

Glendive, Montana

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. According to the Omaha District of the Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Glendive has the highest risk to life safety from flooding in its entire district. 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 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to identify a mitigation solution to the flood risk and improve the West Glendive levee.

Partnership Outcomes

- Elected officials and staff from Dawson County, the City of Glendive, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and FloodWise met monthly to work on the West Glendive levee project.
- In May 2025, the Army Corps and FloodWise hosted a public meeting to discuss the tentative preferred alternative for the flood risk in West Glendive. Over 50 people attended. FloodWise assisted with the meeting logistics and development of educational materials.
- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation continued their work on updating the flood risk maps for Dawson County.



The City of Glendive and Dawson County keep the community apprised of their work with state and federal partners to reinforce a levee that will protect the community from ice jams and flooding of the Yellowstone River. (Photo by Headwaters Economics)

Next Steps

- Once the feasibility study is approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the city and county will need to commit to the next phase of the project: final design and then construction. This phase is expected to last two to three years.
- The proposed project cost is \$14.6 million. Dawson County and the City of Glendive are responsible for 35% of the cost, approximately \$5.1 million. The county is planning to pay for this cost through a bond, which will be voted on in June 2026.
- FloodWise staff will assist with the development of educational material about the West Glendive levee project.
- In 2025 the EPA grant that Glendive secured for Penninger Park was canceled. FloodWise will work with the city to fund this mitigation project through the Montana Resiliency Fund in 2026.
- DNRC will continue work on updating Dawson County’s flood risk map.

- ◆ FloodWise Community since July 2021
- ◆ Project services paid by FloodWise to date: \$79,705
- ◆ Other funds secured: \$495,206



FloodWise Community Assistance is a program of Headwaters Economics that provides free technical assistance and customized research to help reduce flood risk and strengthen communities. <https://floodwise.headwaterseconomics.org/>