A public service to the residents & property owners in flood prone areas in the City of Lawrence.

Your property, 100 INDIANA, is located in the regulatory floodplain.

Douglas County is a StormReady community. StormReady, a program started in 1999 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, helps communities establish the communication & safety skills needed to save lives & property before & during storm events. StormReady helps community leaders & emergency managers strengthen local safety programs making StormReady communities better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education, & awareness. While no community is storm proof, StormReady can help communities save lives.

Additional information is available from the following local departments & agencies:
- General information & Elevation Certificates: Planning Office at 832.3150.
- Structure-related: Development Services 832.7700.
- Site drainage-related & site visit service: Stormwater Engineering 832.3143.
- Emergency response-related: Douglas County Emergency Management at 832.5259

Information is also available at the main branch of the Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont Street.
Local Flood Hazards
The City of Lawrence will experience flooding sometime in the future. History has shown that the community has a number of local flood hazard areas. These areas can experience frequent or infrequent inundations of water from rain/storm events. The worst flood in Lawrence’s history was the flood of 1951, causing damage to the City in excess of $3 million. In 1993, Lawrence was faced with another major flood. The local system of levees & reservoir did their job & the City only experienced $1.2 million in damage. However, damage for the area topped $5.8 million as the majority of flooding in 1993 occurred in unprotected areas.

There are also numerous creeks & tributaries subject to frequent flooding with little warning after substantial rain events due to their small drainage areas & steep slopes. These include the Brook Creek, Belle Haven, Hidden Valley, & KLWN Tributaries. The Maple Grove Drainageway is also subject to quick flood rises with little warning. To find out about other specific localized areas subject to flooding, or to schedule a site visit by city staff, please contact the Stormwater Engineering Division at 832.3143.

Flood Insurance
All community property owners & renters are eligible for flood insurance, not just those that live in flood prone areas. Flood insurance is available to all residents because the City of Lawrence participates in the NFIP which is administered by FEMA. Don’t assume your homeowner’s policy will protect you from property damage as a result of flooding or rising waters. The majority of homeowner insurance policies do not cover losses from flood related events.

If a property is located within a SFHA, insurance is required by law to obtain federally secured financing to buy, build, or improve a structure on that property. An insurance agent can assist in determining the amount of coverage required and can sell a separate flood insurance policy under rules set by the Federal government. All agents must charge the same rate. Rates for flood insurance will not change just because you file a claim since they are set on a national basis. A flood insurance policy can take 30 days to become effective. The City maintains copies of elevation certificates. Call 832.3150 for more information.

Permit Requirements
Any development in the SFHA requires a floodplain development permit per requirements of City Ordinance No. 7597. This ordinance establishes flood protection standards (located in Article 20-12 of the City’s Land Development Code). These regulations mean you must obtain a floodplain development permit before you build, alter, regrade, or fill if your property is located in the SFHA as identified on the City’s Flood Hazard Map.

Substantial Improvements
Buildings that are substantially improved or repaired due to substantial damage must meet the requirements of new construction specified in the City’s Flood Protection Standards (Ordinance No. 7597), Article 20-12 of the City’s Land Development Code. A substantial improvement is defined as “any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or other improvement to a building, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the building before the start of the improvement.”

Substantial damage refers to damage to a building by any origin (not just flood), whereby the cost of restoring the building to its pre-damage condition would equal or exceed 50% of the value of the building before the damage occurred.

Firm Warning System
You should become familiar with these terms:

| Flood Watch | Flooding is possible. |
| Flash Flood Watch | Flooding is possible with little or no warning. |
| Flood Warning | Flooding is imminent (it may take several hours to occur). |
| Flash Flood Warning | Flash flooding is imminent & precautions should be taken. |

Flood watches, warnings, & forecast services are issued by the National Weather Service. Listen to local radio stations for up-to-date information & instructions in floodlike conditions. Use a battery-powered radio in the event of a power outage. In the event of a flood, the Douglas County Emergency Management Department will utilize additional methods of providing information to the community, such as the Emergency Alert System & local public safety agencies (police, fire, medical personnel).