

For immediate release: July 22, 2024

Contact: Breanna Shea (Breanna-shea@uiowa.edu, p. 319-384-1729).

Iowa Flood Center releases new community flood maps for New Hartford

The Iowa Flood Center (IFC) has developed new flood inundation maps for [New Hartford, Iowa](#). These maps are non-regulatory and are a resource to help residents understand and monitor flood risks at the individual property level and throughout the community.

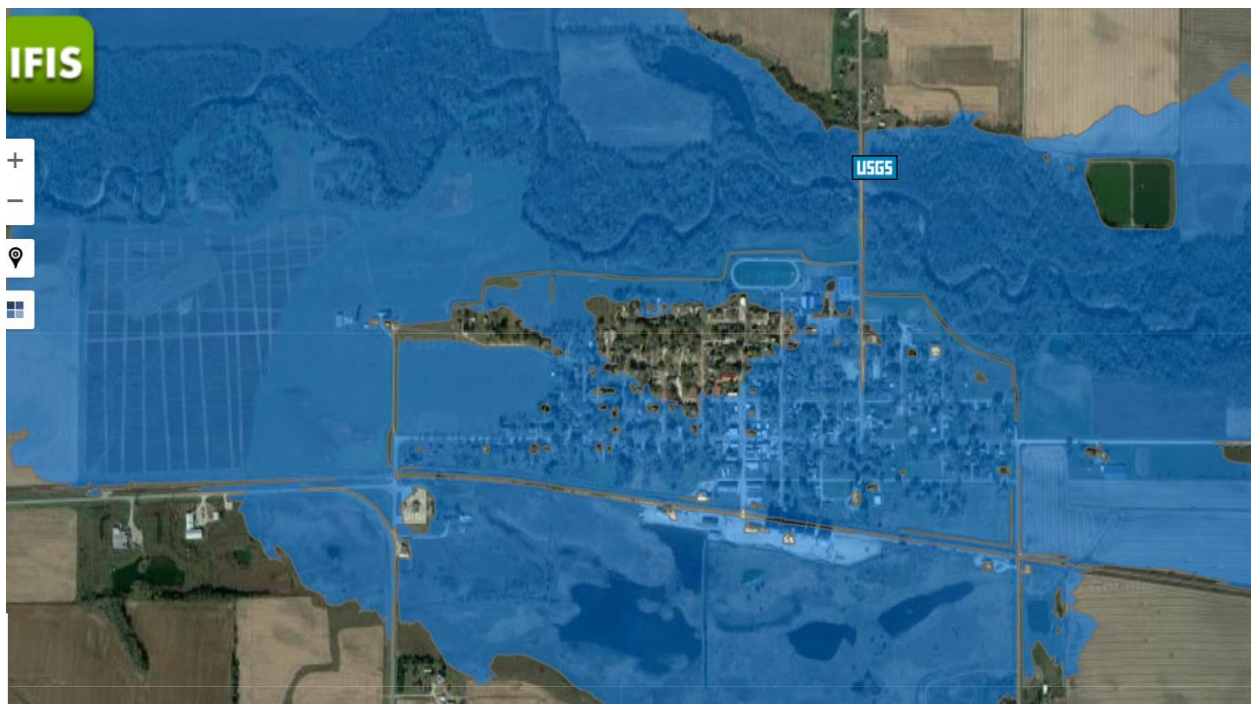


Figure 1. Flood inundation maps for New Hartford, Iowa at a stage of 15.5 ft., similar to levels experienced during the 2008 flood.

The new maps are freely available through the Iowa Flood Information System (IFIS) and complement a library of more than 30 community-specific flood inundation maps across the state, with more added every year. Through IFIS's user-friendly Google Maps-based web interface, individuals and community leaders can see predicted flood extents and depths to better assess potential risks and take proactive preparedness measures during impending flood events.

New Hartford is situated along Beaver Creek and has a history of severe flooding, notably during 2008 and 2013 and more recently in May of this year. These events resulted in significant costs and losses for the community impacting roads, homes, and the local fire station.

IOWA

The flood inundation maps support local planning, flood mitigation, and decision-making before, during, and after a flood. The city of New Hartford can use the maps to determine suitable locations for new homes and businesses; how, when, and where to implement temporary and more permanent flood mitigation practices; issue evacuations; close roads and bridges; and more.

While flooding is naturally occurring, reducing the impact of these events is at the forefront of the Iowa Flood Centers work. With a better understanding of local flood risks, communities can become more resilient to the damaging effects of flooding.

The Iowa Flood Center is a part of IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering at the University of Iowa College of Engineering. The IFC was created in 2009 in response to the devastating 2008 floods and is supported by state appropriations to improve flood monitoring and prevention in Iowa.

###