



Map Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Natural Resources Geographic Information Systems Library," <http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/nrgislib/>.

Elevation and Flow

The map to the left displays topographic differences in elevation using a combination of contour lines and the color gradient depicted in the legend. The high points and low points have also been located.

Note the relationship of your community to the surrounding elevation; is it located in a valley or on high ground, or is it split between the two?

If your community lies within or near a floodplain or floodway, the map will reflect these features. Not all communities will have these elements; their absence on this map indicates that none are present.

Flood risk is correlated to low-lying land. This map also shows your community's flood risk as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center. This map shows the two most important flood zones, the Base Flood and the Regulatory Floodway. Base Flood is the zone having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, and is also called the "100-year floodplain." The Regulatory Floodway is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent floodplain areas that must be kept free of objects so that floodwater can flow freely so that without increasing the base flood elevation doesn't rise.

Bioregional Context

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