



FEMA



# Revising the Washington, D.C. Flood Insurance Rate Map following the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Closure Structure Improvement

The 17th Street Closure Structure is a positive step for flood risk reduction in Washington, DC. It is part of the Potomac Park Levee System, itself a part of the larger Washington D.C. and Vicinity Local Flood Protection Project that provides flood risk reduction from river flooding and storm surge flooding of the Potomac River. The new structure was constructed and is regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and owned and operated by the National Park Service (NPS). For details about the design and construction of the USACE Project, please visit [www.nab.usace.army.mil/](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/).

USACE is currently working on Certification of the Potomac Park Levee System and is expected to be complete by Spring of 2016. This Certification will establish that the levee system is capable of providing flood risk reduction to the leveed area of the District from a 1 in 100 chance per year event. After USACE performs the levee system evaluation, documents will be turned over to FEMA to begin the FEMA accreditation process.

Currently, the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the District of Columbia dated September 27, 2010 does not reflect any flood reduction from the 17th Street Closure Structure. Revisions to the FIRM to reflect the impacts of the new closure structure can begin once the certification process has been completed and will take place in accordance with a statutory process governed by Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 65.

## Recent Achievements

The USACE and NPS substantially completed construction of the 17th Street Closure Structure on October 31, 2014.

## Next Steps

- The USACE prepares an Evaluation Report for the entire system for submission to FEMA. Expected completion in spring of 2016
- FEMA issues a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) to Washington, D.C. for the Flood Insurance Rate Map panels impacted by the USACE Report. Expected within one week of the USACE Report
- FEMA publishes a notice of Flood Hazard Determination for the LOMR in the Federal Register and local newspaper
- Members of the public have 90 days for submission of requests for changes
- FEMA processes all valid requests received
- If no requests are received, the LOMR becomes effective in the summer of 2016

**RiskMAP**  
Increasing Resilience Together



FEMA



### Map Revision Process

While the USACE conducts certification process, FEMA will start to prepare a revision to the effective FIRM to reflect the effects of the levee system improvement on the leveed areas. A Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) is the most efficient method for this purpose. The LOMR will officially revise those panels of the effective FIRM impacted by the USACE evaluation report.

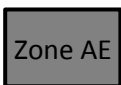
Approximately one week after receipt of a positive evaluation report from USACE, estimated in Spring of 2016, FEMA intends to issue a LOMR showing some areas of the community as removed from the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), the area subject to inundation by the base flood. Some areas of the Federal Triangle will remain within the SFHA as a result of interior drainage flood risk.

After issuing the LOMR, FEMA will initiate a statutory 90-day appeal process by publishing notice of a preliminary Flood Hazard Determination in the Federal Register and local newspaper(s). If no appeals are submitted, the LOMR should become effective by summer 2016 and posted on the FEMA Map Service Center at [msc.fema.gov/portal](http://msc.fema.gov/portal).

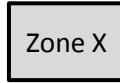
On the effective date of the LOMR, National Flood Insurance Program flood insurance premium rates can be adjusted to reflect the lowered flood hazard risk in those areas outside of the SFHA.

### Map of Areas Impacted by the Potomac Park Levee System

On the opposite page is a map of the area of Washington, DC impacted by the Potomac Park Levee System. It shows key aspects of the current and planned flood mapping.



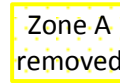
Areas of dark gray represent Potomac River and Anacostia River base flooding potential, where regulations for development and potential mandatory flood insurance requirements will apply.



Areas of light gray represent areas of advisory flood hazard. Although National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) floodplain and insurance requirements are not mandatory in these areas, they are still at risk of flooding and purchasing flood insurance is recommended.



The area dotted with red that covers the Federal Triangle and east to the US Capitol is planned to remain mapped within the SFHA, with regulations for development and potential mandatory flood insurance requirements. This area is still at risk from flooding by interior drainage.



The area dotted with yellow south of I-395 is planned to be mapped as an area of lighter gray representing advisory flood hazard.

### Impacts to Individual Insurance Premiums

After the LOMR becomes effective, rates for NFIP policies will be based on the FIRM panels revised by the LOMR. Contact your insurance agent for your specific situation. For general flood insurance information, please visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov). You are strongly encouraged to know your flood risk and take actions when appropriate to mitigate that risk.

### Impacts to Development

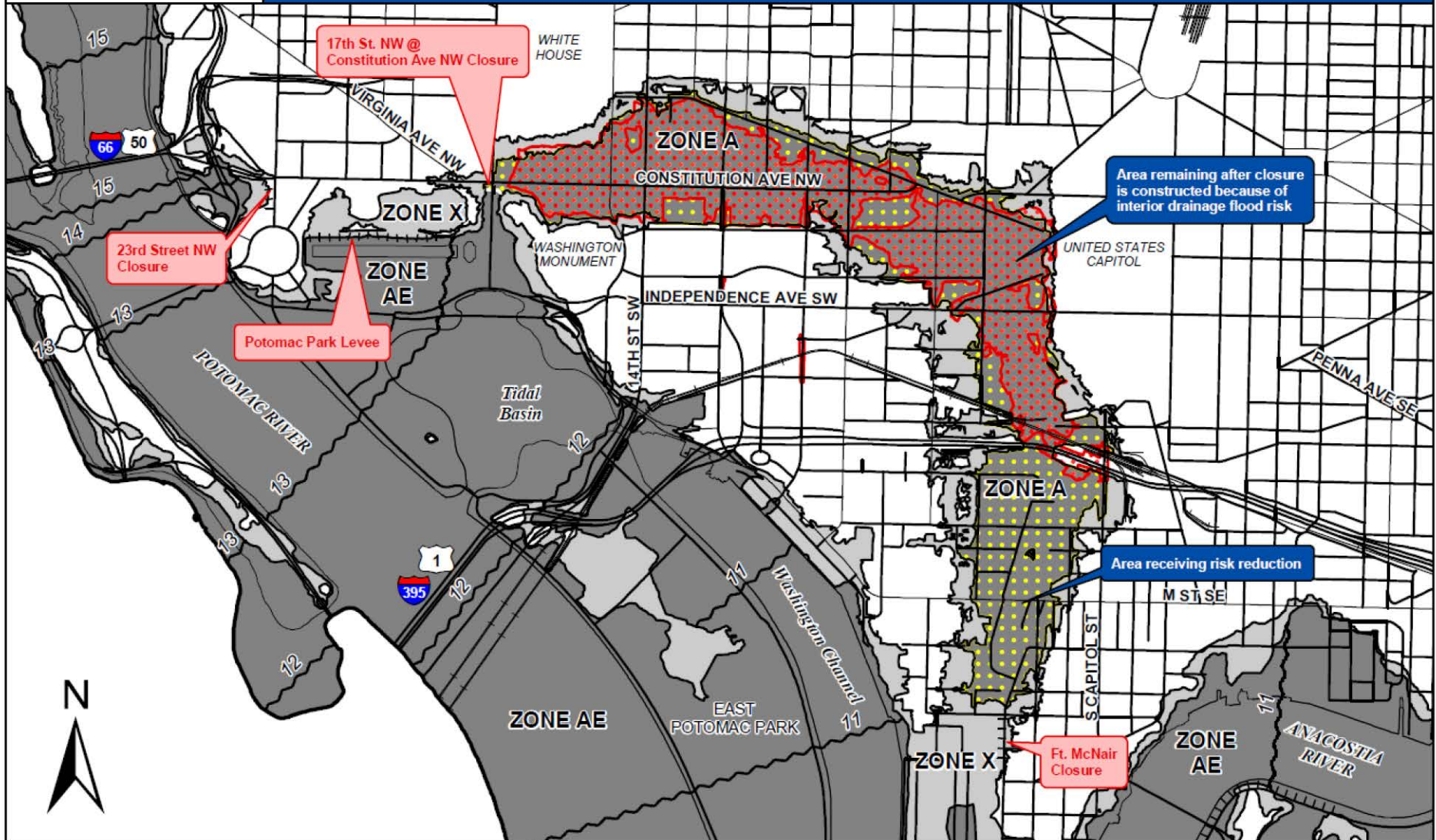
Development in the SFHA of Washington, DC is regulated by: DC Flood Hazard Rules and flood provisions in the DC Construction Codes. The District Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) is the floodplain administrator and the NFIP coordinator for the District of Columbia. DOEE coordinates with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), DC Building Official, and other District agencies to implement the program. For more information please visit [ddoe.dc.gov/service/floodplain-management](http://ddoe.dc.gov/service/floodplain-management)







FEMA

# Washington, DC Potomac Park Levee



### 8/2007 Preliminary DFIRM

-  1 in 500 Chance per Year Flood Hazard Area
-  1 in 100 Chance per Year Flood Hazard Area

### Proposed Revision

-  1 in 100 Chance per Year Area To Be Removed By Levee
-  1 in 100 Chance per Year Area To Remain Due To Interior Drainage



Projection: WGS 1984

Data Source: FEMA August 2007 Washington, District of Columbia Preliminary DFIRM

All elevations referenced in NAVD 88 feet

## From the D.C. Silver Jackets

The D.C. Silver Jackets is an interagency team comprised of members from federal, District of Columbia and regional agencies, as well as academia. This team leverages resources to identify and implement comprehensive, resilient, and sustainable solutions to reduce flood risk around the District and to assist local communities.

The D.C. Silver Jackets' main tasks include Development of Flood Inundation Mapping, Flood Emergency Planning, Interior Drainage Flooding, Levee Certification and Accreditation, and Flood Risk Communication. Coordination of the 17th Street Closure was a priority for the team. The team is also looking into similar permanent closures at 23rd Street, 2nd and P streets; and raising the Potomac Park Levee 3.5 feet to increase the level of protection to the authorized flow rate. Another major project includes an online flood inundation mapping tool project that will help government leaders, emergency managers, and the public better predict flood impacts during high-water events in the D.C. metropolitan area. This tool will provide two sets of maps: one that shows predicted riverine flooding along the Potomac River, and another that shows predicted tidal/storm surge flooding along the Potomac and Anacostia rivers. The tool will be housed on US Geological Survey and National Weather Service websites and is expected to go live in fall 2015. The team is also working on

updating the D.C. Flood Emergency Manual and will be holding a tabletop exercise in late 2015 to test the current manual.

## Members of the D.C. Silver Jackets

**Federal agencies:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency; National Park Service; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Weather Service; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Army; U.S. Navy; General Services Administration; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and National Capital Planning Commission

**District Government agencies:** Department of Energy & Environment; D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency; D.C. Office of Planning; Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice; Department of Public Works; Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs; District Department of Transportation; and Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking

**Other participating regional organizations:** D.C. Water and Sewer Authority; Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; University of the District of Columbia; University of Maryland; and George Mason University

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.nfrmp.us/state/factDC.cfm>.



Photographs from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Closure Trial Installation on 10/31/2014