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# FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Greetings FM Team,

Tomorrow begins Flood Awareness Week in Fort Collins (7/11–7/18), putting a spotlight on the potential for loss of life and property that occurs with flooding in our community. Awareness and planning help us to be prepared to take protective action. These damaging flood events, most commonly associated with snowmelt flooding and thunderstorm flash flooding between April and September, are especially important at CSU because of the floodplain that exists through the heart of our main campus. In past flood events, floodwaters have caused significant damage to the university.

Five major flooding events occurred on Main Campus over the last 100 years. The most recent on July 28, 1997 resulted in the death of five people in Fort Collins and damaged more than forty campus buildings. Damage to the campus exceeded \$150 million and valuable research and personal items were lost. The library sustained damage to about 425,000 books stored in the basement for a summer renovation. Despite the devastation to campus, we were open for students for the fall semester. The President's Fall Address, which we still hold today, was first held in the fall of 1997 as a celebration of the resilience of the campus community in response to the 1997 flood.

Immediately after the 1997 flood, the university started modifying the physical structure of campus to make it more resilient to the next major flood, and the City of Fort Collins implemented projects upstream of main campus, which reduced the amount of floodwater that enters main campus from the west. Many of the campus modifications are unrecognizable as flood mitigation. The walls and landscaping surrounding Johnson Hall, the Fieldhouse, Morgan Library, the Lory Student Center, and the Education building are examples of flood mitigation that also serve as campus amenities. The most recent of these projects is the [Lagoon area revitalization](#), which provides additional detention of floodwater on campus, as well as an enhanced destination for the campus community.

The management of our campus floodplain is an ongoing effort led by FM Environmental Engineer Susanne Cordery and Campus Planner Fred Haberecht. They serve as the CSU floodplain managers. The management function includes making sure we are in compliance with state and federal regulations, as well as collaboration with the City of Fort Collins Flood Plain Managers, and meeting the obligations of a stormwater intergovernmental agreement (IGA) that we have with the City of Fort Collins. For a deeper look at Floodplain Management at CSU, please check out the following link <https://www.fm.colostate.edu/floodplain>, which includes a very cool link to a flood model video of the CSU Main Campus.

Have a great weekend,



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