

CITY OF
COURTENAY

Flood Management Plan

Ways to Take Action

A series of backgrounders are supporting public awareness around the Flood Management Plan project in Courtenay. This one is on what we can do to plan for floods and what you can do to increase resilience. Learn more about the project below or visit courtenay.ca/floodready.

Project Background

In the City of Courtenay, flood risk is present along the coast and the river systems. With expected changes in water levels from both the ocean and rivers, we are taking proactive steps to reduce impacts from future flood events.

The City of Courtenay is working with a team of consultants on the development of the Flood Management Plan. This project aims to understand the risk of flooding to our community and develop risk reduction strategies that reflect community priorities.

Project Objectives

1. To outline a long-term approach (what needs to be done, by when)
2. To recommend specific actions for the next 5 years
3. To align our approach with international best practices, including the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), and the upcoming BC Flood Strategy.

What Can We Do

Strategies to address flood risk can be grouped into five categories: Protect, Accommodate, Retreat, Avoid, and Resilience-Building (PARAR). Within each category, there are a range of strategies that could be implemented. The overall flood management plan will likely include a combination of actions from many, or all, of these categories. Short descriptions for each are provided below.



PROTECT

Building “green” or artificial barriers to maintain the current location of existing developed areas (e.g. houses, settlements, infrastructure)

Example Resources

- [Dikes and Related Works \(BC Floodwise Website\)](#)
- [City of Surrey “Living Dike” project](#)



ACCOMMODATE

Adapting buildings, infrastructure and land uses to allow areas in the floodplain or along the estuary to flood over time without causing negative impacts

Example Resources

- [Lower Mainland Floodwise Website](#)
- [New York City Retrofitting Buildings for Flood Risk Design Manual](#)



MANAGED RETREAT

Exploring alternative locations to move homes and infrastructure back from affected areas and restore natural ecosystems

Example Resources

- [Grand Forks Flood Management Plan Update](#)
- [City of Vancouver Sea2City Design Challenge](#)
- [Willing seller program in New Jersey](#)
- [Quebec buyouts program](#)
- [Natural Resources Canada Planned Retreat Approaches](#)



AVOID

Preventing new building, infrastructure or some land uses from happening in areas at risk of future flooding and related impacts

Example Resources

- [Puget Sound Partnership Projects](#)
- [Ontario Conservation Authorities](#)



RESILIENCE-BUILDING

Investing in awareness, preparedness and emergency response as a community, so that we can work together well to respond to challenges and bounce back from negative impacts

Example Resources

- [Regional District of the Central Okanagan Non-Structural Flood Mitigation Resource Guide](#)
- [City of Vancouver Resilient Neighbourhoods Program](#)
- [Comox Valley Regional District Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program \(NEPP\)](#)
- [Grand River Conservation Authority Flood Warning System](#)

What Can You Do

There are many ways that you can proactively prepare for floods, for example:

- **Understand** how flooding may impact your property
- **Move belongings** off the floor or out of the basement
- Develop a household flood **evacuation plan**
- Consider purchasing **flood insurance** or **tenant insurance** that covers the cost of property damage in the event of a flood
- **Retrofit your home** to protect against or accommodate water during a flood (or ask your landlord)

Here are a few resources to learn more about preparing for floods:

Homeowner

- » [PreparedBC Getting Ready Before a Flood](#)
- » [Government of Canada Flood Ready Property Fixes](#)
- » [Homeowners Guide to Property Flood Resilience](#)
- » [Green Shores Guide for Homes](#)
- » [City of Brisbane Flood Resilient Homes Program](#)

Household / Emergency Preparedness

- » [MIECM Emergency Preparedness Workbook](#)
- » [PreparedBC Flood Preparedness Guide](#)
- » [PreparedBC Household Emergency Plan](#)

Learn More

The City of Courtenay's Flood Management Plan includes opportunities for interested and affected parties, K'ómoks First Nation rights and title holders, and local residents to provide their feedback and inform this important collaborative effort to address flood risk across Courtenay. Sign up for email updates, follow the City's social media channels ([Facebook - @cityofcourtenay](#), [Twitter - @CityofCourtenay](#), [Instagram - @cityofcourtenay](#)), and stay tuned for opportunities to participate and provide your input! Check out the *Flood Risk and Resilience 101* backgrounder in this series to learn more.