#### 18.20.10201125 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Floodway

“Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Floodway” means the channel of the stream a river or other watercourse and that portion of the adjoining adjacent floodplain land areas that must be reserved in order to which is necessary to contain and discharge the base flood flow without cumulatively increasing the base floodwater surface elevation more than one foot a designated height. Also known as the “Regulatory Floodway” or “FEMA floodway.”

#### 18.20.1130 Floodway, zero-rise

“Zero-rise floodway” means the channel of a stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain which is necessary to contain and discharge the base flood flow without any measurable increase in flood height. A measurable increase in base flood height means a calculated upward rise in the base flood elevation, equal to or greater than 0.01 foot, resulting from a comparison of existing conditions and changed conditions directly attributable to development in the floodplain. This definition is broader than that of the FEMA floodway, but always includes the FEMA floodway. The boundaries of the 100-year floodplain, as shown on the flood insurance study for King County, are considered the boundaries of the zero-rise floodway unless otherwise delineated by a critical area special study.

**18.20.1340 Historic structure**

"Historic structure" means any structure that is:

A. Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on 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 Interior; or

D. Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:

1. By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or
2. Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

**18.20.1673 Lowest floor**

For purposes of flood hazard area regulations, "lowest floor" means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood-resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage, in an area other than a basement area, is not considered a building's lowest floor; provided, that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of article XIX of KMC Chapter 18.55.

**18.20.1835 Natural waters.**

"Natural waters" means all surface waters of the state, only excluding water conveyance systems which are artificially constructed and actively maintained for irrigation.

**18.20.2102 Practical alternative.**

"Practical alternative" means an alternative that is available and capable of being carried out after taking into consideration effectiveness, engineering feasibility, cost, safety, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project needs, purposes and objectives, and has less impacts to *critical areas*. For example, a practical alternative to a proposal to place a sidewalk through a *wetland* might be to place an elevated boardwalk through the *wetland*.

**18.20.2461 Seasonal low flow and seasonal low water.**

"Seasonal low flow" and "seasonal low water" mean the conditions of the 7-day, 2-year low water situation, as measured or estimated by accepted hydrologic techniques.

**18.20.2875 Start of construction.**

For purposes of flood hazard area regulations, “start of construction” includes substantial improvement, and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, placement or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The “actual start” means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured 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 of the property or 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 a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

**18.20.2900 Stream.**

“Stream” means an area where open surface water produces a defined water contained within a channel or bed, either perennial or intermittent, and classified according to WAC ~~222-16-030~~ or ~~222-16-031~~. Streams also include natural watercourses modified by man. Streams do not include ~~not including~~ irrigation ditches, canals, wasteways, drains, outfalls, operational spillways, channels, storm or surface water runoff facilities or other wholly artificial watercourses, unless they are used by salmonids or are used to convey a watercourse naturally occurring prior to construction, except those that directly result from the modification to a natural watercourse. Artificial drainage features with documented fish usage are regulated as streams. A channel or bed need not contain water year-round, provided there is evidence of at least intermittent flow during years of normal rainfall.

**18.20.2955 Substantial damage**

For purposes of flood hazard area regulations, “substantial damage” means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

**18.20.3118 Utility.**

"Utility" means an enterprise or facility serving the public by means of an integrated system of collection, transmission, distribution, and processing facilities through more or less permanent physical connections between the plant of the serving entity and the premises of the customer. Included are systems for the delivery of natural gas, electricity, telecommunications services, and water, and for the disposal of sewage.