



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **PROPOSED NEW ROCKFORD FLOOD MAP REFLECTS CHANGES TO LOCAL FLOOD RISK**

#### **Residents and Businesses Encouraged to Attend Open House**

**Rockford, Illinois.** — Residents and business owners are encouraged to attend an open house on December 17, 2014 from 4:00 pm -7:00 pm at the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP) building located at 315 N. Main St, Rockford, IL to learn how and why the local risk of flooding has changed and how the proposed new flood maps may impact their flood insurance costs. Representatives from the City of Rockford, FEMA, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois State Water Survey will be on hand to answer questions.

The proposed new flood maps, developed in cooperation with the City of Rockford and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), depict flood risk across the community. The new proposed flood maps were developed after an extensive, multi-year study of multiple waterways within Winnebago County that used state-of-the-art technologies and risk modeling techniques.

The maps, known as a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels, and related flood risk data and information will be used to update plans to protect the community from flooding, help inform future development and identify changes in flood risks.

“Over the years, the City has maintained a close partnership with FEMA to make sure that we have the most accurate picture possible of our flood risk, and take measurable steps towards reducing that risk. This information will not only ensure that our homes and businesses are insured appropriately against flooding, but will help us make more informed decisions about how to protect Rockford from what might otherwise be devastating events.” Marcy Leach, Engineering Operations Manager at the City of Rockford.

The new map is still preliminary and has not yet been officially adopted. Rockford officials encourage residents and business owners to review the proposed flood maps to learn about local flood risk and identify any concerns or questions about the information provided. A Public

Comment Period will be opening soon where property owners will be able to submit appeals and comments related to the map's accuracy. Once these comments are received and addressed, the maps are expected to be adopted. Once the map becomes effective, any related new insurance and floodplain management requirements will take effect.

The Preliminary FIRM panels are also available for viewing and download at [www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata](http://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata) or at [www.illinoisfloodmaps.org](http://www.illinoisfloodmaps.org) where specific changes to the maps can be viewed.

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Marcy Leach (815-987-5570) at the Public Works Department.

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