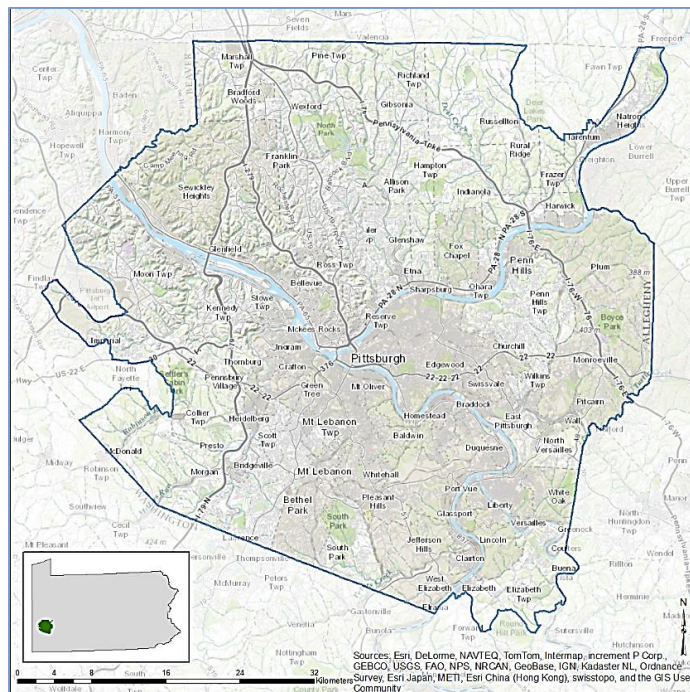# Pittsburgh, PA and surrounding area

Towns and cities rely on clean air, clean water, green space, and other natural amenities for economic sustainability and quality of life, yet their benefits are not always fully understood or considered in local decisions. EPA and its partners are producing EnviroAtlas to help communities better use environmental assets for public good.

EnviroAtlas includes an online interactive mapping application that anyone can use. The interactive map contains over 200 maps available for the U.S., as well as 100+ fine-scale maps for selected U.S. communities about existing and potential benefits from the local natural environment. The EnviroAtlas community component is based on 1-meter resolution land cover data. Information derived from these data is summarized by census block groups; more spatially explicit map layers are also provided. This fact sheet highlights some of the many community data layers available for the featured area of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
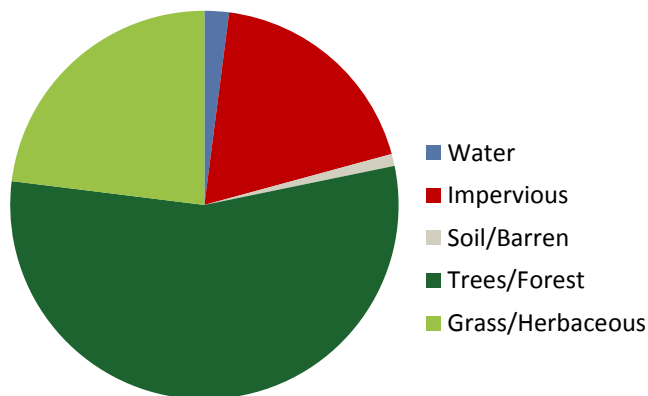
Background

The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area was chosen as an EnviroAtlas community based on a request from EPA Region 3. It also offers multiple opportunities to leverage existing research and community engagement activities, and had received poor air quality ratings that can be evaluated from a green infrastructure perspective. The EnviroAtlas boundary for the Pittsburgh area was determined using the 2010 Census definition of an Urban Area. It includes the

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

city and suburbs of Pittsburgh--most of Allegheny County. The area measures 1,696 square kilometers, and encompasses 1,089 census block groups.

The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area is in the Western Allegheny Plateau ecoregion. It has a severe, humid climate with hot summers and cold winters. This area is vegetated with mixed-oak forests, although much of the area has been extensively mined. The community's economy was based in steel for decades before shifting towards technology industries in recent years. The largest employers include UPM Shadyside Hospital, the University of Pittsburgh, and Giant Eagle supermarkets. The demographics of the Pittsburgh community area indicate that the potential exists

Percent Land Cover in Community Area

- Water
- Impervious
- Soil/Barren
- Trees/Forest
- Grass/Herbaceous

Pittsburgh Area Demographics 2010 Census	
Total population	1,209,128
Under 13 years old	13.78%
Over 70 years of age	12.44%
Other than white/non-Hispanic	19.57%
Below twice the poverty level	27.65%

for income and other disparities in the distribution of environmental assets. EnviroAtlas includes demographic maps that can help screen for potential health and well-being disparities resulting from disproportionate distribution of "green infrastructure."

Ecosystem Services Overview

In EnviroAtlas, the benefits humans receive from nature are grouped into seven categories that demonstrate the interconnectedness of these ecosystem services:

- Clean air
- Clean and plentiful water
- Natural hazard mitigation
- Climate stabilization
- Recreation, culture, and aesthetics
- Biodiversity conservation
- Food, fuel, and materials (data available only for communities with farm land)

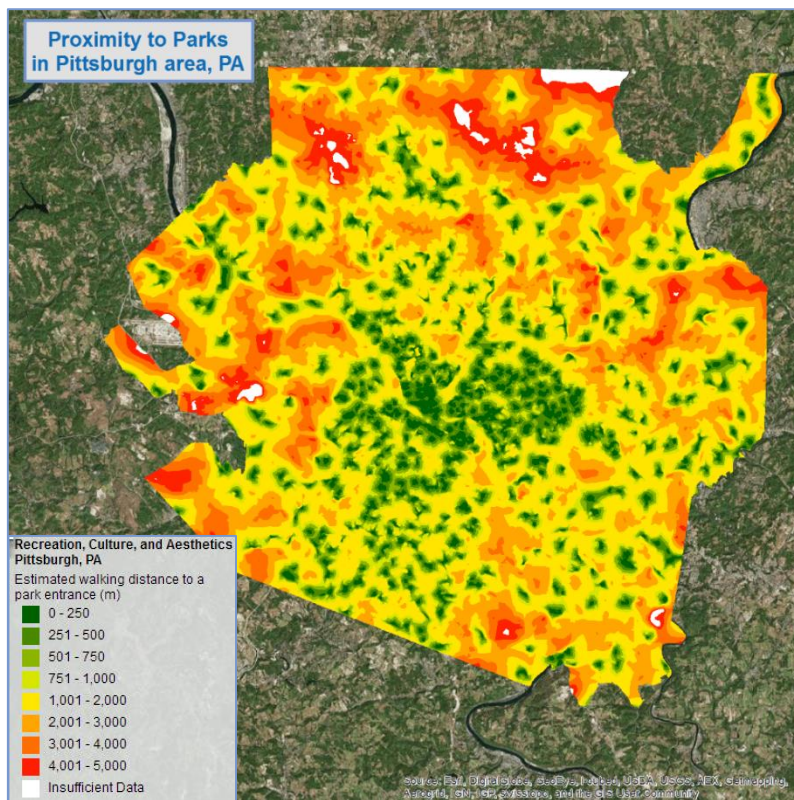Examples of some of the data included in EnviroAtlas are detailed below:

Green Space and Trees

Research indicates that physical and visual access to trees and other green space has positive physiological, cognitive, and emotional benefits. In the Pittsburgh community area:

- There are 1,097 square meters of green space per person.
- 74 out of 508 K-12 Schools have less than 25 percent green space within 100 meters.
- There are 7,196,995 tons of carbon stored in the local tree biomass, with an additional 228,357 tons sequestered annually.
- 3,760,099 kilograms of ozone are removed from the air by local tree biomass every year.

Proximity to Parks in Pittsburgh area, PA

Recreation, Culture, and Aesthetics Pittsburgh, PA
Estimated walking distance to a park entrance (m)
- 0 - 250
- 251 - 500
- 501 - 750
- 751 - 1,000
- 1,001 - 2,000
- 2,001 - 3,000
- 3,001 - 4,000
- 4,001 - 5,000
- Insufficient Data

Access to Parks

Parks provide access to green space, encourage physical activity, and improve the livability and aesthetics of urban areas. Those who live closer to parks may be more likely to receive the multiple benefits associated with this proximity.

- An estimated 14 percent of the Pittsburgh area is located within easy walking distance (500 meters) of a park entrance (dark and medium green areas in figure above).
- An estimated 1.3 percent of the Pittsburgh area does not have a park entrance within 5 kilometers (white areas in figure above).

EnviroAtlas Tools and Features

- Learn more about and download EnviroAtlas data: https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-data
- Search our data layers and access their fact sheets: https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-dynamic-data-matrix
- Explore data for the Pittsburgh community area in our interactive mapping application: https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-interactive-map
- Use our Eco-Health Relationship Browser to explore ecosystems, the services they provide, and their benefits to human health and well-being: https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-eco-health-relationship-browser
- Contact us with questions about EnviroAtlas: https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/forms/contact-enviroatlas

EnviroAtlas combines maps, graphs, and other analysis tools, fact sheets, and downloadable data into an easy-to-use, web-based educational and decision-support tool. EnviroAtlas helps users understand the connections between the benefits we derive from ecosystem services and the natural resources that provide them. For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/enviroatlas.

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