

Encroachments

A 15-foot minimum clear zone on the landward side of the levee is required to allow for inspection and emergency measures. Excavations, structures, or other obstructions present within the levee clear zone are generally prohibited. Fencing that prohibits access along the levee crown is prohibited.



ACCEPTABLE. Landowner has not encroached on the levee crown or the 15-foot clear zone.



UNACCEPTABLE encroachment. Residential and rural fences crossing the



UNACCEPTABLE encroachment. Gardens and compost bins located on levee crest and riverward slope.

Safety

It's an easy thing to take for granted but take a moment to think about a few simple things like avoiding disturbance of the levee and keeping it clear of material, fences, and structures. The levee protects against floodwaters that could damage neighborhood property and dramatically interrupt your lives.

To avoid encroachment issues, or questions please give us a call at 509.574.2300 when considering property improvements or changes.

<https://www.yakimacounty.us/352/Levees>



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Living Next to a Levee

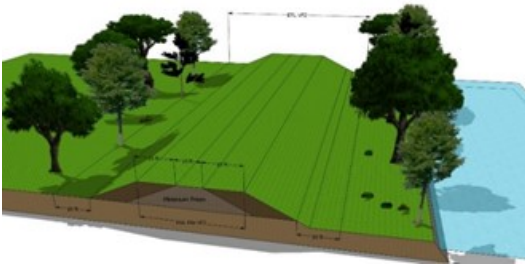
Yakima and Naches River Levees



Your property contains a Yakima County owned and operated levee system. This levee is a significant piece of the communities' flood control system that reduces flood risk to you and the levee protected area. Please take time to familiarize yourself with this informational pamphlet.

What is a Levee?

Levees were constructed in Yakima County throughout the 1900's to provide flood risk reduction to urban and rural areas. Levees here consist of a compacted embankment covered with rock armor on the riverward side. A graveled levee crown provides safe and reliable access for maintenance.



Patrol

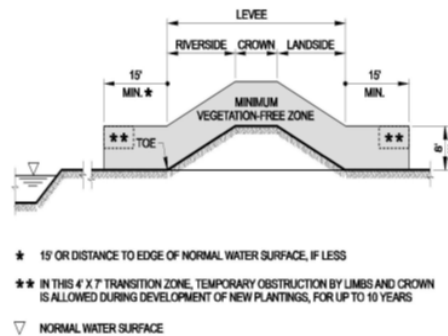
Yakima County patrols its levee systems regularly and throughout flood events to ensure internal drainage structures are working correctly, rock armor protection is functioning, and the levees are operating as intended. Access to and the ability to see what is happening along the Levee is important for Maintenance and Emergency crews.

We also monitor flood heights against the levee and look for any seeping or sand boils on the landward side.

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The US Army Corps and Yakima County may make certain exceptions to this rule, provided the encroachment does not impact the operation, maintenance, or structural integrity of the levee.



Maintenance

Levees must be properly operated and maintained to reduce flood risk to communities living and working behind these levees. Inspections are conducted by Yakima County and the US Army Corps of Engineers to identify maintenance needs on an annual or post-flood basis. Yakima County performs annual maintenance which typically includes vegetation removal, gravel addition, snow removal, rock armor repair, culvert flushing and flap gate lubrication.

