

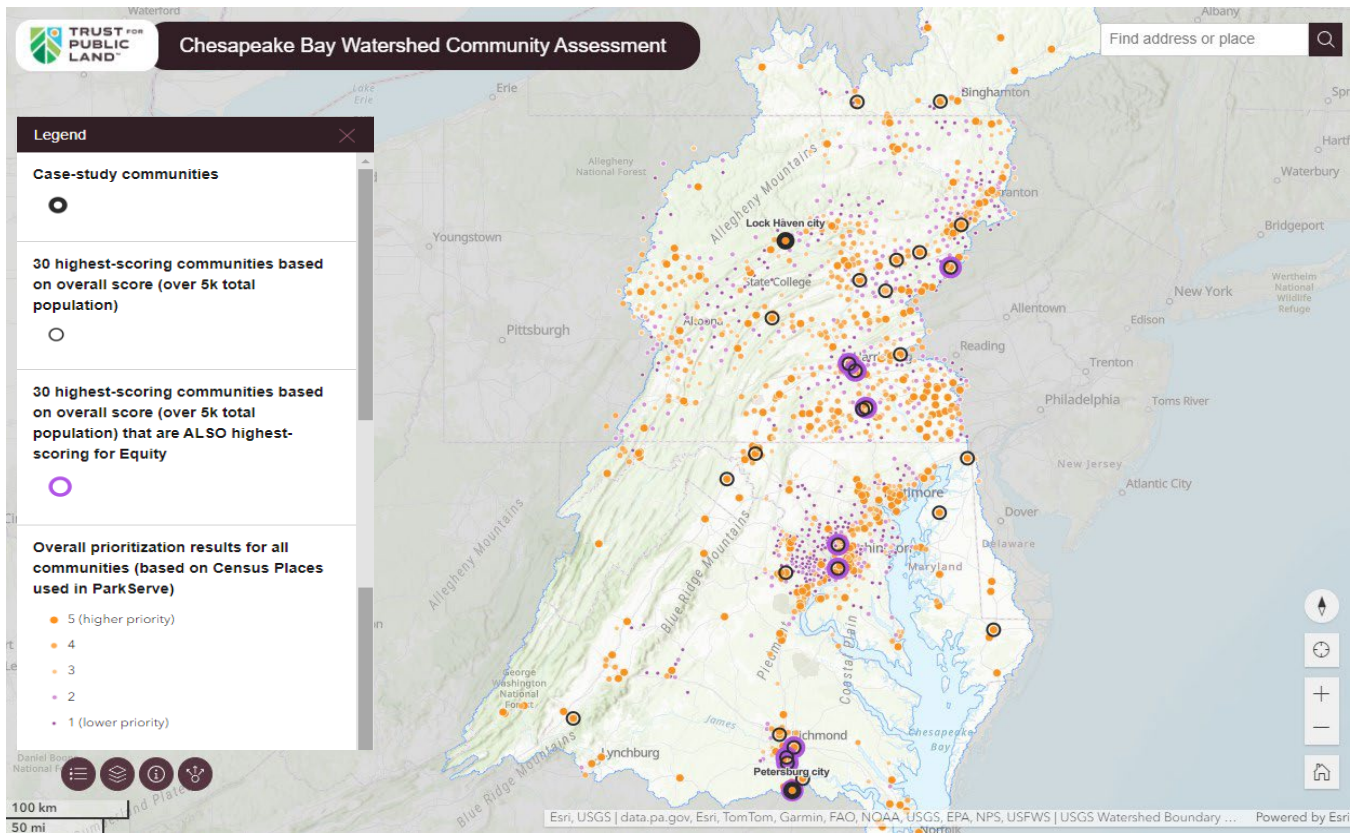


TRUST FOR
PUBLIC
LAND™

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CHESAPEAKE
GATEWAYS

Programmatic Partner



Explore the community assessment results in this [interactive map](#).

Where can parks & greenspace investment support Chesapeake Bay communities?

A mapping tool for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and “Roadmap” reports for Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, show how parks can be used to address community needs

A new **mapping tool** and three state-specific **Roadmaps to Greener Communities** reports developed by Trust for Public Land (TPL) for the National Park Service (NPS) Chesapeake Gateways identify stressors a community may be facing that could be addressed through park and greenspace investment and strategies to prioritize **and** fund local improvements.

To illustrate **where parks and greenspace could drive the most systemic change in health, climate, and equity** outcomes and **economic opportunity** in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, TPL scored more than 1,300 towns and cities based on a suite of city-level metrics across five categories: health; equity; climate; park access; and economics. Results can be viewed on the free mapping tool. The roadmap reports for [Maryland](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Virginia](#) provide guidance for local community and government leaders on the important role parks and greenspace can play to improve opportunity and quality of life.

Community Assessment process

TPL developed this analysis with input from NPS Chesapeake Gateways, a Community of Practice comprised of private and public organizations and agencies across the Chesapeake Watershed, and national TPL experts on park access, equity, land protection, parks/conservation economics, and geographic information systems (GIS). TPL drew on a range of available resources and analyses when considering potential criteria to use in the assessment, including:

- TPL national analyses: ParkServe®/ParkScore® and Community Schoolyards® prioritization
- TPL/Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources (PA DCNR) community scoring analysis
- Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP) Green Space Equity Tool
- CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)
- University of Maryland (UMD) Chesapeake Bay & Watershed 2022 Report Card
- Maryland Park Equity Mapper
- Chesapeake Justice and Equity Dashboard
- Chesapeake Bay Program Public Access Workgroup: Benefits and Barriers Research Report

These are the final 22 criteria, organized by the project’s goals, that TPL and the Community of Practice selected to **explore demographics, social conditions, economic conditions, and environmental impacts across Chesapeake Watershed communities:**

Health	Equity	Climate	Park access	Economic
Physical inactivity	People of color	Urban heat islands	People without a park within a 10-minute walk of home	Income inequality
Poor mental health	Low income households	Pollution burden	Park acres per capita	Housing-burdened households
Low life expectancy	Adults with less than High School education/diploma or equivalent	Impervious cover	People accessible by transit	Unemployed people
	People living in limited English-speaking household	303(d) catchment that drains to a 303(d) impaired stream		Opportunity zones
	Civilians with a disability	Tree canopy		
	No-vehicle households	Flood zones		

Community scoring:
 TPL equally-weighted the five goals and 22 criteria and generated scores between 0-1 for each of the towns/cities. The final scores ranged from 0.20 - 0.73.
 For map visualization purposes, TPL created a 1-5 index (5 being the highest priority for pilot roadmap selection) based on the 0.20-0.73 scores.

([click here](#) to view more details, including data sources, for the criteria above)

How you can use the mapping assessment and state-specific roadmap reports

You can use the [interactive map](#) to find your community in the Chesapeake Watershed and explore stressors that could be addressed through park and greenspace investment. By clicking on your community within the map, you can see overall scores as well as scores specific to health, equity, climate, park access or economics.

TPL, NPS, and a Community of Practice used the mapping analysis to guide the selection of states and communities to focus on for the pilot Roadmap reports. You can read those reports, including local community case studies, here: [Maryland](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Virginia](#).



Connecting everyone to the outdoors™
 tpl.org

Contact us with any questions on the assessment or the roadmap reports

Name: Lindsay Withers (Project Lead)
 Email: Lindsay.Withers@tpl.org