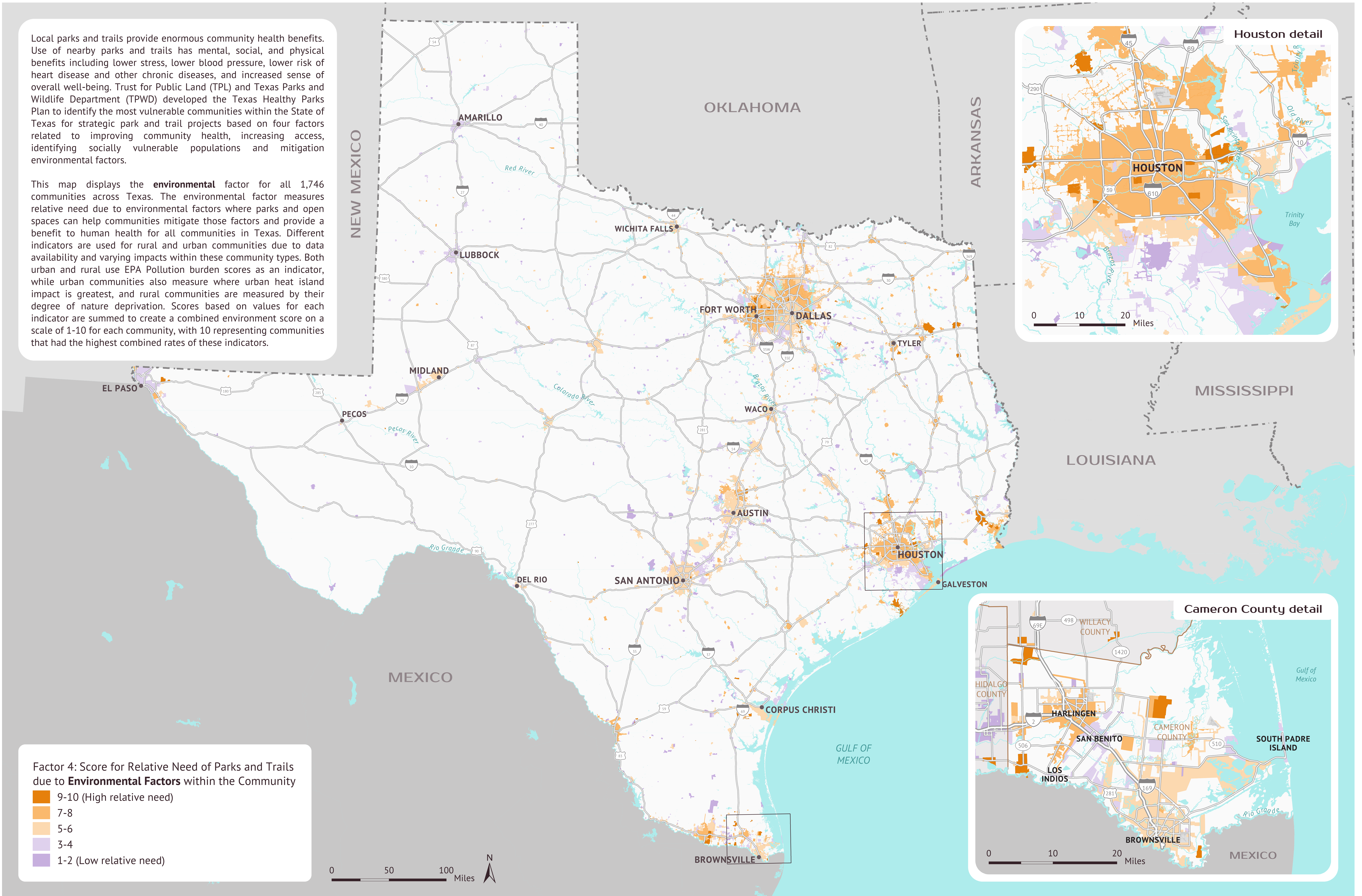


Local parks and trails provide enormous community health benefits. Use of nearby parks and trails has mental, social, and physical benefits including lower stress, lower blood pressure, lower risk of heart disease and other chronic diseases, and increased sense of overall well-being. Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) developed the Texas Healthy Parks Plan to identify the most vulnerable communities within the State of Texas for strategic park and trail projects based on four factors related to improving community health, increasing access, identifying socially vulnerable populations and mitigation environmental factors.

This map displays the **environmental** factor for all 1,746 communities across Texas. The environmental factor measures relative need due to environmental factors where parks and open spaces can help communities mitigate those factors and provide a benefit to human health for all communities in Texas. Different indicators are used for rural and urban communities due to data availability and varying impacts within these community types. Both urban and rural use EPA Pollution burden scores as an indicator, while urban communities also measure where urban heat island impact is greatest, and rural communities are measured by their degree of nature deprivation. Scores based on values for each indicator are summed to create a combined environment score on a scale of 1-10 for each community, with 10 representing communities that had the highest combined rates of these indicators.



Factor 4: Score for Relative Need of Parks and Trails due to Environmental Factors within the Community

TEXAS HEALTHY PARKS PLAN