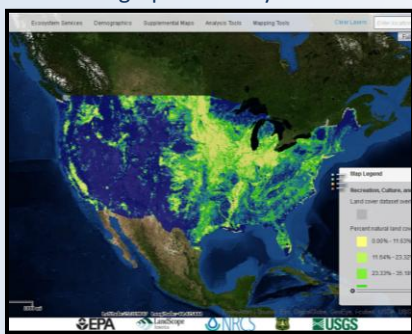


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EnviroAtlas

A collaborative effort led by the US EPA. Project partners include the USGS, NRCS, the US Forest Service, NatureServe and the National Geographic Society.



EnviroAtlas is a web-based tool that allows users to access, view, and analyze diverse information focusing on the benefits that humans receive from their environment and how these benefits affect health and well-being.

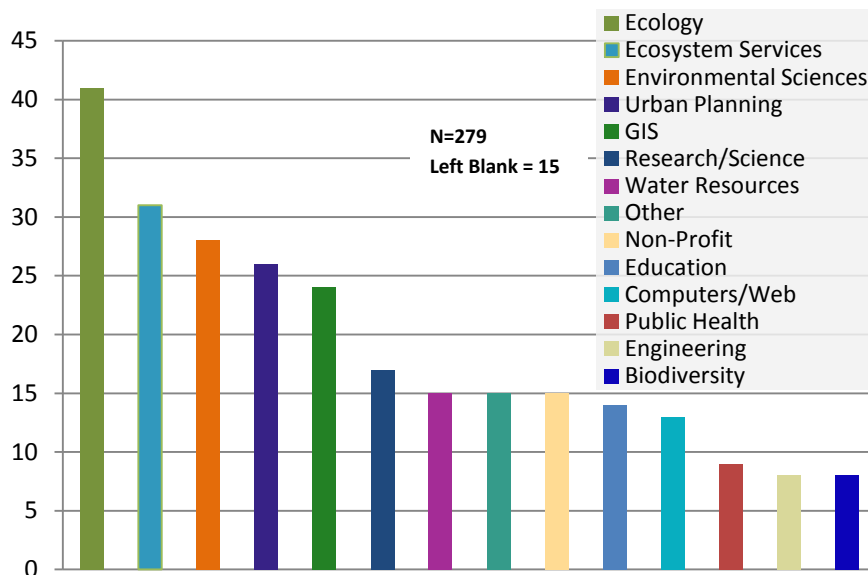
The EnviroAtlas Interactive Map is multi-scaled, with data available at a broad scale (12-digit HUCs) for the lower 48 states and a finer scale (census block group) for selected communities. There are currently two communities that have data available, summarized at the census block group level: Durham, NC and Portland, ME.

Multiple user groups can use this information in EnviroAtlas to gain a better understanding of how various decisions can affect an array of ecological and human health outcomes.

EnviroAtlas Update

A working prototype of EnviroAtlas is currently available for beta testing. Since beta-testing began in June 2013, more than 275 people with diverse jobs and backgrounds have registered. These individuals are from multiple sectors: 48% from various levels of government, 20% from education, 16% from non-profit, and 14% from the private sector.

EnviroAtlas Beta-test Registrants by Job Field



The beta version of the website will remain online until EnviroAtlas is ready for public release in January 2014. Results from the beta-test and feedback survey will continually be collected and analyzed for trends in responses. This feedback will be used to improve EnviroAtlas and set priorities for future changes to functionality and content, as well as in the addition of analysis tools. Thus far, feedback has largely been positive and testers have conveyed interest in using the current product and future iterations of EnviroAtlas.

What's New?

Based on beta-tester feedback, several changes have been made to increase user experience with EnviroAtlas.

Functionality

- A link to the EnviroAtlas data matrix has been added to the website home page and to the Interactive Map. Users can easily access the data matrix to see a list of all the current EnviroAtlas data layers and the benefit categories that they are linked to in the Table of Contents

Profiles: Who is using EnviroAtlas?



Kathleen F. Bush
*Environmental Health
Fellow*

Katie Bush is an Adjunct Professor and Research Associate at Plymouth State University's Center for the Environment and an ASPPH/ EPA Environmental Health Fellow. Her research primarily has focused on human health, global environmental change, and sustainability. With the help of EnviroAtlas, she recently evaluated the effects that green space, tree cover, and tree buffer along major roads have on birth outcomes. This work was done in collaboration with the University of Michigan's Children's Environmental Health Initiative.

EnviroAtlas Data used

- 1m land cover data for Durham, NC

Additional Data used

- NCDOT Road Characteristics Arc dataset
- North Carolina Detailed Birth Record database

Process: Birth data were overlaid with landcover data. The association between residential green space and birth outcomes was explored using regression models. Several residential buffers (50m, 100m, 250m, & 500m) were explored. Tree buffers along major roads were calculated using methods similar to EnviroAtlas near road analyses.

Findings:

- A 10% increase in residential green space within a 50m radius around the home was associated with a small increase in birthweight.
- Tree cover along major roads was associated with an increase in birth weight and a reduction in the risk of low birth weight and pre-term birth.

Future Steps: Refine these analyses to further explore the potential for tree cover to mitigate the effects of near-road air pollution exposure. Explore sociodemographic factors and use similar methods in future analyses to look at the association between residential green space and cognitive health outcomes.

(TOC). This will allow people to view all data layers and more easily find the data layers they are looking for. The layer names also link to the Metadata/Data Download.

- The Interactive Map has been updated to decrease loading time. The map starts up more quickly, and items such as the TOC and legend appear much faster.
- The items in the legend have been condensed so that users can see the entire legend and it does not take up as much of the screen footprint.

Content

- Over 20 new fact sheets have been added to provide additional information on both National and Community data layers.

Coming Soon

EnviroAtlas is still a beta product and there will be many updates and releases of the website in the future. Current plans for EnviroAtlas extend out to 2018, with additional data, analysis tools, and map functionality in the works. Expect these changes in the near future:

- By January 2014, the number of EnviroAtlas communities will be expanded from two to six, including the following new communities: Tampa, FL; Phoenix, AZ; Milwaukee, WI; and Pittsburgh, PA.
- In the community component, new metrics on connectivity, core forest habitat, and edge habitat will be added for Portland, ME, Durham, NC, and Tampa, FL.
- The Ecosystem Rarity Tool Kit and Version 3 of [AGWA](#) (Automated Geospatial Watershed Assessment Tool) will be added to the EnviroAtlas website.

Several changes will also take place to continue to improve the experience that users have with the user interface, including repositioning the legend and turning the navigate tools on by default.

Tips and Helpful Hints

- The EnviroAtlas Interactive Map has blendable base maps. Click "Basemap" in the top right corner of the Map and drag the slider bar to blend two adjacent base maps.
- The Print function, found under "Mapping Tools" in the Interactive Map, allows you to print your current map without the surrounding browser window.

Reminder

You are subscribed to this EnviroAtlas Update list because you selected the option to receive updates on the EnviroAtlas beta-test registration page, or in your response survey. If you would like to unsubscribe from this list, please email us here EnviroAtlasBetaTester@epa.gov.

Are you currently using EnviroAtlas for a project? Let us know, and you could be our next profile!