



Department of Public Works and Engineering
Planning & Development Services Division

Floodplain Management Office

Frequently Asked Questions about: Conveyance Zones

What is a Conveyance Zone?

The Conveyance Zone is the portion of the Special Flood Hazard Area that is utilized to convey water during the occurrence of the base flood.

Is the Conveyance Zone a FEMA determination?

No. Maps of the conveyance zones were prepared by the City of Houston using the same hydrologic and hydraulic information utilized by FEMA in preparation of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM).

Is the Conveyance Zone different from the Floodplain or Floodway?

By definition, the *floodway* is defined as a Conveyance Zone. The other areas of the *floodplain* defined as Conveyance Zones are generally: a) a 100-foot buffer zone adjacent to the floodway boundary, b) the overflow area of the floodplain where two streams come together and c) portions of the floodplain where the depth of flooding exceeds 18-inches.

Where can I find a Conveyance Zone map?

The maps are available on the web at either of these locations:

<http://www.cohcdp.swmp.org/Website/ProView/viewer.htm>

<http://www.gims.houstontx.gov/portalWS/R.aspx?M.aspx&app=GIMS>

Some minimal skills at navigating around maps are needed.

How does a Conveyance Zone designation affect my permit?

The Conveyance Zone designation adds an additional requirement for information to be provided with a Development Permit application. The applicant may be required to have a registered, professional engineer prepare a set of "conveyance calculations" in accordance with Section 19.17 to verify that the proposed construction/expansion does not reduce the existing flood conveyance across the property.

What type of construction impacts the Conveyance Zone?

In general, any type of construction that limits or prohibits the flow of water across a property has an impact. A few examples include: structures with slab on grade foundations, board or masonry fences and extensive landscaping mounds.

For fees and more information, contact the City of Houston Floodplain Management Office (FMO) at (832) 394-8854, come by the FMO at 1002 Washington Avenue or check out the Floodplain Information on the web at http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/notices/flood_plain_guidelines.html