

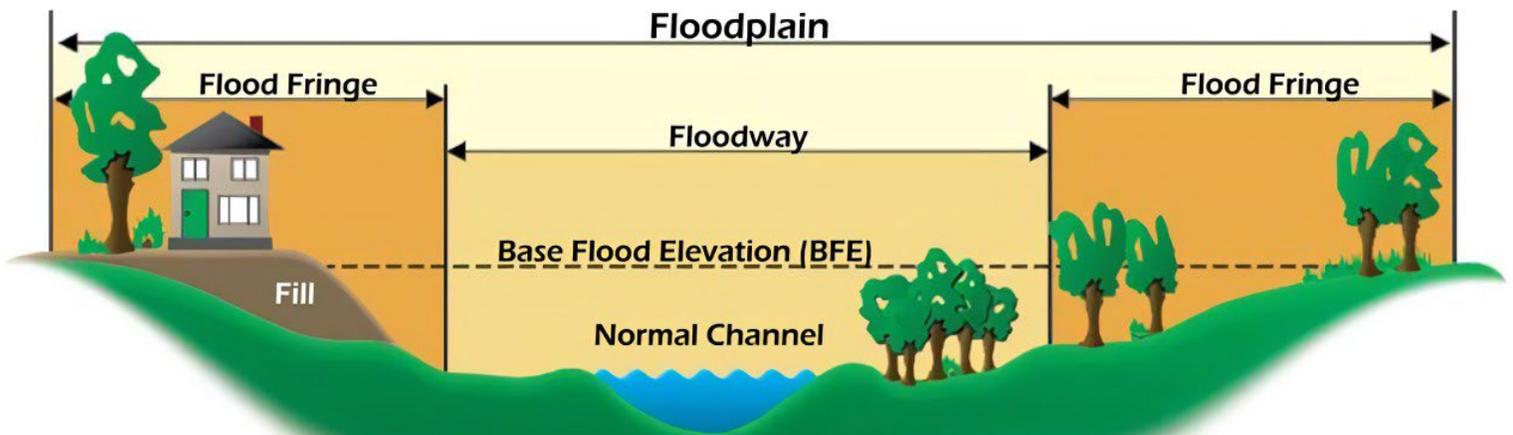
# STREAMS & FLOODPLAINS

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

## Did you know...

- ✓ The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Regulates the activities undertaken in and along streams through the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands (BWEW).
- ✓ These regulations are often referred to as the Chapter 105 Program - Dam Safety and Waterway Management and Chapter 106 Program - Floodplain Management.  
<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Waterways/Pages/Guidelines.aspx>
- ✓ The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also regulates activities undertaken along streams through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/rules-legislation>
- ✓ The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) defines a floodplain as any land area susceptible to being inundated by floodwaters from any source. In addition to being a naturally occurring phenomenon, a floodplain is a legally defined concept. FEMA designates floodplains across the nation, which accommodate several purposes, but most are familiar with their use to set rates for flood insurance.

### Characteristics of a Floodplain



Source: NFIP Guidebook, FEMA

- Land development, earth disturbance and associated activities are generally prohibited in streams and floodplains with out planning and permitting. Contact your local Codes & Zoning Officer to learn more.  
[https://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/FactSheets/StreamMaintenance/StreamMaintenanceBooklet\\_forWeb.pdf](https://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/FactSheets/StreamMaintenance/StreamMaintenanceBooklet_forWeb.pdf)
- Floodways and Floodplains are part of riparian ecosystems that help to mitigate flooding and sedimentation of streams through natural processes.
- The 100-year (1%) floodplain is land that is covered in water during a flood event that has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded each year. These designations are based on computer models and statistical estimates of the 1% rainfall amounts. Fundamentally, a designated floodplain is a modeled estimate.