What are the Flood Fringe and the Floodway?

33,000 cfs 100 year level at the Fargo gage of 41.3+ gage zero of 861.8= 903.1 elevation

For regulatory purposes, the floodplain is divided into **Floodway** and **Flood Fringe**:

- **Floodway** is the channel of the river or stream and the adjacent land that must remain free from obstruction so that the 100-year flood can be conveyed downstream.
- **Flood Fringe** is the remaining portion of the floodplain. FEMA and state regulations permit communities to allow the flood fringe to be obstructed and developed if standards (i.e., elevating and floodproofing structures) are met.

When the FEMA floodplain maps are initially developed, the community works with state and FEMA representatives to determine which portion of the floodplain will be Floodway versus Flood Fringe. Detailed engineering models are run to determine the effect of filling in (or developing) all the Flood Fringe areas. The filling that would be allowed in the flood fringe generally cannot:

- Increase the 100-year flood elevation more than ½ foot above the natural unobstructed condition, or
- Increase to the 100-year flood elevation if the existing floodplain development would be negatively impacted, even if it would be less than a ½ foot increase in the flood elevation above the natural

Figure 3. Cross-section of river showing floodplain before obstructions or filling.

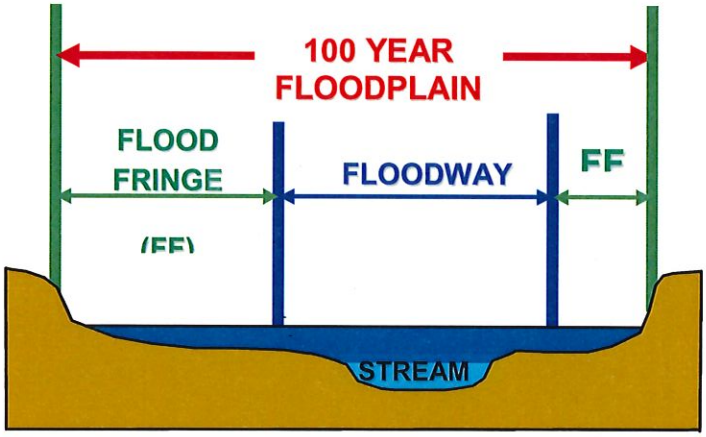

Figure 4. Cross-section of river showing floodplain with filling in flood fringe.

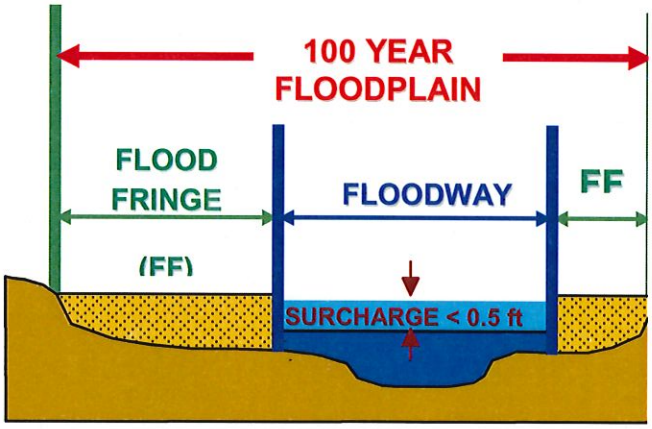

Figure 5. View of floodway versus flood fringe on a river.

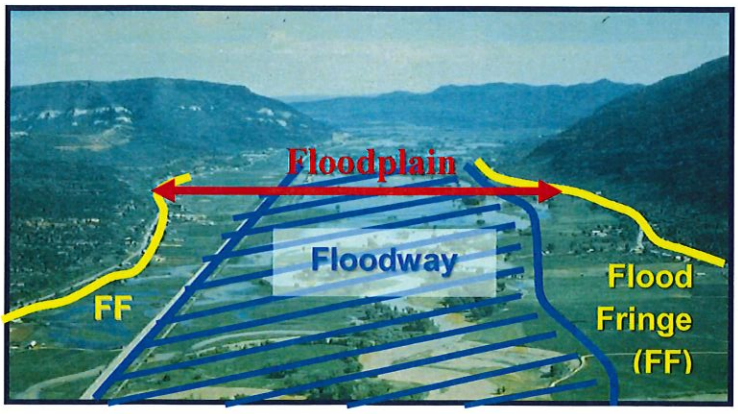

Figure 6. Top view of floodway versus flood fringe on a local zoning map.