



SHORT NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

Madison County's Flood Maps Are Changing

New flood hazard maps for Madison County are ready for public review. The preliminary maps are the result of a multi-year project to develop accurate and detailed digital flood maps for the Upper Oconee Watershed based on data from the latest mapping and modeling technologies. They are being released by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) under Georgia Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and communities throughout Madison County. The new maps reflect current flooding risks, replacing maps that are based on dated studies, of which some are more than 30 years old. Revisions to these mapping products may affect residents and business owners in Madison County.

Residents and businesses will want to be aware of how the maps are changing, and how the changes may affect new construction and rebuilding decisions, as well as requirements for flood insurance. Property owners are encouraged to visit Georgia's Virtual Flood Risk Open House to better understand the project and changes:

<https://bit.ly/39l9MR9>

Georgia's Virtual Flood Risk Open House provides information relevant to the changes in your community, as well as an opportunity to connect with floodplain management experts from the GA Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In-person virtual meetings are available by appointment only and can be reserved on the website, via the "Request an Appointment" tab. Appointments will be held between February 15, 2021 – February 26, 2021. **Please reserve your appointment between January 27, 2021 – February 10, 2021, using the link above.**

A 90-day Public Comment period will soon be open to address any submitted appeals and/or comments. After all appeals and comments are addressed, the maps are expected to become effective in mid-2022. At that time, the new insurance requirements will take effect.

To learn more about the preliminary maps, see what areas will change, learn what the insurance options are, and find the schedule for related community meetings, visit www.georgiadfirm.com. For general information about the upcoming map changes, please contact your Local Floodplain Administrator, Cameron Van De Velde, at (706) 795-6361 or via email at cvandavelde@madisonco.us if you have any questions.

