

Dawson County & City of Glendive, MT

2024 Accomplishments

Ice jams on the Yellowstone River can cause major flooding in Glendive (pop. 5,129) and Dawson County (pop. 9,017). Ice jam floods are destructive and unpredictable. In Glendive, there have been 30 major ice-jam floods since 1890. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed a levee in West Glendive in 1959, but it was not designed for ice jams. Glendive and Dawson County are working together to identify a mitigation solution to the flood risk and improve the West Glendive levee.

FloodWise Community since July 2021

Project services paid by FloodWise to date: \$79,705



Yellowstone River ice jam near Glendive. Photo by Army Corps of Engineers

2024 FloodWise Deliverables

- Facilitated flood project meetings and engaged with stakeholders.
- Hosted three in-person site visits for state and federal flood mitigation partners.
- Assisted with the completion of the Master Trails Plan for the City of Glendive.
- Encouraged ACE to expedite a decision on the Section 205 Flood Risk Management analysis of induced damages by working with state elected officials.
- Secured a \$189,750 grant for the City of Glendive to address the bank destabilization and erosion issues at Penninger Park.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) began the Section 205 Flood Risk Management Study in partnership with the City of Glendive and Dawson County in August 2022 to identify flood mitigation solutions. FloodWise staff members help coordinate federal, state, and local stakeholders and facilitate the project's monthly meetings. FloodWise provided a \$50,000 grant to assist with the required local cost-share payment and tracks expenses and time spent on this project to count towards the local match.

In 2024, FloodWise Community Assistance assisted with community engagement with key stakeholders and facilitated 11 monthly project meetings with partners from ACE, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, KLJ Engineering, Dawson County, and the City of Glendive. FloodWise staff helped coordinate three in-person site visits to Glendive in 2024 for partners, including:

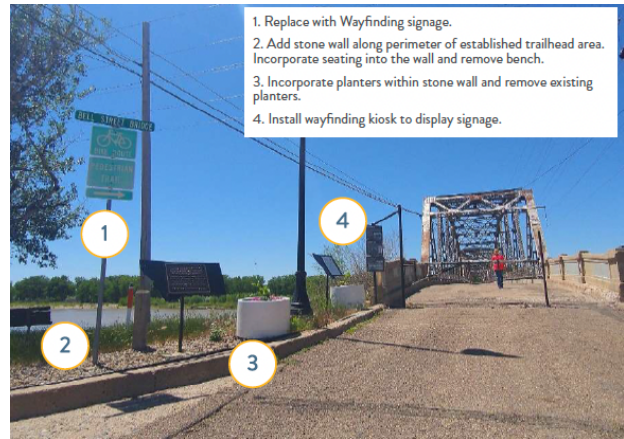
- March 2024: Section 205 project meeting update with ACE Omaha District staff.
- July 2024: Presentation to Glendive's City Council on the status of the ACE Section 205 project, next steps of the Master Trails Plan, and the Penninger Park erosion study. Jackson Rose from Montana State

University's Geospatial Core Facility provided an overview of the results from the erosion study and answered City Council questions.

- August 2024: Organized a day-long tour of Glendive's flood issues for staff from FEMA Headquarters, FEMA Region 8, and Montana Department of Emergency Services.

City of Glendive Master Trails Plan

In coordination with the City of Glendive and Great West Engineering, FloodWise secured \$50,000 in HUD CDBG funding, including a \$12,500 local match paid for by FloodWise, to develop a recreational trails master plan. The Master Trails Plan was completed in 2024 and is a collaborative effort to enhance public health, expand recreational opportunities neighborhoods, and diversify the local economy. The plan brought together diverse community groups and agencies (e.g., Dawson County, Building Active Glendive, Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation, Makoshika Wellness, National Park Service, and others) and included creative engagement strategies, such as walking audits to identify gaps in infrastructure and safety concerns. Recreational opportunities identified in the plan will be incorporated in the ACE Section 205 flood mitigation project.



Yellowstone Riverbank Destabilization & Erosion Grant

After completing the Penninger Park erosion study, FloodWise helped Glendive submit a \$189,750 grant to EPA's Thriving Communities program to address severe erosion and flooding that threatens public infrastructure, recreational spaces, Dawson County High School, and homes. In February 2025, Glendive was notified that they were selected for the grant. The grant will fund a feasibility study to identify solutions for the bank erosion issues and conduct community engagement.

Next Steps

- ACE is expected to finalize the Section 205 study by early Fall 2025. FloodWise will assist with stakeholder coordination and community engagement, including engaging mobile home park residents.
- Identify funding sources for the Section 205's local cost-share requirement.
- Collaborate with Glendive on the implementation of the Penninger Park feasibility study.
- Coordinate with local, state, and federal stakeholders to assist with FEMA floodplain map update.

About FloodWise Community Assistance & Headwaters Economics

FloodWise Community Assistance is a program of Headwaters Economics that provides free technical assistance to decrease flood risk and strengthen communities.

Headwaters Economics is an independent, nonprofit research group whose mission is to improve community development and land management decisions. <https://headwaterseconomics.org/>