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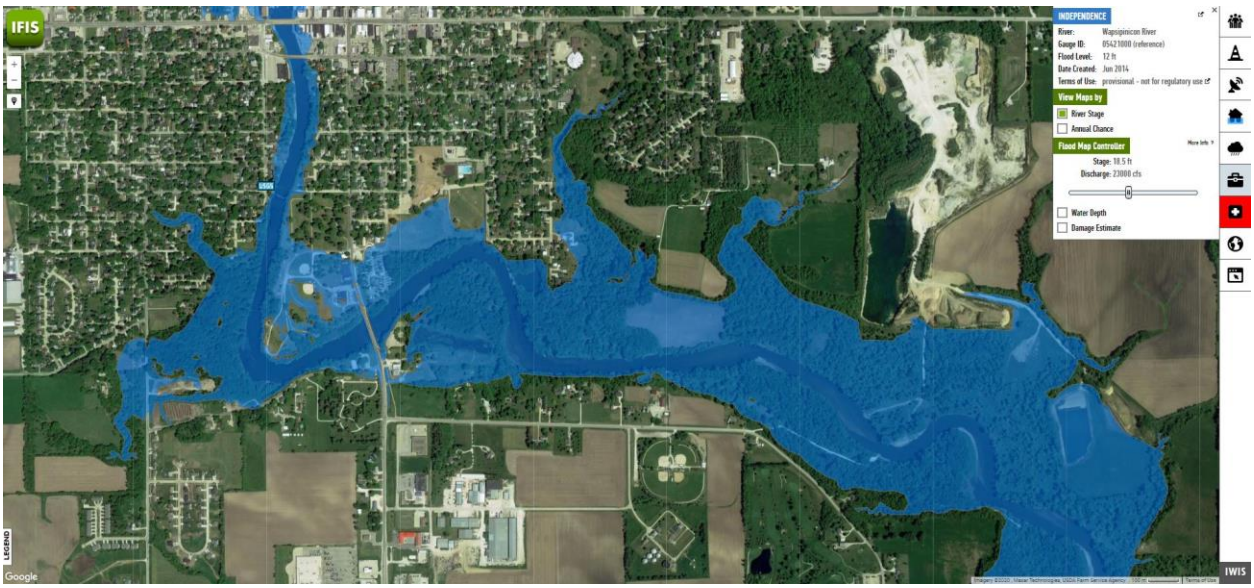
Over 30 Community-Based IFC Flood Maps Now Available



Flood inundation maps for the city of Independence showing predicted flood levels at a stage of 18.5 ft.

The Iowa Flood Center at the University of Iowa has recently added new community flood maps to its interactive Iowa Flood Information System (IFIS) online Google Maps–based web platform. IFIS now offers Iowans access to flood inundation maps for over 30 cities and towns in Iowa.

On Thursday, the Cedar River at Cedar Rapids is expected to reach major flood stage with a forecast river level of 16.5 feet (at press time). Additional rainfall expected later in the week will contribute to rising river levels on stream and rivers in eastern Iowa.

Community Flood Maps

Flood inundation maps provide valuable information about the extent and depth of predicted floodwaters, helping local decision-makers, emergency responders, and home and business owners reduce the impacts of flooding on life, property, and critical infrastructure. **Please note:** These are NOT regulatory floodplain maps that can affect insurance. Rather, they offer people information to help them stay safe and be better prepared when water levels begin to rise.

Iowa Flood Center

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IFIS provides scenario-based inundation maps for the following communities:

- Adel
- Ames
- Cedar Falls/Waterloo
- Cedar Rapids
- Charles City
- Clarksville
- Columbus Junction
- Columbus Wapello
- Decorah
- Des Moines
- Elkader
- Estherville
- Fort Dodge
- Greene
- Hills
- Humboldt
- Ida Grove
- Independence
- Iowa City
- Kalona
- Manchester
- Maquoketa
- Mason City
- Monticello
- Oakville
- Ottumwa
- Palo
- Plainfield
- Red Oak
- Rock Rapids
- Rock Valley
- Spencer
- Waverly

The IFC has recently developed scenario-based flood inundation maps for the Mississippi River, stretching from Lock and Dam No. 11 in Dubuque to Lock and Dam No. 19 in Keokuk.

How to Access Flood Inundation Maps on IFIS

From the IFIS homepage, select the button for "inundation maps." Users can then select one of the highlighted communities (same as those listed above) and use the flood map controller slider bar on the right to see the potential extent of flooding at a selected stage or discharge as forecasted by the nearest IFC stream sensor or USGS stream gage. IFIS uses a Google Maps interface, so users can zoom in and out, switch to different views (satellite and street view), and navigate around the map.

The interactive maps also provide users with information on water depth, and select communities have access to damage estimates, a feature that is being expanded. The damage estimates allow users to see the predicted cost of flood damages to buildings and other structures under various flooding scenarios.

Additional IFIS Features

IFIS provides a suite of tools to help keep Iowans safe, informed, and prepared for flooding. A statewide network of nearly 260 stream sensors provides Iowans with near real-time river levels taken every 15 minutes. Users can view the data on IFIS, which has logged more than 3.5 million page views since 2011.

Other information available on IFIS includes:

- Flood alerts and stream forecasts for more than 1,000 Iowa communities;
- Weather conditions, including current, past, and future rainfall accumulations; and
- Flood hazard maps for all 99 counties.

For questions, additional information, or to request a virtual IFIS demonstration, contact Breanna Shea (breanna-shea@uiowa.edu).

Iowa Flood Center

The Iowa Legislature established the Iowa Flood Center at the University of Iowa in 2009 to provide accurate, science-based information to help Iowans better understand their flood risks. It is the nation's first academic center devoted solely to the study of floods. For more information, visit www.iowafloodcenter.org.

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