

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 the following location:

www.gims.houstontx.gov

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 Chapter 19 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, visit FMO at 1002 Washington Avenue or at www.floodplain.houstontx.gov.