

FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (PFIRMs)

What are flood zones?

Flood zones are areas identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Each flood zone describes a land area in terms of its risk of flooding. FEMA releases Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that highlight this risk.

In 2015, FEMA released new **Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (PFIRMs)** for New York City. These maps are used to determine which properties must meet New York City building code and zoning requirements for properties at risk of flooding.*

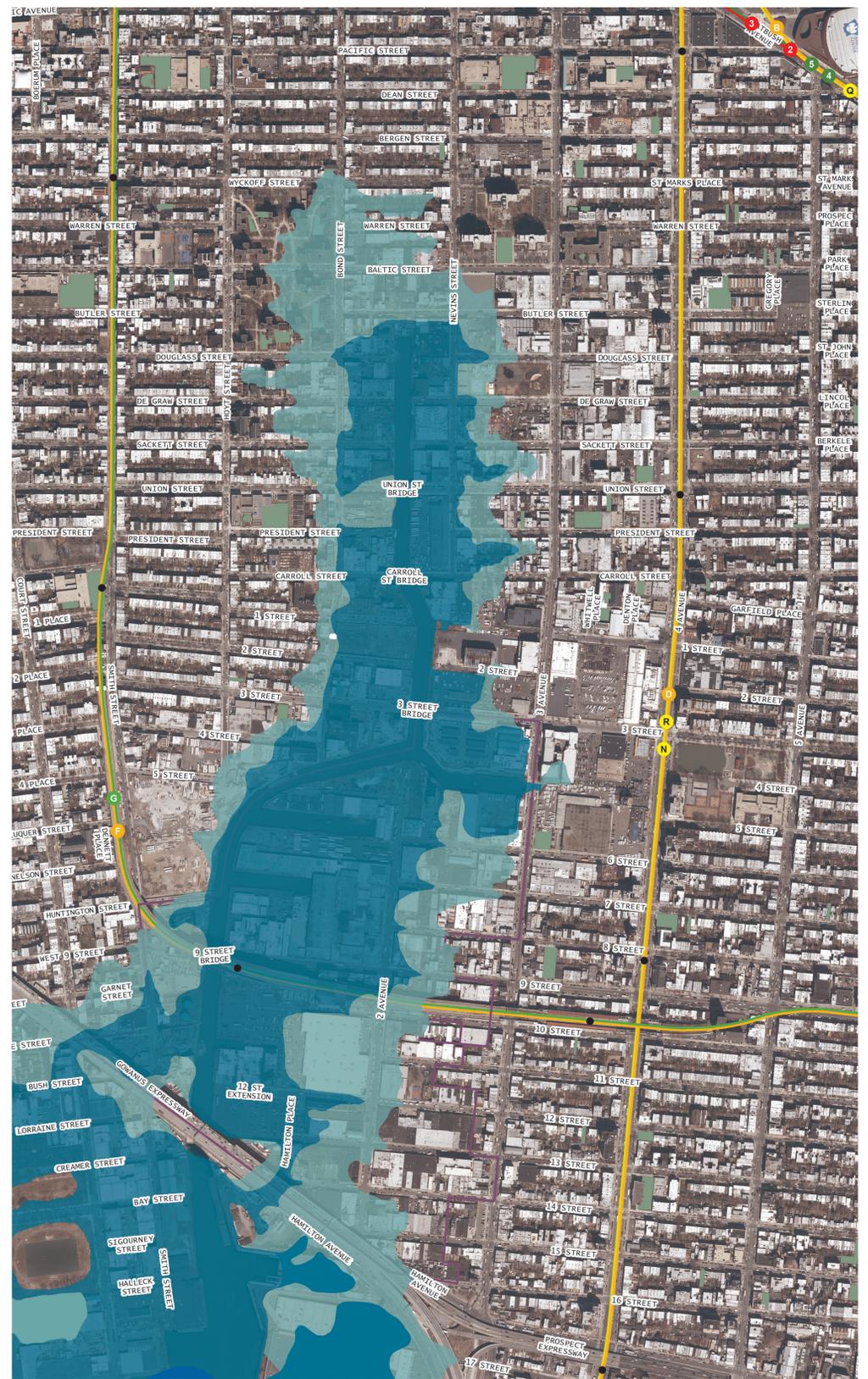
 A Zone (1% Annual Floodplain)

A Zone: A portion of the area subject to flooding from the 1% annual chance flood. These areas are considered high risk flooding areas. NYC Building code requires new and substantially improved buildings in the A Zone to be elevated or floodproofed.

 Shaded X Zone

Shaded X Zone: The area of moderate flood risk outside the regulatory 1% annual chance flood.

*In October 2016 FEMA announced that the City of New York won its appeal of FEMA's 2015 Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps and has agreed to revise New York City's flood maps. This will result in revised flood maps which will provide New York City residents with more precise flood risk data for current conditions, in addition to providing a new map product for future conditions that account for climate change. Until any new flood maps are issued, the city's building code will continue to reflect the 2015 Preliminary FIRMs to ensure that new buildings are better able to withstand flood risk.



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Give us your thoughts and suggestions!**

A large dashed blue rectangular box intended for user input.



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