



Considering Flood Risk

Understanding flood risk helps people make decisions. Use the map of the Boulder, Colorado floodplains to help the people in the scenarios below make good decisions.

DIRECTIONS ► Write a recommendation to each person or group. Remember to consider both what you find on the map (whether they are in the floodplain) and the decision that they are trying to make when you give them a recommendation. Use the back of your paper if you need more space to write.

1. Jane Higgins, a land developer, is planning to build a new shopping center. She is trying to decide on a location and has it narrowed down to two locations on 28th Street.
 - One location is just north of Pearl Street on 28th St.
 - The other is just south of Arapahoe Ave on 28th St.

She wants to know whether there is a risk of flooding at either location. *Is one location more prone to flooding? If so, why?*

2. Max Washington lives in a house just west of Boulder Reservoir. Because he can see the water in the reservoir from his living room windows, he is wondering whether buying flood insurance would be a good idea. *What can you tell max about the risk that his home could flood?*
3. Juan and Marsha Martinez live near Four Mile Canyon Creek and Broadway. They are planning to renovate the basement to make a family room with carpet and couches and a big screen TV. Their basement flooded last year, so Marsha thinks it will be safe from floods for the next 99 years if it is in the floodplain. *Do you agree with her? Why or why not?*
4. Boulder Birders, a local birdwatching group, has always wanted to preserve natural land for a bird sanctuary. Thanks to a big donation, they are now able to buy land to make this dream a reality. They are looking at land that is for sale at south of Jay Road along Boulder Creek on the east side of town. One of the birders asked the rest of the group whether this land is at risk of flooding. *Is the land at risk of flooding? And if so, how would this impact their project?*