

Update | February 2024



EnviroAtlas Update Bulletin

Keep up with the latest EnviroAtlas news

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Watershed Resource Registries & EnviroAtlas Featured Collection

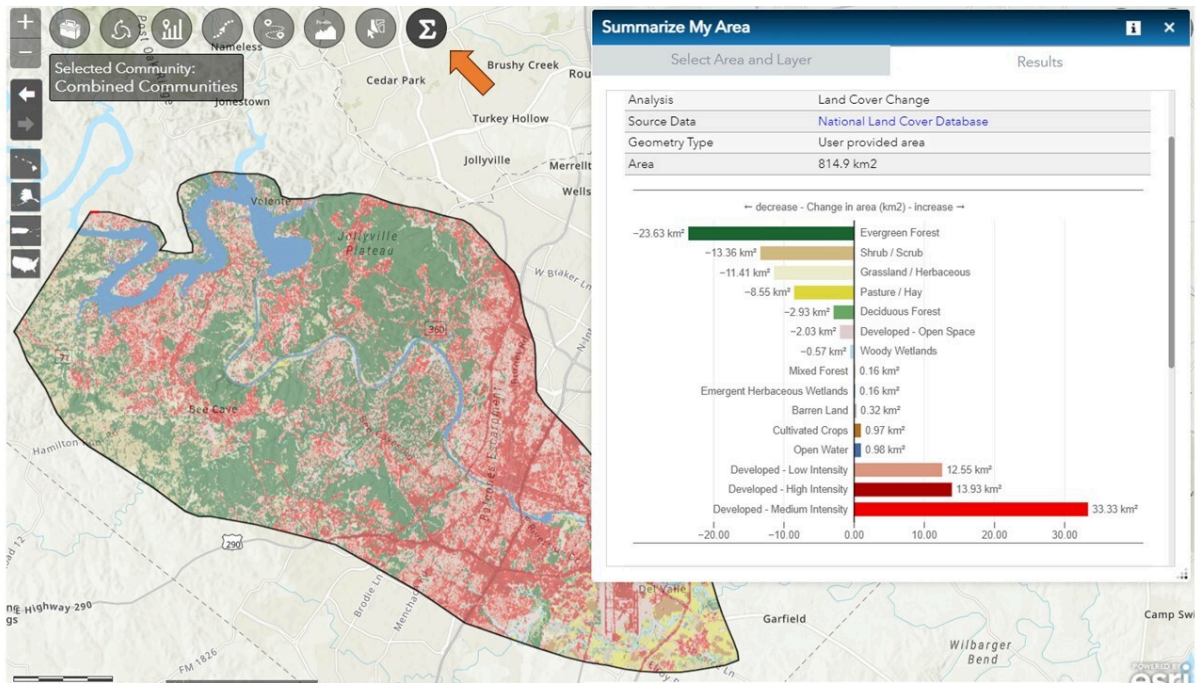
[This map collection](#) will help environmental professionals and water resource stakeholders explore nationally available data on landcover, water and soil, agriculture, wetland presence, species diversity, and potential project opportunity areas related to Water Resource Registries (WRRs). [Watershed Resource Registries](#) are state-specific interactive online mapping tools that host consensus-based restoration and preservation analyses and other publicly available data for regulatory and environmental planning purposes. They were initially designed to help environmental professionals identify quality sites for restoration and preservation purposes but have since evolved into an all-purpose mapping tool featuring an array of original spatial analyses and reports.



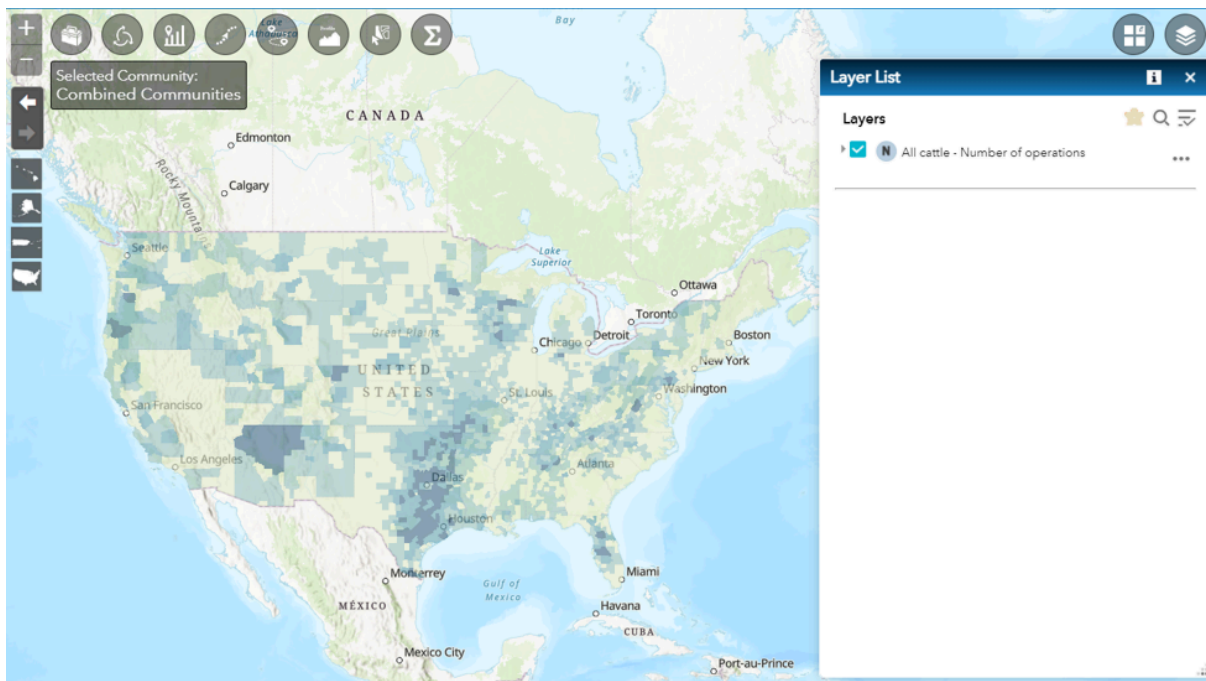
A turtle rests on a bank of the Shenandoah River. Photo credit: Eric Vance (U.S. EPA)

Summarize My Area Widget

The new Summarize My Area tool allows users to calculate landscape characteristic metrics for any area of interest within the EnviroAtlas mapping application. Users can measure current or historic (ca. 2001 – 2019) land cover or land cover change statistics for a user-selected area of interest. Users can choose from Census boundaries, congressional districts, counties, etc, or they can draw their own point, line, or area using the tool. This has been an often-requested feature and we are excited to offer it to our stakeholders! We will be adding additional metrics and functionality to this tool soon so stay tuned!



New & Updated Data



Animal Operations Data

[Newly released National data](#) are available within the interactive map summarizing numbers of animals and animal operations by animal type and county. These new data include the number of animals and operations for cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, and horses. These data are based on the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Census of Agriculture and are displayed in the map for 2017 with values for 2002, 2007, and 2012 also available in the pop-up in the map.

San Diego and Tacoma Community Data

Fine-scale community data and map layers have been added for two new urban areas – San Diego, California, and Tacoma, Washington. The Community Selection tool zooms the interactive map to the community and tailors community-level map legend to represent only the selected community. Users can explore fine-scale data at 1-meter resolution or by US Census block group for more than 1400 cities and towns centered on 32 U.S. urbanized community areas.

New Ecological Integrity of Stream Confluence Catchments and Watersheds data

[The Ecological Integrity of Stream Confluence Catchments and Watershed](#) layer displays stream confluences on the map with a classification of the ecological integrity of their catchments and upstream contributing watersheds on a scale of "poor" to "good". Here, we define stream confluences as locations where two or more streams meet.

Updated Dasymetric Population Data

[The Dasymetric Allocation of Population](#) map layer, which reallocates people counted in the US Census decadal surveys to 30 by 30-meter pixels, has been updated using an improved methodology. The updated data are available for the 2010 and the 2020 US Census surveys. The new methodology identified many more places where people do not live (e.g. cemeteries, shopping malls, airports, industrial areas, etc), allowing a more accurate representation of population density.

[Explore these updates in the Interactive Map >>](#)

Updates to Downloadable Geospatial Toolbox

Analytical Tools Interface for Landscape Assessments (ATtILA)



[The ATtILA toolbox](#) works in ESRI's ArcGis Pro environment and allows users to calculate many of the EnviroAtlas ecosystem services indicators with their own input data and parameters. This update upgraded the toolbox to a modern software version. New tools and functionality were included primarily around high resolution (i.e., "EnviroAtlas community metrics") indicators such as land cover near facilities (schools, daycares, etc.), intersection density, views of water, and per capita measures of landscape characteristics. This software will allow users to calculate many of the EnviroAtlas metrics faster and reduce the chance of errors.

Educational Materials

EnviroAtlas' newest educational activity and lesson plan: Considering Environmental Justice in Building a Greenway, adapted from the original Building a Greenway: A Case Study lesson plan is publicly available from the [Building a Greenway educational materials page](#). The new lesson plan incorporates the use of EJSCREEN in tandem with EnviroAtlas to encourage equity in the decision making process. The activity promotes student discovery using available maps and data, whilst engaging students to be collaborative decision-makers.

ECAT Tool Decommissioning

The ECAT tool is currently unavailable due to an incompatibility introduced by a recent necessary software update. The EnviroAtlas team is actively exploring options to replace this functionality.

New Publications

Dasymetric Data

Baynes, J., Neale, A., & Hultgren, T. (2022). Improving intelligent dasymetric mapping population density estimates at 30 m resolution for the conterminous United States by excluding uninhabited areas. *Earth System Science Data*, 14(6), 2833–2849. <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-14-2833-2022>

Stream Confluences

Ebert, D., Wickham, J., Neale, A., & Mehaffey, M. (2020). A landscape assessment and associated dataset of stream confluences for the Conterminous U.S. *JAWRA Journal of the American Water Resources Association*, 57(2), 315–327. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1752-1688.12899>

Environmental Justice

Hartley, J. M., Lobatos, S., Daniel, J. L., & Lung, T. (2021). Empowering Environmental Justice Decision Makers: Increasing educational resources for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's mapping tools. *Environmental Justice*, 14(5), 383–390. <https://doi.org/10.1089/env.2021.0037>

Forest Recovery

Wickham, J., Neale, A., Riitters, K., Nash, M., Dewitz, J., Jin, S., van Fossen, M., & Rosenbaum, D. (2023). Where forest may not return in the Western United States. *Ecological Indicators*, 146, 109756. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2022.109756>

EnviroAtlas provides geospatial data, easy-to-use tools, and other resources related to ecosystem services, their stressors, and human health.

Have question or comments for the EnviroAtlas team? [Contact us!](#)



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