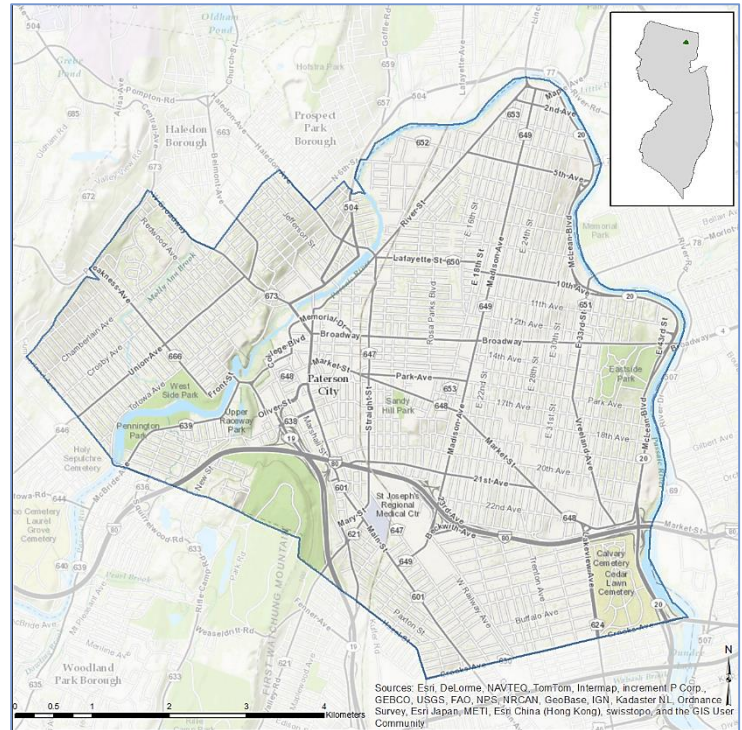# Paterson, NJ and surrounding area

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 our website.

For selected U.S. communities, EnviroAtlas includes fine-scale maps and other information about existing and potential benefits from the local natural environment. This fact sheet highlights some of the many community data layers available.
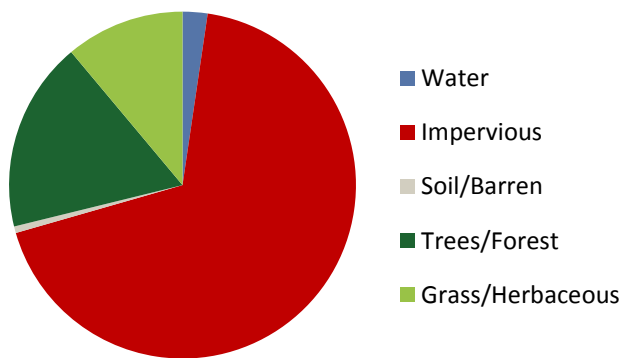
Background

The Paterson, NJ area was chosen as an EnviroAtlas community because it is a priority area for EPA Region 2. The EnviroAtlas boundary for the Paterson area was determined using the 2011 municipal area from NAVTEQ. The area measures 23 square kilometers, and encompasses 107 census block groups.

The Paterson, NJ area is in the Northern Piedmont ecoregion. It has a transitional climate with hot summers and mild to cold winters. Historically, the area was vegetated with Appalachian oak forests; however, much of the natural vegetation has been removed for farming and urbanization. There is significant urban and suburban development, surrounded primarily by agriculture. Paterson

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

was once a major silk production area and the current industries are primarily related to fabric production such as dyeing and polymers. The largest employers in the area are St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, the City of Paterson, and William Paterson University. The demographics of the Paterson community area indicate that the potential exists 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."

Percent Land Cover in Community Area

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

Paterson Area Demographics	
Total population	146,199
Under 13 years old	20.01%
Over 70 years of age	5.82%
Other than white/non-Hispanic	90.82%
Below twice the U.S. poverty level	51.52%

Ecosystem Services Overview

In EnviroAtlas, ecosystem services are organized into seven benefit categories:

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

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

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 multiple benefits associated with this proximity. In the interactive map's table of contents, proximity to parks layers can be found in the Recreation, Culture, and Aesthetics benefit category.

- An estimated 55 percent of the Paterson area is located within easy walking distance (500 meters) of a park entrance.
- An estimated 30 percent of the Paterson population lives beyond easy walking distance (500 meters) of a park entrance.

Stream and Lake Buffers

Natural land cover adjacent to streams and rivers, sometimes called the riparian area or zone, helps protect water quality and supply for drinking, recreation, and aquatic habitat. The EnviroAtlas community component analyzes stream and lake buffers with widths of 15 and 50 meters.

50 Meter Stream and Lake Buffers in Paterson, NJ

Clean And Plentiful Water - Paterson, NJ
Estimated tree cover in 50m buffer (percent)
- 0 - 20
- 21 - 40
- 41 - 60
- 61 - 80
- 81 - 100

Percent tree cover in 50m buffer
- 0 - 9
- 10 - 22
- 23 - 33
- 34 - 45
- 46 - 78
- No Buffer Area

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

- An estimated 5.3 percent of Paterson's land area is within 50 meters of a stream or lake.
- 32 percent of Paterson's 50 meter stream and lake buffers contain less than 20 percent tree cover (shorelines indicated by red lines in the figure above).

In the interactive map's table of contents, stream and lake buffer layers can be found in the Clean and Plentiful Water, Natural Hazard Mitigation, Recreation, Culture, and Aesthetics, and Biodiversity Conservation benefit categories.

EnviroAtlas Tools and Features

- [EnviroAtlas Community Component](): data layers based on 1-meter land cover summarized to the block group scale
- [EnviroAtlas National Component](): data layers based on 30-meter land cover summarized to the watershed scale
- [EnviroAtlas Interactive Map](): go directly to the interactive map
- [EnviroAtlas Fact Sheets](): Describe the project, each community, and each data layer in detail
- [Eco-Health Relationship Browser](): An interactive relational tool that explores ecosystems, the services they provide, and benefits to human health and well-being.
- [Contact the EnviroAtlas Team](): Please contact us if you have any questions about EnviroAtlas.

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