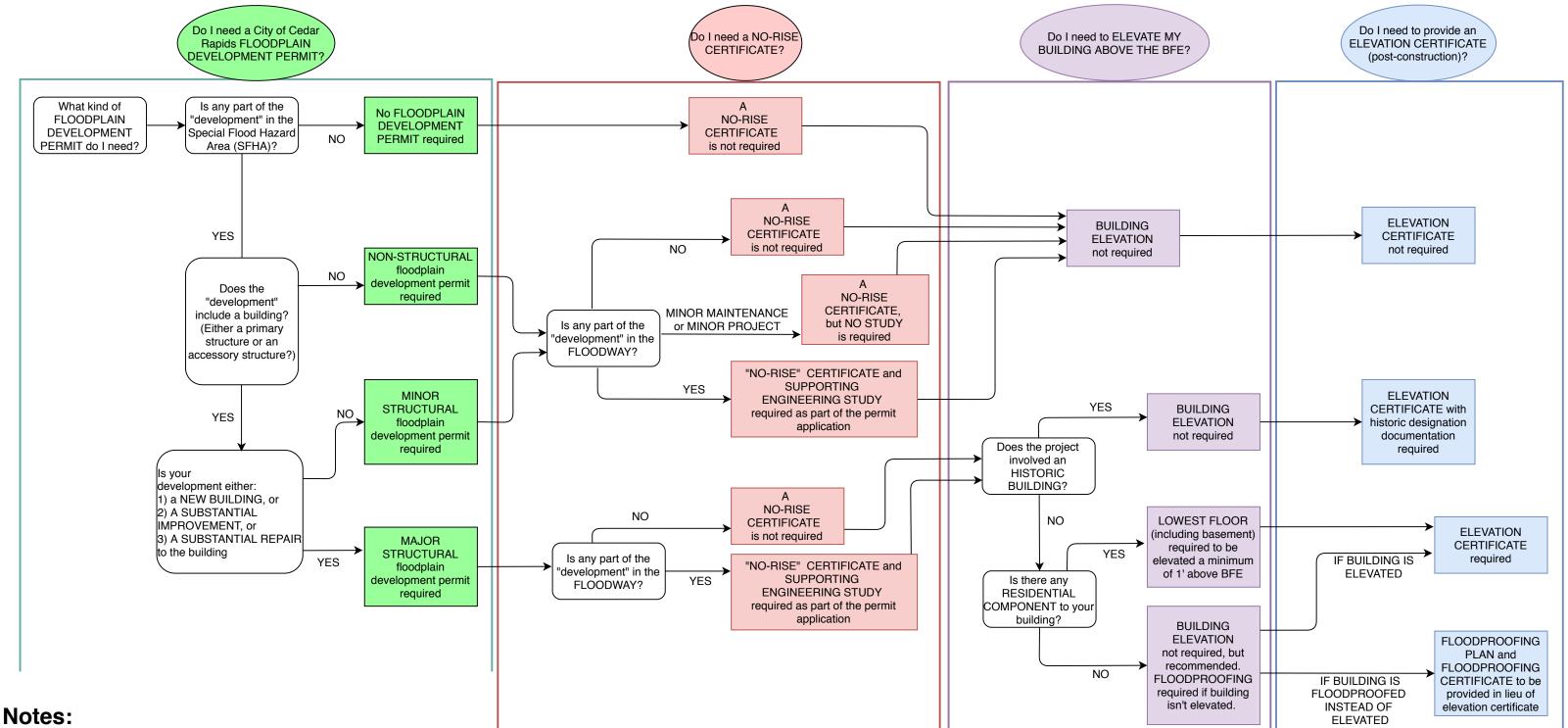
City of Cedar Rapids

Floodplain Development Permiting Guidance



This generally represents the requirements for permitting of development in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), as codified in Chapter 32b of the City of Cedar Rapids Municipal Code. Note that there are some instances where a floodplain permit is required from both the City and the lowa DNR. This diagram does not include all nuanced rules and requirements of the ordinance. It should be used for general guidance only. Please contact the City's Floodplain Manager with questions at (319) 286 5780, or developmentservices@cedar-rapids.org



- 1. "Development" is defined by the City's Floodplain Management Ordinance as "Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to, buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, or storage of equipment or materials. "Development" does not include "minor projects" or "routine maintenance of existing buildings and facilities" as defined in this section. It also does not include gardening, plowing, and similar practices that do not involve filling and/or grading."
- 2. "Lowest Floor" is defined by the City's Floodplain Management Ordinance as "The floor of the lowest enclosed area in a building including a basement except when all the following criteria are met: 1. The enclosed area is designed to flood to equalize hydrostatic pressure during floods with walls or openings that satisfy the provisions of Section 32B.05 (d) 1; and 2. The enclosed area is unfinished (not carpeted, drywall, etc.) and used solely for low damage potential uses such as building access, parking or storage; and 3. Machinery and service facilities (e.g., hot water heater, furnace, electrical service) contained in the enclosed area are located at least one foot above the 100-year flood level; and 4. The enclosed area is not a "basement" as defined in this section. In cases where the lowest enclosed area satisfies criteria 1, 2, 3, and 4 above, the lowest floor is the floor of the next highest enclosed area that does not satisfy the criteria above.
- 3. "Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)" is defined by the City's Floodplain Management Ordinance as "The land in the floodplain subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year."
- 4. "Minor Projects" are clarified in Section 32B.06 of the City's Floodplain Management Ordinance.