

**Milwaukee County Automated Mapping and Land Information System Conference  
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*The Role of the MCAMLIS Floodplain Mapping Program in Recent Floodplain, Flood Mitigation, and Neighborhood Planning Efforts in the Kinnickinnic River Watershed*

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**Abstract**

The Milwaukee County Automated Mapping and Land Information System Steering Committee and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) have provided significant funding for an ongoing program under which the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) is developing updated floodplain maps for streams throughout Milwaukee County. The SEWRPC studies and digital floodplain maps for many of those streams were incorporated in the 2008 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance study and accompanying digital flood insurance rate maps (DFIRMs) for Milwaukee County. As additional studies are completed, the affected communities are likely to submit those studies to FEMA for revision of DFIRMs.

In the past year, updated floodplain maps were developed for streams in the Kinnickinnic River watershed under this program. Those maps were very useful in a Kinnickinnic River Neighborhood Plan project being undertaken by MMSD and the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, with input from a technical review committee and neighborhood residents. One of the key components of that neighborhood plan is incorporation of an MMSD proposal to rehabilitate the Kinnickinnic River channel from S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street through S. Chase Avenue, including removal of the existing concrete lining.

The neighborhood and stream rehabilitation plans are also addressing floodplain issues identified under the MCAMLIS/MMSD/SEWRPC floodplain mapping program. The hydrologic and hydraulic models, and the associated floodplain maps developed by SEWRPC for the Kinnickinnic River, provided a sound technical framework within which the MMSD consultants developed alternative flood mitigation and stream rehabilitation plans. The updated floodplain information indicated that the one-percent-annual-probability (100-year recurrence interval) floodplain along the lower reach of the Kinnickinnic River was larger than previously identified. Thus, the availability of the updated MCAMLIS/MMSD/SEWRPC information enabled the neighborhood, and stream rehabilitation plans to incorporate an essential flood mitigation component.