

Richmond County, Georgia Summary of Revisions



FEMA's Mitigation Division manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the cornerstone of the Nation's strategy for preparing communities for flood disasters. The NFIP was created to reduce flood damages by identifying flood risks, encouraging sound floodplain management practices, and providing a mechanism through which people can insure their investments. FEMA and its partners provide flood hazard data and maps to support flood insurance and floodplain management activities. Multi-Hazard Flood Map Modernization (Map Modernization) uses state-of-the-art technology, and engineering and digital mapping standards, to deliver reliable digital flood hazard data and maps in GIS format.

As part of a Cooperating Technical Partner agreement, the State of Georgia is working with FEMA to provide updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for Richmond County and Incorporated Areas. DFIRMs show the location and extent of the Special Flood Hazard Area – the area with the highest risk of flooding. The new DFIRM has also been produced as a digital GIS product that is geo-referenced to be spatially correct. The base map is composed from actual aerial photographs of Richmond County, dated 2002.

Flooding from some sources has been transferred directly from the currently effective FIRM for each area. There are other changes on the revised DFIRM due to adjustments needed for retrofitting the effective information onto the spatially correct base maps, tie-ins at city/county boundaries, and the incorporation of Letters of Map Revision.

For this countywide revision, several streams (15 miles) in Richmond County were studied by limited detailed methods. Those streams include: **Little Spirit Creek, Little Spirit Creek Tributary, Poorly Branch, Poorly Branch Tributary, Rocky Creek Tributary No. 6, and Unnamed Tributary to Crane Creek.**

In addition, the following seven LOMRs were incorporated into the new DFIRMs for Richmond County: 99-04-023P, dated June 22, 1999; 99-04-115P, dated June 18, 1999; 99-04-299P, dated November 9, 1999; 02-04-241P, dated December 12, 2002; 03-04-245P, dated April 23, 2003; 04-04-211P, dated May 19, 2005; and 04-04-A382P, dated July 25, 2005.

The Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) on the new DFIRM will vary slightly from the currently effective maps. As a standard procedure, the vertical datum used for all new DFIRMs is North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88). Therefore, the existing elevations, referenced to National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29), were converted to the new datum. In this case, the conversion factor of -0.724 ft was used. This will have no impact on any existing Letters of Map Change (LOMCs). Since there was no actual elevation change, all previously issued LOMCs will be revalidated to remain effective.

FEMA, the State of Georgia, and the Richmond County fully agreed to the scope and methods of study utilized in the production of the DFIRM.