

Southeast Conservation Blueprint Summary

for West Virginia

Created 01/19/2024

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The Southeast
Conservation
Adaptation Strategy

SECAS



The Southeast Conservation Blueprint 2023

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About the Southeast Blueprint

The Southeast Conservation Blueprint is the primary product of the [Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy](#) (SECAS). It is a living, spatial plan to achieve the SECAS vision of a connected network of lands and waters across the Southeast and Caribbean. The Blueprint is regularly updated to incorporate new data, partner input, and information about on-the-ground conditions.

The Blueprint identifies priority areas based on a suite of natural and cultural resource indicators representing terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. A connectivity analysis identifies corridors that link coastal and inland areas and span climate gradients.

For more information:

- Visit the [Blueprint webpage](#)
- Review the [Blueprint 2023 Development Process](#)
- View and download the Blueprint data and make maps on the [Blueprint page of the SECAS Atlas](#)

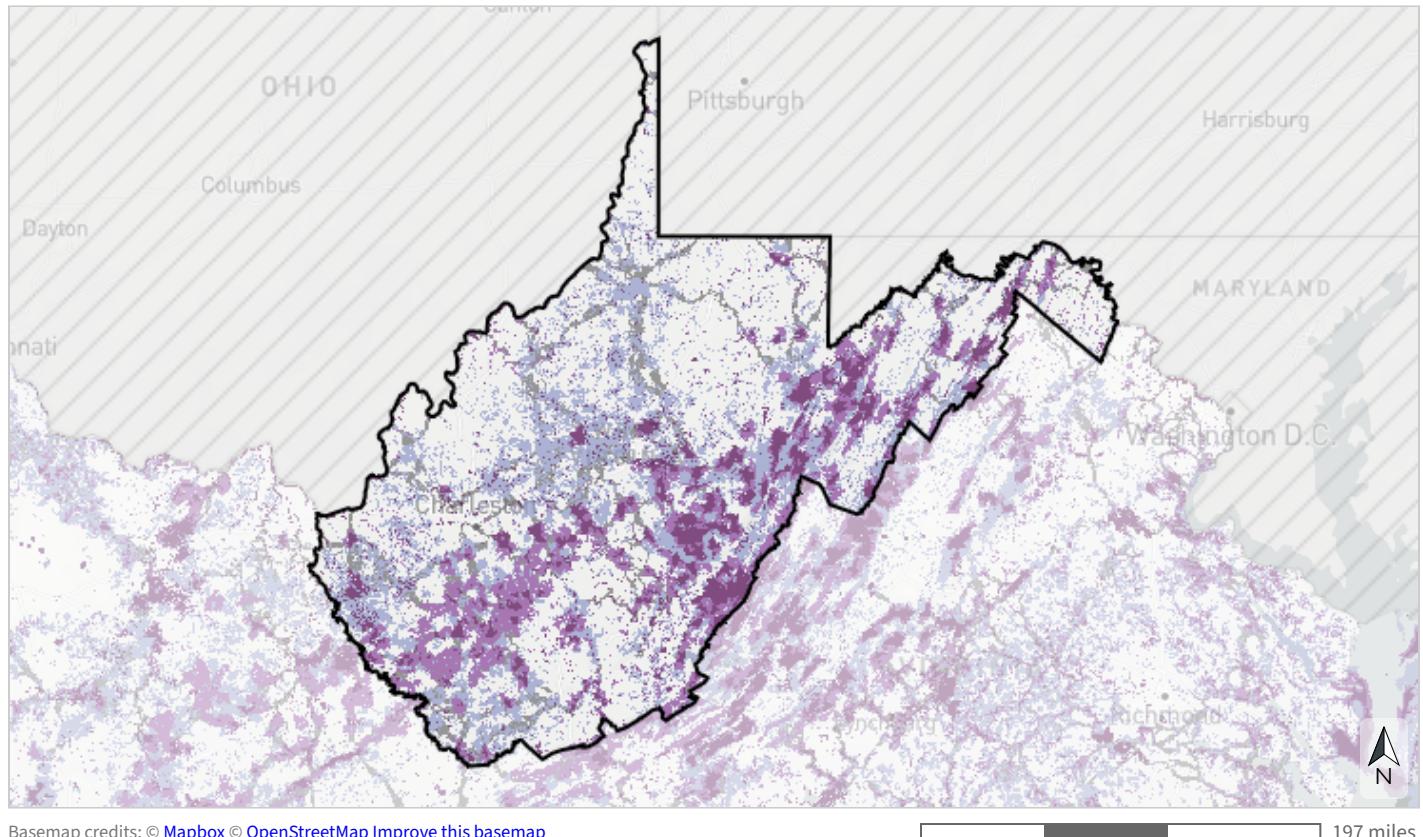
We're here to help!

- Do you have a question about the Blueprint?
- Would you like help using the Blueprint to support a proposal or inform a decision?
- Do you have a suggestion on how to improve the Blueprint? The Blueprint and its inputs are regularly revised based on input from people like you.
- Do you have feedback on how to improve the Simple Viewer interface?

If you need help or have questions, [contact Southeast Blueprint staff](#) by reaching out to a member of the user support team.

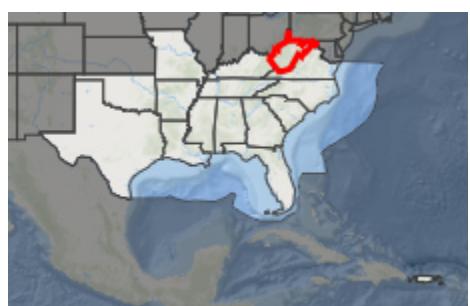
We're here to support you. We really mean it. It's what we do!

Southeast Blueprint Priorities



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Priorities for a connected network of lands and waters

- Highest priority
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Priority connections

Priority Categories

For a connected network of lands and waters

In total, Blueprint priorities and priority connections cover roughly 50% of the Southeast Blueprint geography.

Highest priority

Areas where conservation action would make the biggest impact, based on a suite of natural and cultural resource indicators. This class covers roughly 10% of the Southeast Blueprint geography.

High priority

Areas where conservation action would make a big impact, based on a suite of natural and cultural resource indicators. This class covers roughly 15% of the Southeast Blueprint geography.

Medium priority

Areas where conservation action would make an above-average impact, based on a suite of natural and cultural resource indicators. This class covers roughly 20% of the Southeast Blueprint geography.

Priority connections

Connections between priority areas that cover the shortest distance possible while routing through as much Blueprint priority as possible. This class covers roughly 5% of the Southeast Blueprint geography.

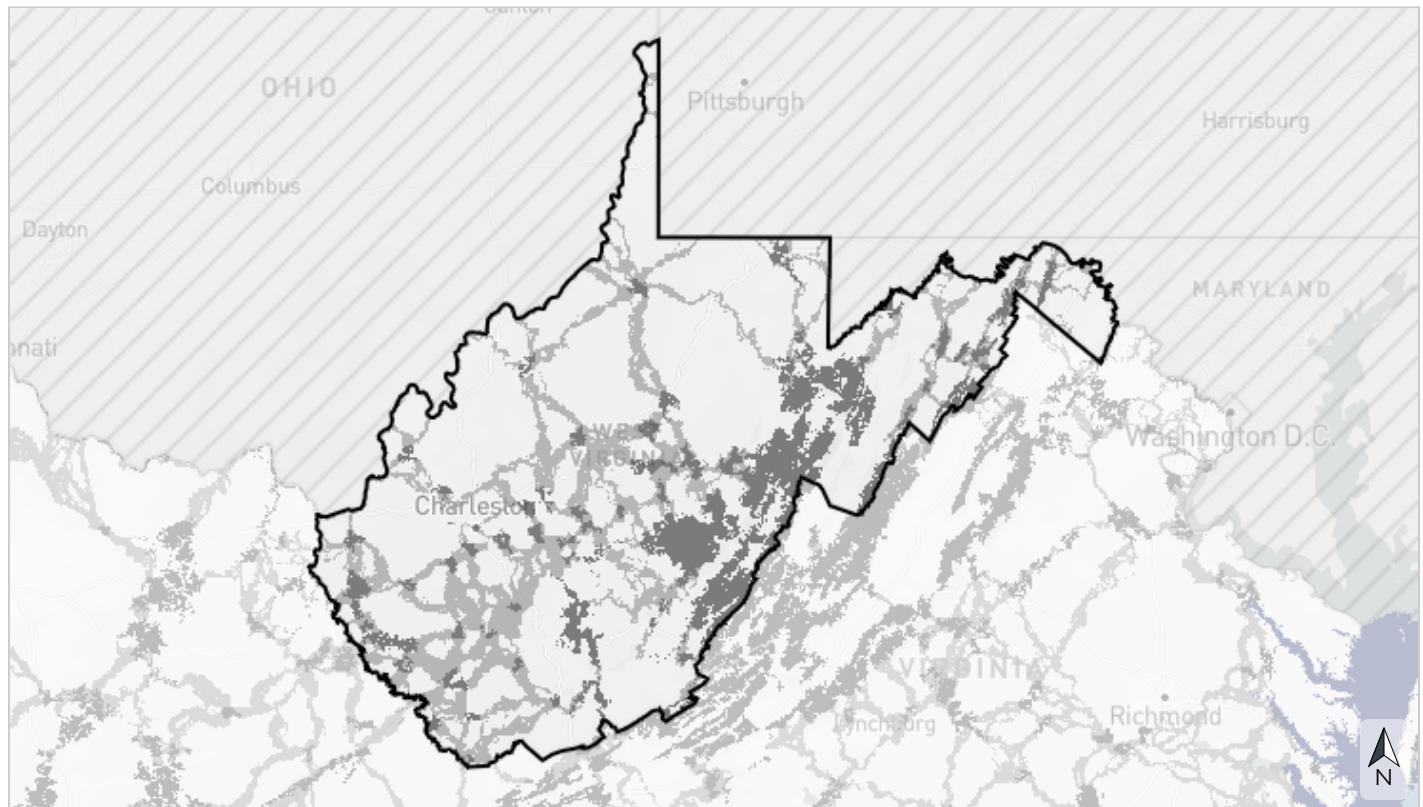
Table 1: Extent of each Blueprint priority category within West Virginia.

Priority Category	Acres	Percent of Area
Highest priority	1,416,520	9.1%
High priority	1,977,858	12.8%
Medium priority	3,359,043	21.7%
Priority connections	932,691	6.0%
Lower priority	7,820,152	50.4%
Total area	15,506,263	100%

Hubs and Corridors

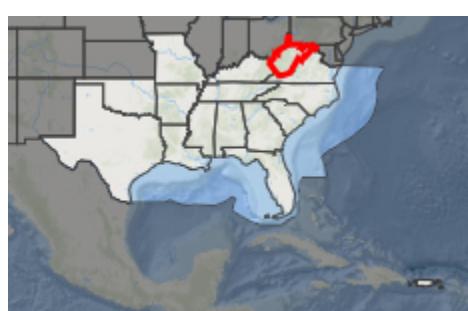
The Blueprint uses a least-cost path connectivity analysis to identify corridors that link hubs across the shortest distance possible, while also routing through as much Blueprint priority as possible.

Inland hubs are large patches (~5,000+ acres) of highest priority Blueprint areas and/or protected lands, connected by inland corridors.



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- Inland continental hubs
- Inland continental corridors
- Not a hub or corridor

Table 2: Extent of hubs and corridors within West Virginia.

Type	Acres	Percent of Area
Inland continental hubs	2,030,573	13.1%
Inland continental corridors	2,961,855	19.1%
Not a hub or corridor	10,513,835	67.8%
Total area	15,506,263	100%

Indicator Summary

Table 3: Terrestrial indicators.

Indicator	Present
East Coastal Plain open pine birds	-
Equitable access to potential parks	✓
Fire frequency	✓
Greenways & trails	✓
Intact habitat cores	✓
Interior Southeast grasslands	✓
Resilient terrestrial sites	✓
South Atlantic amphibian & reptile areas	-
South Atlantic forest birds	-
South Atlantic low-urban historic landscapes	-
Urban park size	✓

Table 4: Freshwater indicators.

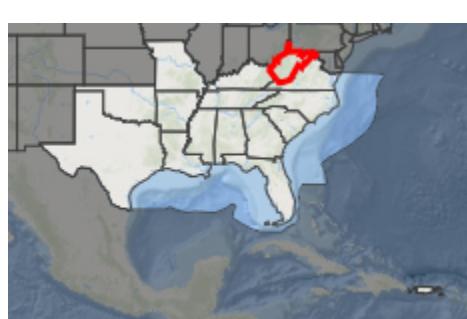
Indicator	Present
Atlantic migratory fish habitat	✓
Imperiled aquatic species	-
Natural landcover in floodplains	✓
Network complexity	✓
Permeable surface	✓
West Virginia imperiled aquatic species	✓



Terrestrial

Equitable access to potential parks

This cultural resource indicator prioritizes places to create new parks that would fill gaps in equitable access to open space within socially vulnerable communities in urban areas. It identifies areas where residents currently lack access to parks within a 10-minute walk (accounting for walkable road networks and access barriers like highways and fences), then prioritizes based on park need using demographic and environmental metrics. Parks help improve public health, foster a conservation ethic by providing opportunities for people to connect with nature, and support critical ecosystem services. This indicator originates from the Trust for Public Land's ParkServe park priority areas and the Center for Disease Control's Social Vulnerability Index.



Priority for a new park that would create nearby equitable access

- Very high priority
- High priority
- Moderate priority
- Not identified as a priority (within urban areas)

Table 5: Indicator values for equitable access to potential parks within West Virginia. A good condition threshold is not yet defined for this indicator.

Indicator Values: Priority for a new park that would create nearby equitable access		Acres	Percent of Area
↑ High	Very high priority	24,335	0.2%
	High priority	16,652	0.1%
	Moderate priority	27,976	0.2%
↓ Low	Not identified as a priority (within urban areas)	15,437,301	99.6%
Total area		15,506,263	100%

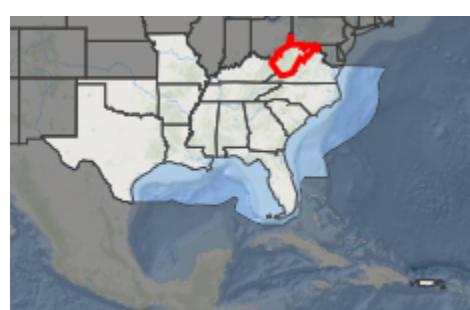
To learn more and explore the GIS data, [view this indicator in the SECAS Atlas](#).



Terrestrial

Fire frequency

This indicator uses remote sensing to estimate the number of times an area has been burned from 2013 to 2021. Many Southeastern ecosystems rely on regular, low-intensity fires to maintain habitat, encourage native plant growth, and reduce wildfire risk. This indicator combines burned area layers from U.S. Geological Survey Landsat data and the inter-agency Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity program. Landsat-based fire predictions within the range of longleaf pine are also available through [Southeast FireMap](#).



- Burned 3+ times from 2013-2021
- Burned 2 times from 2013-2021
- Burned 1 time from 2013-2021
- Not burned from 2013-2021 or row crop

Table 6: Indicator values for fire frequency within West Virginia. Good condition thresholds reflect the range of indicator values that occur in healthy, functioning ecosystems.

	Indicator Values	Acres	Percent of Area	
↑ High	Burned 3+ times from 2013-2021	675	<0.1%	↑ In good condition
	Burned 2 times from 2013-2021	1,937	<0.1%	
	Burned 1 time from 2013-2021	93,661	0.6%	
↓ Low	Not burned from 2013-2021 or row crop	15,409,991	99.4%	↓ Not in good condition
Total area		15,506,263	100%	

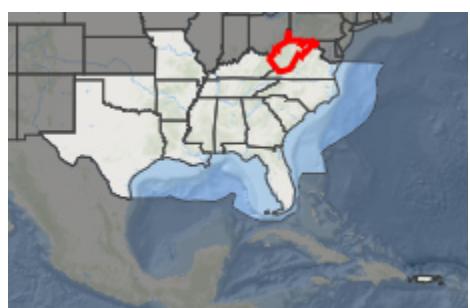
To learn more and explore the GIS data, [view this indicator in the SECAS Atlas](#).



Terrestrial

Greenways & trails

This cultural resource indicator measures both the natural condition and connected length of greenways and trails to characterize the quality of the recreational experience. Natural condition is based on the amount of impervious surface surrounding the path. Connected length captures how far a person can go without leaving a dedicated path, based on common distances for walking, running, and biking. This indicator originates from OpenStreetMap data and the National Land Cover Database.



- Mostly natural and connected for ≥ 40 km
- Mostly natural and connected for 5 to < 40 km or partly natural and connected for ≥ 40 km
- Mostly natural and connected for 1.9 to < 5 km, partly natural and connected for 5 to < 40 km, or developed and connected for ≥ 40 km
- Mostly natural and connected for < 1.9 km, partly natural and connected for 1.9 to < 5 km, or developed and connected for 5 to < 40 km
- Partly natural and connected for < 1.9 km or developed and connected for 1.9 to < 5 km
- Developed and connected for < 1.9 km
- Sidewalk
- Not identified as a trail, sidewalk, or other path

Table 7: Indicator values for greenways & trails within West Virginia. Good condition thresholds reflect the range of indicator values that occur in healthy, functioning ecosystems.

	Indicator Values	Acres	Percent of Area
↑ High	Mostly natural and connected for ≥ 40 km	7,326	<0.1%
	Mostly natural and connected for 5 to < 40 km or partly natural and connected for ≥ 40 km	12,027	<0.1%
	Mostly natural and connected for 1.9 to < 5 km, partly natural and connected for 5 to < 40 km, or developed and connected for ≥ 40 km	6,416	<0.1%
	Mostly natural and connected for < 1.9 km, partly natural and connected for 1.9 to < 5 km, or developed and connected for 5 to < 40 km	3,435	<0.1%
	Partly natural and connected for < 1.9 km or developed and connected for 1.9 to < 5 km	1,206	<0.1%
	Developed and connected for < 1.9 km	1,687	<0.1%
	Sidewalk	4,252	<0.1%
↓ Low	Not identified as a trail, sidewalk, or other path	15,469,915	99.8%
Total area		15,506,263	100%

↑ In good condition

↓ Not in good condition

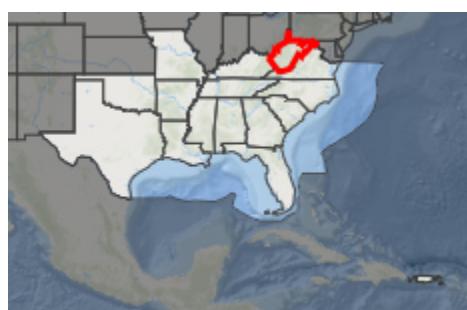
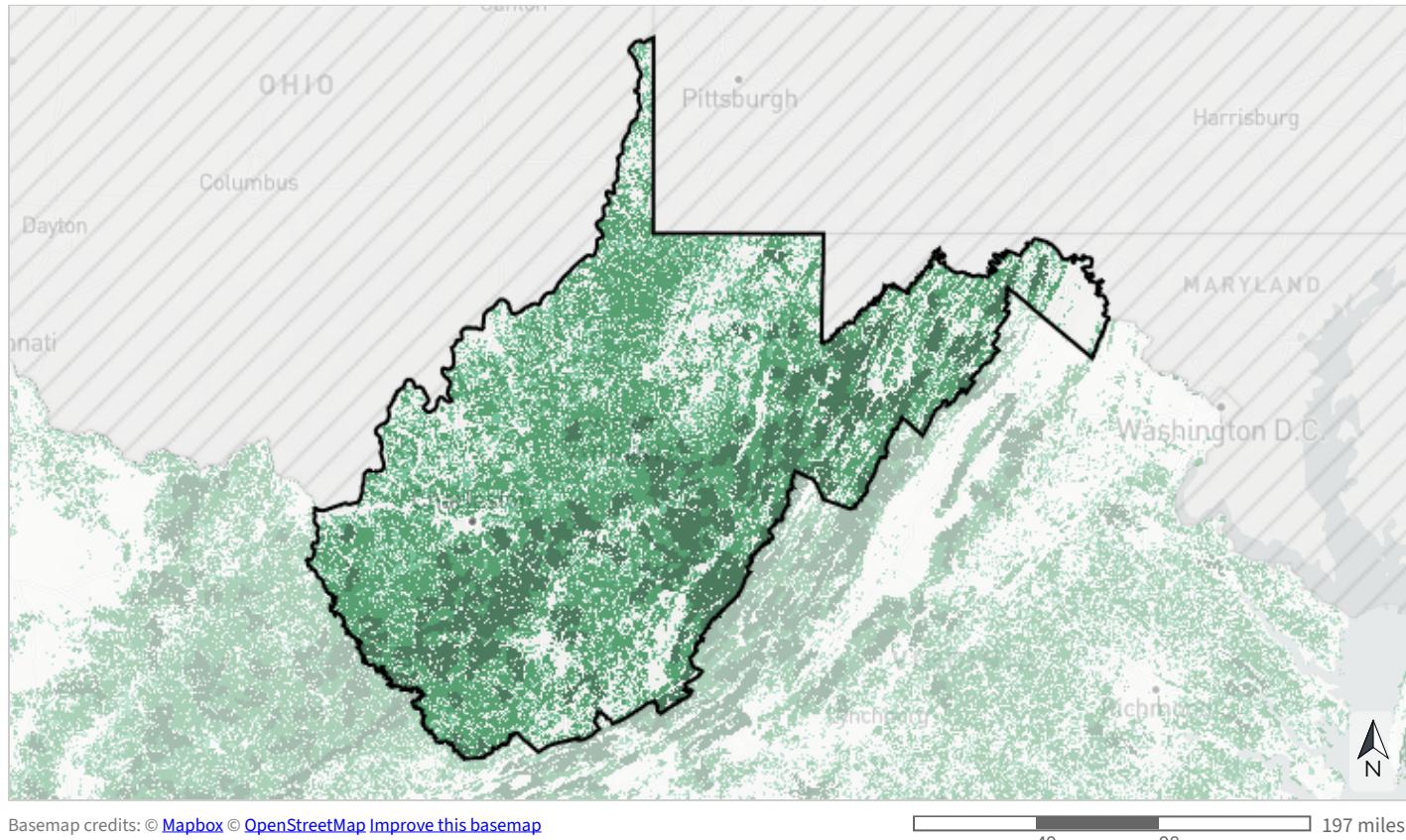
To learn more and explore the GIS data, [view this indicator in the SECAS Atlas](#).



Terrestrial

Intact habitat cores

This indicator represents the size of large, unfragmented patches of natural habitat. It identifies minimally disturbed natural areas at least 100 acres in size and greater than 200 meters wide. Large areas of intact natural habitat are important for many wildlife species, including reptiles and amphibians, birds, and large mammals. This indicator originates from Esri's green infrastructure data.



- Large core (>10,000 acres)
- Medium core (>1,000-10,000 acres)
- Small core (>100-1,000 acres)
- Not a core

Table 8: Indicator values for intact habitat cores within West Virginia. Good condition thresholds reflect the range of indicator values that occur in healthy, functioning ecosystems.

	Indicator Values	Acres	Percent of Area
↑ High	Large core (>10,000 acres)	2,772,036	17.9%
	Medium core (>1,000-10,000 acres)	5,941,823	38.3%
	Small core (>100-1,000 acres)	1,951,091	12.6%
↓ Low	Not a core	4,841,313	31.2%
	Total area	15,506,263	100%

↑ In good condition

↓ Not in good condition

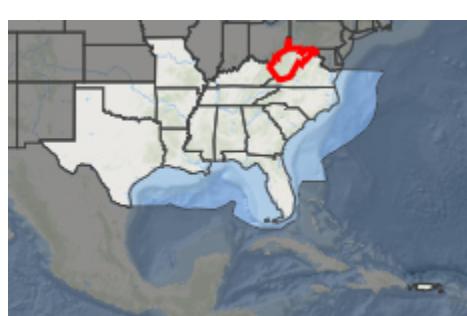
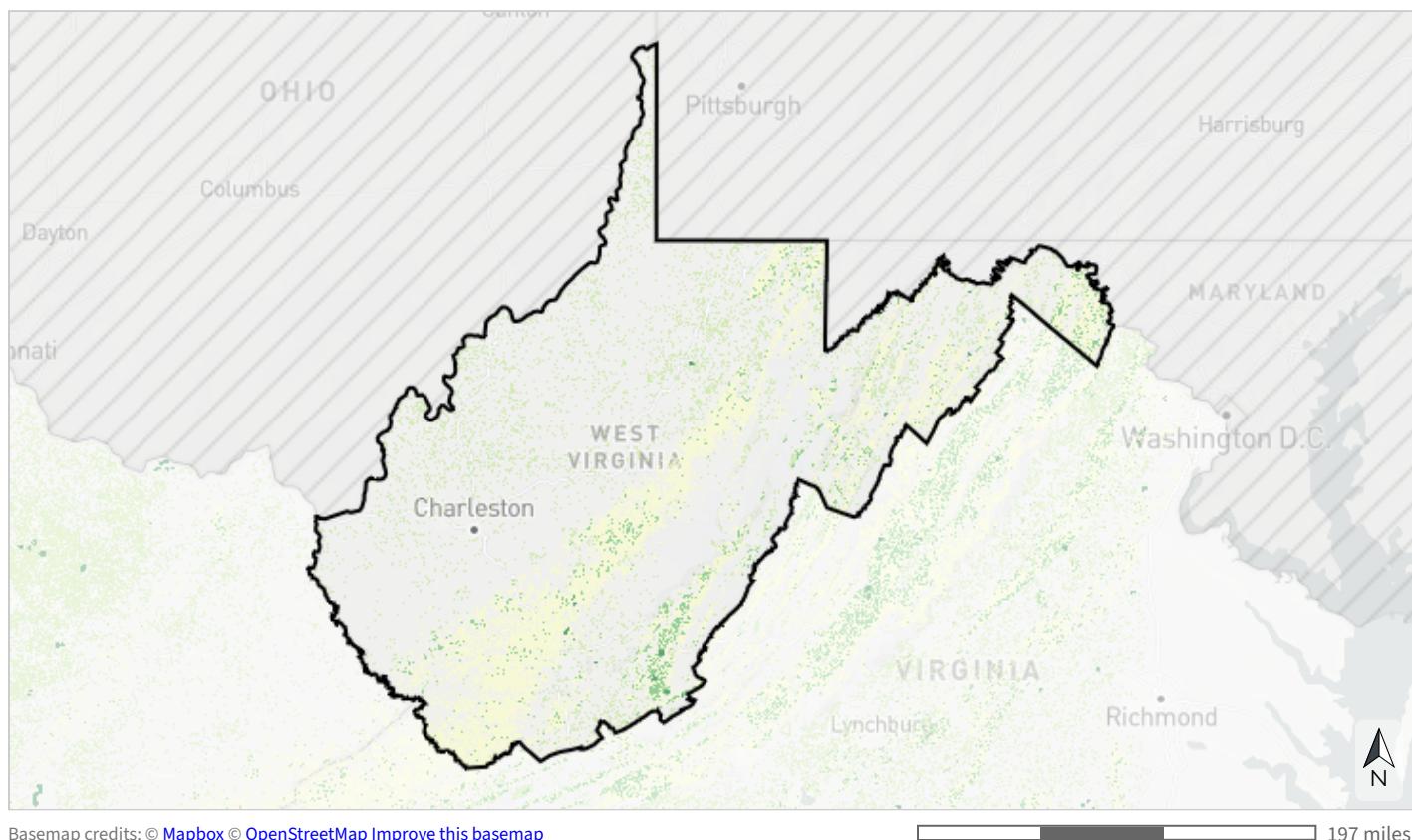
To learn more and explore the GIS data, [view this indicator in the SECAS Atlas](#).



Terrestrial

Interior Southeast grasslands

This indicator represents grasslands in the interior southeastern United States, which support important plants, birds, and pollinators. It includes grasslands with and without trees that are historically maintained by geology (e.g., outcrops, glades, and barrens), fire (e.g., Piedmont prairies), and/or the regular violent flooding on the banks of high-energy rivers known as “riverscour” (e.g., riverscour prairies). Known grasslands receive the highest scores, followed by bumble bee habitat buffers around known sites, areas in potentially compatible management, and restoration opportunities within grassland geology. This indicator combines data from multiple sources, including the Southeastern Grasslands Institute, Central Hardwoods Joint Venture, Rangeland Analysis Platform, and more.



- Known grassland
- Known grassland buffer
- Potentially compatible management within grassland geology
(undeveloped powerline right-of-way or perennial forbs and grasses)
- Potentially compatible management outside of grassland geology
(undeveloped powerline right-of-way or perennial forbs and grasses)
- Grassland geology
- Grassland less likely

Table 9: Indicator values for Interior Southeast grasslands within West Virginia. A good condition threshold is not yet defined for this indicator.

	Indicator Values	Acres	Percent of Area
↑ High	Known grassland	528	<0.1%
	Known grassland buffer	11,193	<0.1%
	Potentially compatible management within grassland geology (undeveloped powerline right-of-way or perennial forbs and grasses)	293,940	1.9%
	Potentially compatible management outside of grassland geology (undeveloped powerline right-of-way or perennial forbs and grasses)	1,283,225	8.3%
↓ Low	Grassland geology	2,430,959	15.7%
	Grassland less likely	11,486,419	74.1%
	Total area	15,506,263	100%

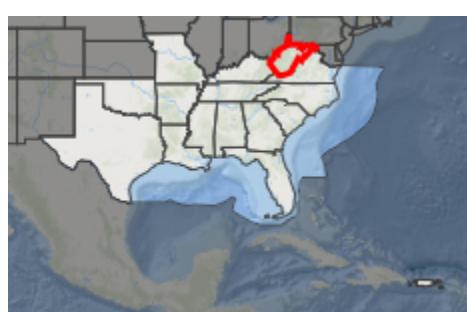
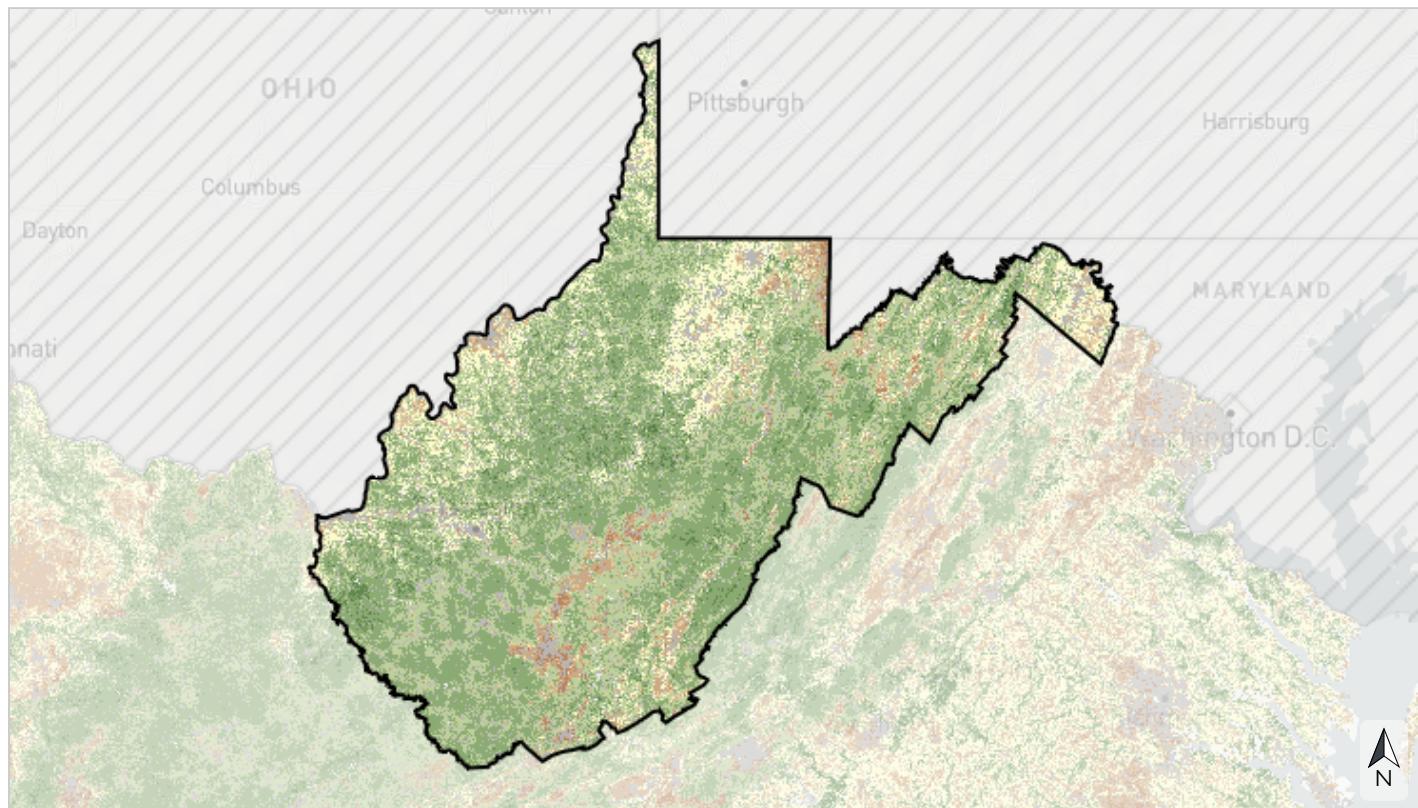
To learn more and explore the GIS data, [view this indicator in the SECAS Atlas](#).



Terrestrial

Resilient terrestrial sites

This indicator depicts an area's capacity to maintain species diversity and ecosystem function in the face of climate change. It measures two factors that influence resilience. The first, landscape diversity, reflects the number of microhabitats and climatic gradients created by topography, elevation, and hydrology. The second, local connectedness, reflects the degree of habitat fragmentation and strength of barriers to species movement. Highly resilient sites contain many different habitat niches that support biodiversity, and allow species to move freely through the landscape to find suitable microclimates as the climate changes. This indicator originates from The Nature Conservancy's Resilient Land data.



- Most resilient
- More resilient
- Slightly more resilient
- Average/median resilience
- Slightly less resilient
- Less resilient
- Least resilient
- Developed

Table 10: Indicator values for resilient terrestrial sites within West Virginia. A good condition threshold is not yet defined for this indicator.

	Indicator Values	Acres	Percent of Area
↑ High	Most resilient	312,524	2.0%
	More resilient	5,952,833	38.4%
	Slightly more resilient	4,875,951	31.4%
	Average/median resilience	1,478,886	9.5%
	Slightly less resilient	552,987	3.6%
	Less resilient	578,416	3.7%
	Least resilient	130,804	0.8%
	Developed	1,510,962	9.7%
<i>Area not evaluated for this indicator</i>		112,900	0.7%
Total area		15,506,263	100%

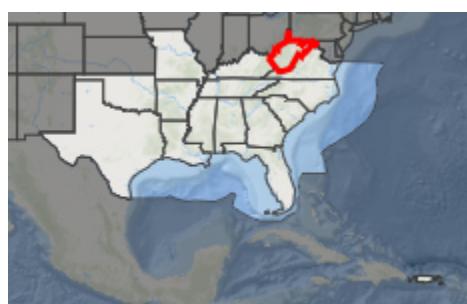
To learn more and explore the GIS data, [view this indicator in the SECAS Atlas](#).



Terrestrial

Urban park size

This cultural resource indicator measures the size of parks larger than 5 acres in the urban environment. Protected natural areas in urban environments provide urban residents a nearby place to connect with nature, and offer refugia for some species. This indicator complements the equitable access to potential parks indicator by capturing the value of existing parks. It originates from the Protected Areas Database of the United States, Census urban areas, and the National Land Cover Database.



- 75+ acre urban park
- 50 to <75 acre urban park
- 30 to <50 acre urban park
- 10 to <30 acre urban park
- 5 to <10 acre urban park
- <5 acre urban park or not identified as an urban park

Table 11: Indicator values for urban park size within West Virginia. A good condition threshold is not yet defined for this indicator.

	Indicator Values	Acres	Percent of Area
↑ High	75+ acre urban park	22,953	0.1%
	50 to <75 acre urban park	1,429	<0.1%
	30 to <50 acre urban park	1,382	<0.1%
	10 to <30 acre urban park	2,137	<0.1%
	5 to <10 acre urban park	677	<0.1%
	<5 acre urban park or not identified as an urban park	15,477,685	99.8%
Total area		15,506,263	100%

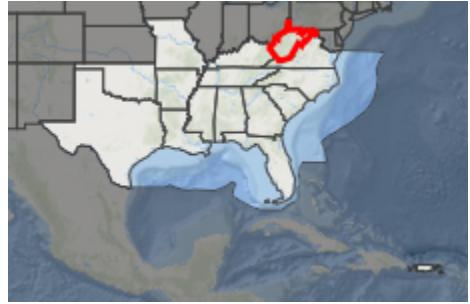
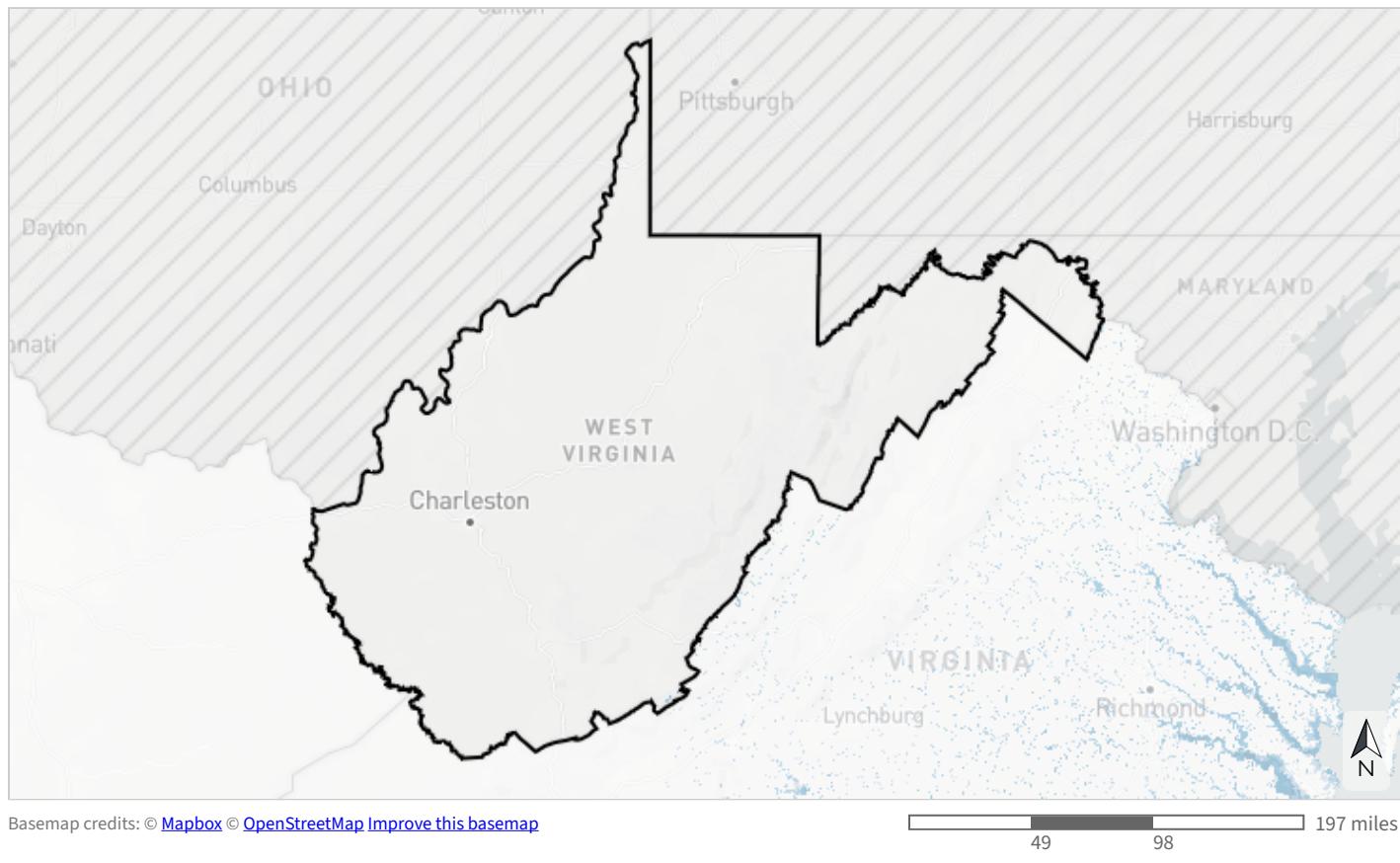
To learn more and explore the GIS data, [view this indicator in the SECAS Atlas](#).



Freshwater

Atlantic migratory fish habitat

This indicator measures the condition of migratory fish habitat along the Atlantic coast within each catchment, using metrics of water quality, aquatic connectivity, habitat fragmentation, flow alteration, and more. Areas of excellent fish habitat are already in good condition and face few threats. Restoration opportunity areas are doing well in some respects, but restoration projects could significantly improve them. Degraded areas of opportunity face many challenges, and restoration projects are unlikely to increase available fish habitat unless particularly large in scope and scale. This indicator originates from the Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership's fish habitat conservation area mapping and prioritization project.



- Final score of 80 (areas of excellent fish habitat)
- Final score of 70 (areas of excellent fish habitat)
- Final score of 60 (restoration opportunity areas)
- Final score of 50 (restoration opportunity areas)
- Final score of 40 (restoration opportunity areas)
- Final score of 30 (restoration opportunity areas)
- Final score of 20 (restoration opportunity areas)
- Final score of 10 (degraded areas of opportunity)
- Final score of 0 (degraded areas of opportunity)

Table 12: Indicator values for Atlantic migratory fish habitat within West Virginia. Good condition thresholds reflect the range of indicator values that occur in healthy, functioning ecosystems.

	Indicator Values	Acres	Percent of Area
↑ High	Final score of 80 (areas of excellent fish habitat)	0	0%
	Final score of 70 (areas of excellent fish habitat)	0	0%
	Final score of 60 (restoration opportunity areas)	97	<0.1%
	Final score of 50 (restoration opportunity areas)	418	<0.1%
	Final score of 40 (restoration opportunity areas)	465	<0.1%
	Final score of 30 (restoration opportunity areas)	409	<0.1%
	Final score of 20 (restoration opportunity areas)	2	<0.1%
	Final score of 10 (degraded areas of opportunity)	0	0%
	Final score of 0 (degraded areas of opportunity)	0	0%
	<i>Area not evaluated for this indicator</i>	15,504,872	100.0%
Total area		15,506,263	100%

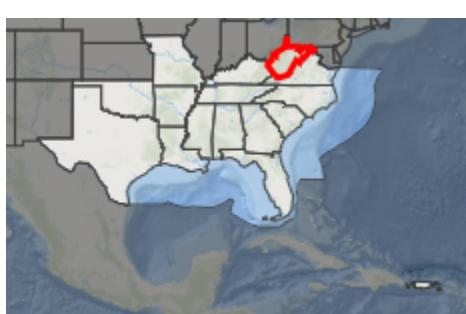
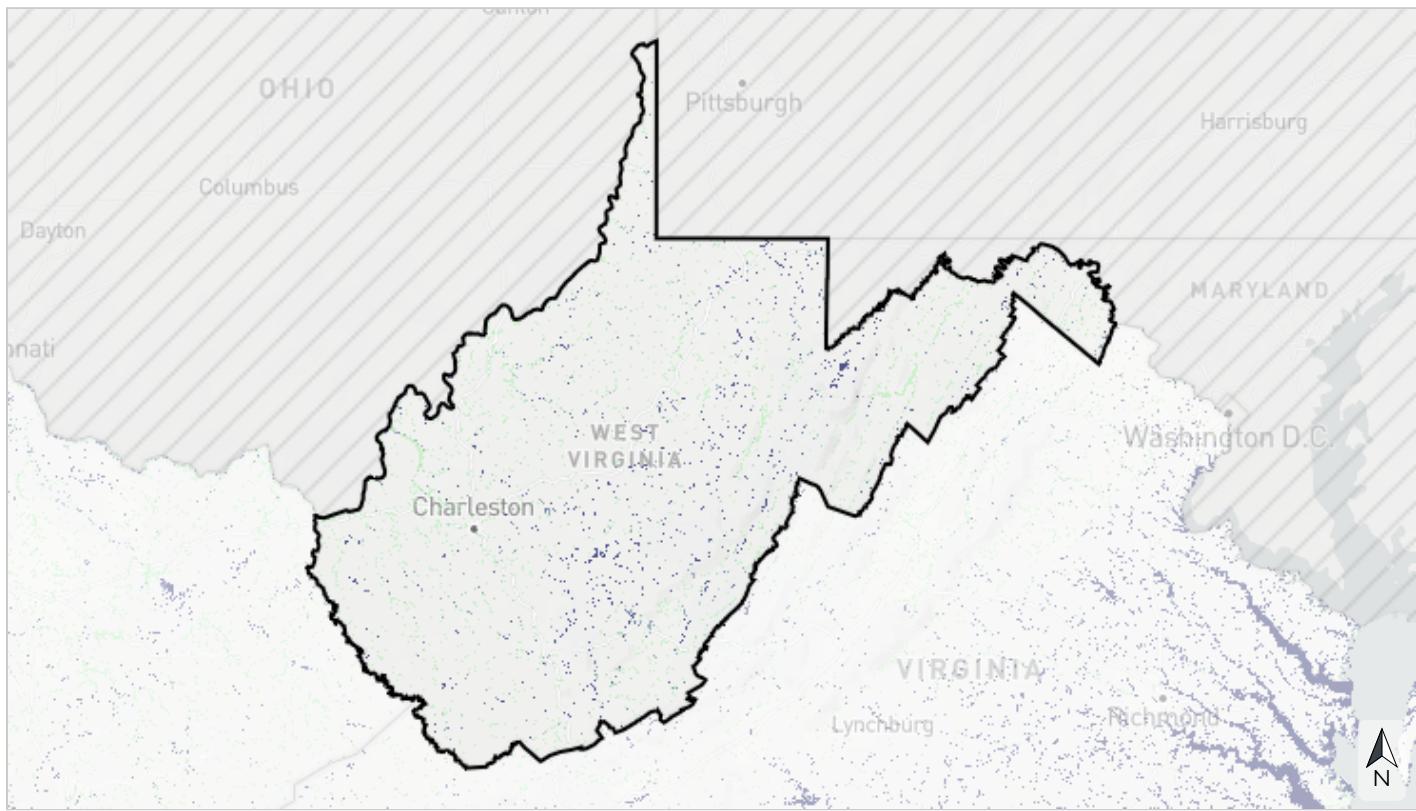
To learn more and explore the GIS data, [view this indicator in the SECAS Atlas](#).



Freshwater

Natural landcover in floodplains

This indicator measures the amount of natural landcover in the estimated floodplain of rivers and streams within each catchment. It assesses the stream channel and its surrounding riparian buffer, measuring the percent of unaltered habitat like forests, wetlands, or open water (rather than agriculture or development). Intact vegetated buffers within the floodplain of rivers and streams provide aquatic habitat, improve water quality, reduce erosion and flooding, recharge groundwater, and more. This indicator originates from the National Land Cover Database and applies to the Environmental Protection Agency's estimated floodplain, which spatially defines areas estimated to be inundated by a 100-year flood (also known as the 1% annual chance flood).



Percent natural landcover within the estimated floodplain, by catchment

- >90% natural landcover
- >80-90% natural landcover
- >70-80% natural landcover
- >60-70% natural landcover
- ≤60% natural landcover
- Not identified as a floodplain

Table 13: Indicator values for natural landcover in floodplains within West Virginia. Good condition thresholds reflect the range of indicator values that occur in healthy, functioning ecosystems.

Indicator Values: Percent natural landcover within the estimated floodplain, by catchment		Acres	Percent of Area
↑ High	>90% natural landcover	139,326	0.9%
	>80-90% natural landcover	75,585	0.5%
	>70-80% natural landcover	93,784	0.6%
	>60-70% natural landcover	100,372	0.6%
	≤60% natural landcover	536,788	3.5%
	Not identified as a floodplain	14,560,409	93.9%
Total area		15,506,263	100%

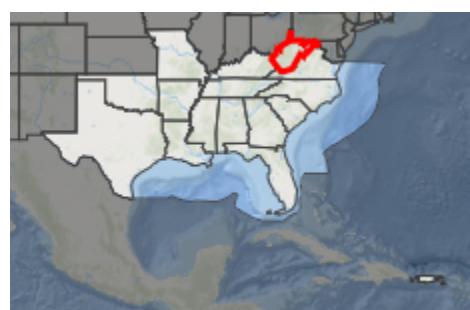
To learn more and explore the GIS data, [view this indicator in the SECAS Atlas](#).



Freshwater

Network complexity

This indicator depicts the number of connected stream size classes in a river network between dams or waterfalls. River networks with a variety of connected stream classes help retain aquatic biodiversity in a changing climate by allowing species to access climate refugia and move between habitats. This indicator originates from the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership and applies to the Environmental Protection Agency's estimated floodplain, which spatially defines areas estimated to be inundated by a 100-year flood (also known as the 1% annual chance flood).



Number of connected stream size classes

- 7 size classes
- 6 size classes
- 5 size classes
- 4 size classes
- 3 size classes
- 2 size classes
- 1 size class
- Not identified as a floodplain

Table 14: Indicator values for network complexity within West Virginia. Good condition thresholds reflect the range of indicator values that occur in healthy, functioning ecosystems.

Indicator Values: Number of connected stream size classes		Acres	Percent of Area
↑ High	7 size classes	54,991	0.4%
	6 size classes	201,113	1.3%
	5 size classes	348,514	2.2%
	4 size classes	219,087	1.4%
	3 size classes	74,041	0.5%
	2 size classes	38,018	0.2%
	1 size class	9,955	<0.1%
	Not identified as a floodplain	14,560,544	93.9%
Total area		15,506,263	100%

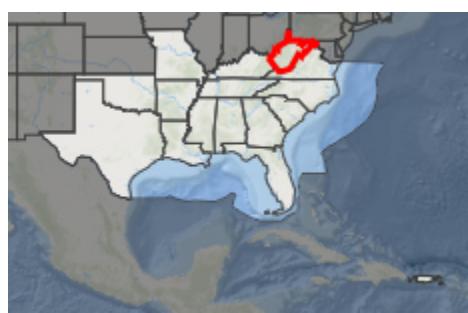
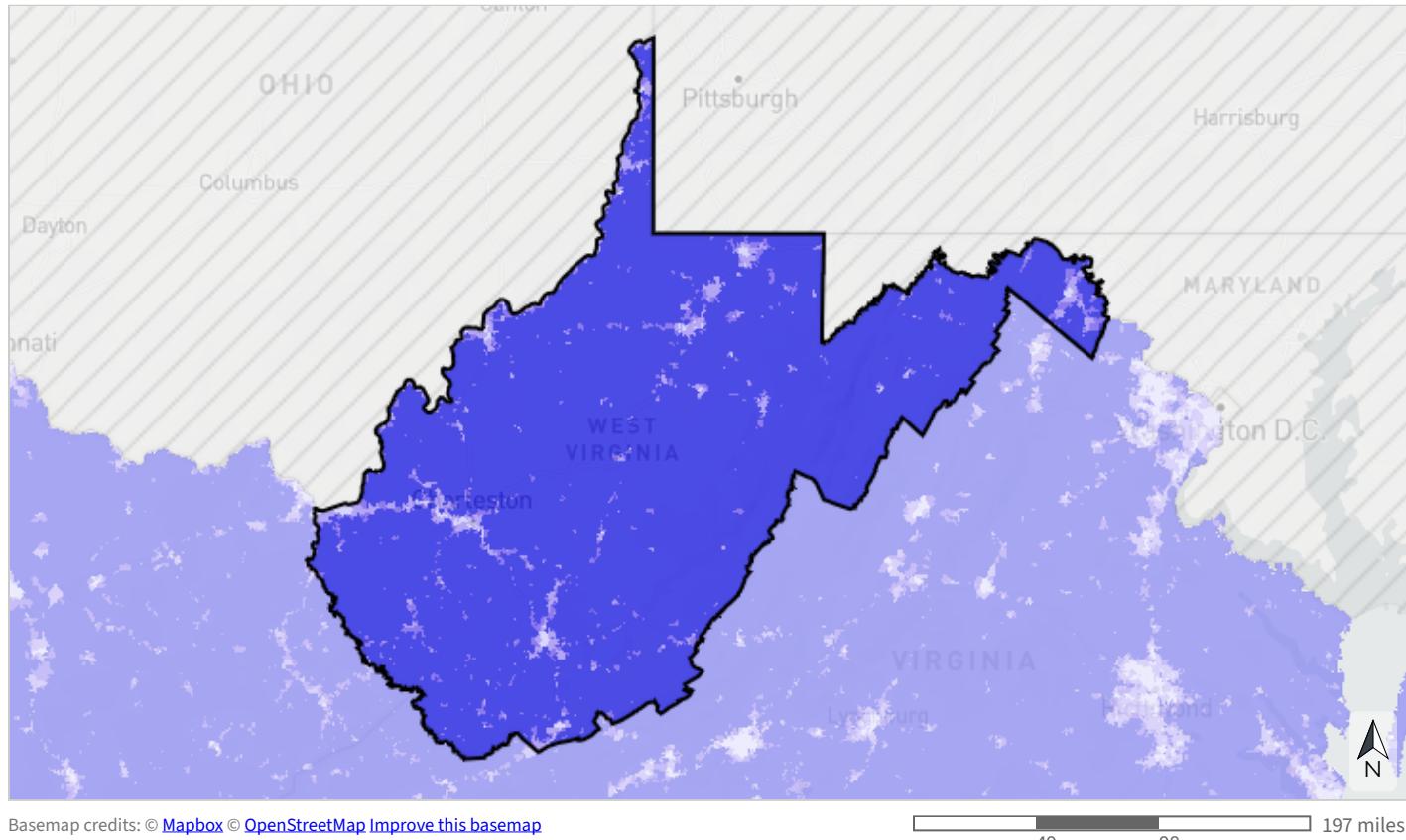
To learn more and explore the GIS data, [view this indicator in the SECAS Atlas](#).



Freshwater

Permeable surface

This indicator measures the average percent of non-impervious cover within each catchment. High levels of impervious surface degrade water quality and alter freshwater flow, impacting both aquatic species communities and ecosystem services for people, like the availability of clean drinking water. This indicator originates from the National Land Cover Database.



Percent of catchment permeable

- >95% permeable (likely high water quality and supporting most sensitive aquatic species)
- >90-95% permeable (likely declining water quality and supporting most aquatic species)
- >70-90% permeable (likely degraded water quality and not supporting many aquatic species)
- ≤70% permeable (likely degraded instream flow, water quality, and aquatic species communities)

Table 15: Indicator values for permeable surface within West Virginia. Good condition thresholds reflect the range of indicator values that occur in healthy, functioning ecosystems.

	Indicator Values: Percent of catchment permeable	Acres	Percent of Area	
↑ High	>95% permeable (likely high water quality and supporting most sensitive aquatic species)	14,475,083	93.3%	↑ In good condition
	>90-95% permeable (likely declining water quality and supporting most aquatic species)	524,667	3.4%	↓ Not in good condition
	>70-90% permeable (likely degraded water quality and not supporting many aquatic species)	433,880	2.8%	
↓ Low	≤70% permeable (likely degraded instream flow, water quality, and aquatic species communities)	72,634	0.5%	
Total area		15,506,263	100%	

To learn more and explore the GIS data, [view this indicator in the SECAS Atlas](#).



Freshwater

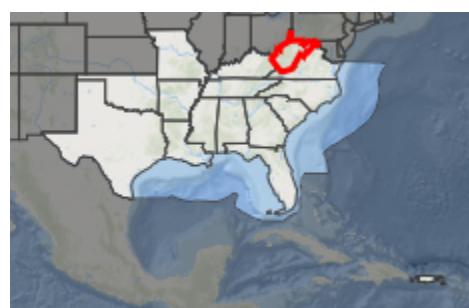
West Virginia imperiled aquatic species

This indicator counts the number of aquatic species within each 12-digit HUC subwatershed in West Virginia that are listed as G1 (globally critically imperiled), G2 (globally imperiled), or threatened/endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. This indicator captures patterns of rare and endemic aquatic species diversity. It fills a key gap in the imperiled aquatic species indicator, which does not yet cover West Virginia. This indicator originates from the Environmental Protection Agency's EnviroAtlas data.



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Number of aquatic imperiled (G1/G2) or threatened/endangered animal species observed

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| 4+ species |
| 3 species |
| 2 species |
| 1 species |
| 0 species |
| Not identified as a floodplain |

Table 16: Indicator values for west virginia imperiled aquatic species within West Virginia. A good condition threshold is not yet defined for this indicator.

Indicator Values: Number of aquatic imperiled (G1/G2) or threatened/endangered animal species observed		Acres	Percent of Area
↑ High	4+ species	10,861	<0.1%
	3 species	7,017	<0.1%
	2 species	44,233	0.3%
	1 species	77,040	0.5%
	0 species	806,704	5.2%
↓ Low	Not identified as a floodplain	14,560,409	93.9%
Total area		15,506,263	100%

To learn more and explore the GIS data, [view this indicator in the SECAS Atlas](#).

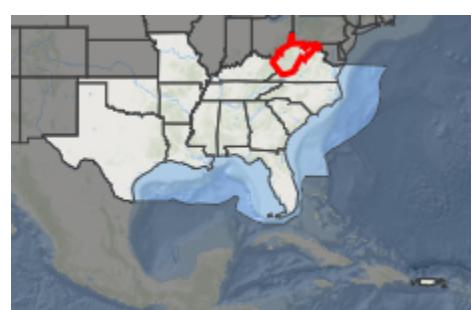
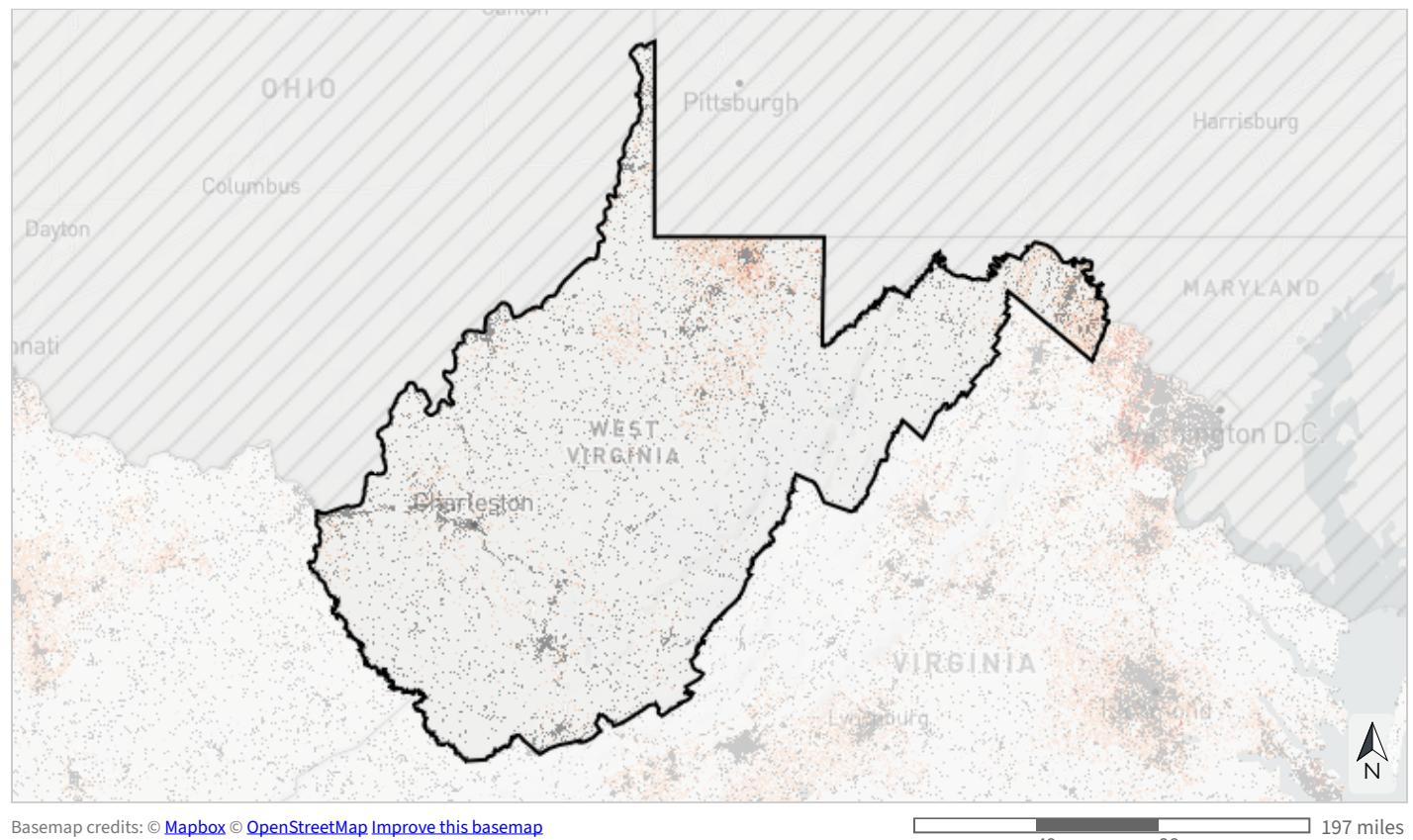
Threats

Sea-level rise

Sea-level rise unlikely to be a threat (inland counties).

Urban growth

The FUTURES urban growth model predicts the likelihood that an area will urbanize at every decade from 2020 to 2100. Developed areas from the 2021 National Landcover Database serve as the baseline for current urban areas. The model simulates landscape change based on trends in population growth, local development suitability factors, and an urban patch-growing algorithm. It considers environmental drivers like distance to floodplain, slope, and available infrastructure, and even socio-economic status. The probability of urbanization for each area reflects how many times it urbanized out of 50 model runs.



Probability of urbanization by 2060

- Urban in 2021
- Very high likelihood of urbanization (>50% probability)
- High likelihood of urbanization (25 - 50% probability)
- Moderate likelihood of urbanization (2 - 25% probability)
- Not likely to urbanize

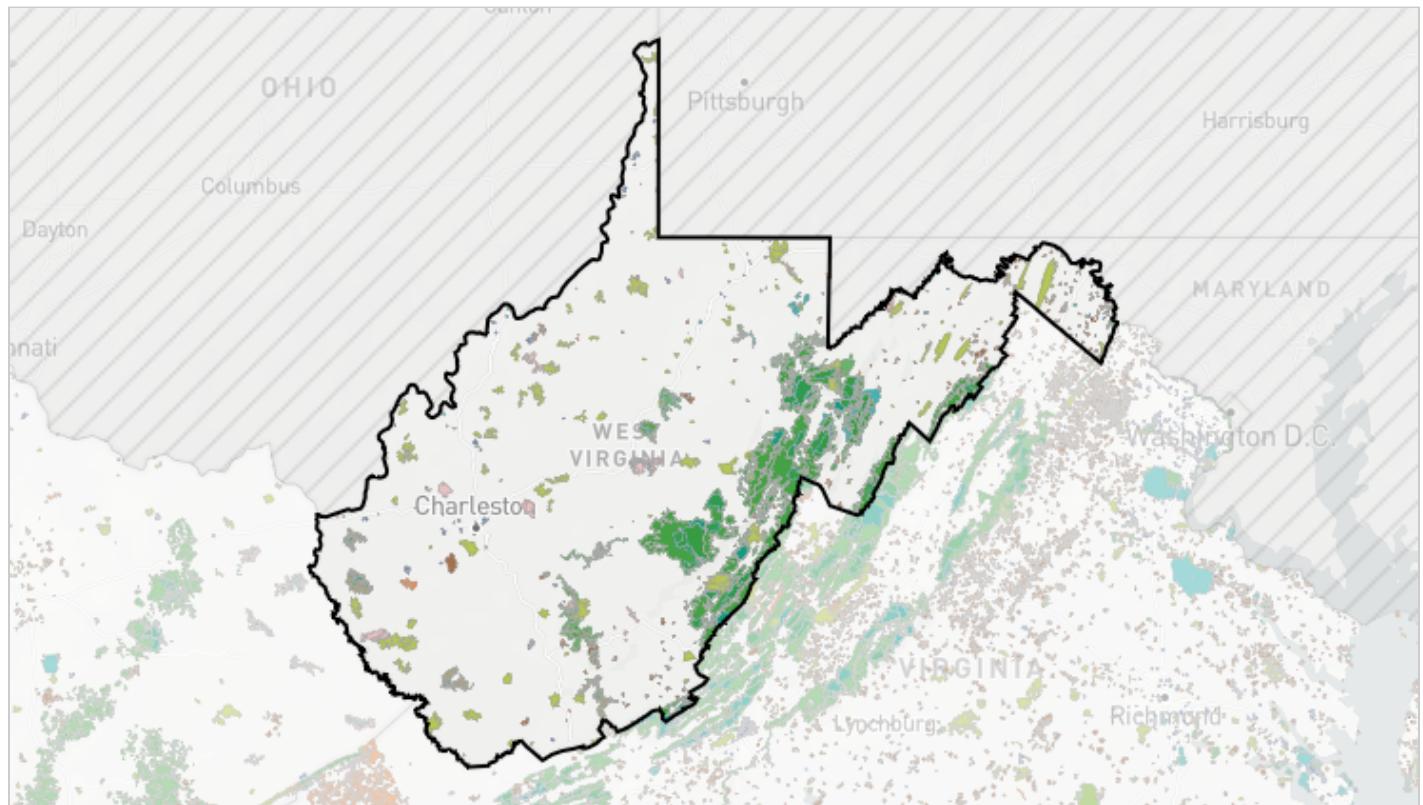
6.8% of this area is already urban in 2021, and an additional 4.8% has at least a moderate probability of urbanizing by 2060.

Table 17: Extent of projected urbanization by decade within West Virginia. Values from [FUTURES model projections for the contiguous United States](#) developed by the [Center for Geospatial Analytics](#), NC State University. 2060 corresponds to the [SECAS goal](#): a 10% or greater improvement in the health, function, and connectivity of Southeastern ecosystems by 2060.

Decade	Acres	Percent of Area
Urban in 2021	1,059,646	6.8%
2030 projected extent	1,075,058	6.9%
2040 projected extent	1,079,834	7.0%
2050 projected extent	1,083,777	7.0%
2060 projected extent	1,087,476	7.0%
2070 projected extent	1,090,380	7.0%
2080 projected extent	1,092,677	7.0%
2090 projected extent	1,094,518	7.1%
2100 projected extent	1,095,483	7.1%
<i>Not projected to urbanize by 2100</i>	13,630,004	87.9%
Total area	15,506,263	100%

Ownership and Partners

Conserved lands ownership



Basemap credits: © [Mapbox](#) © [OpenStreetMap](#) Improve this basemap

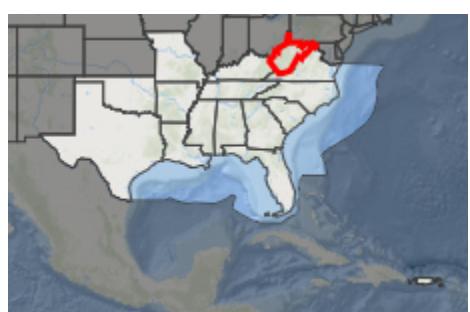
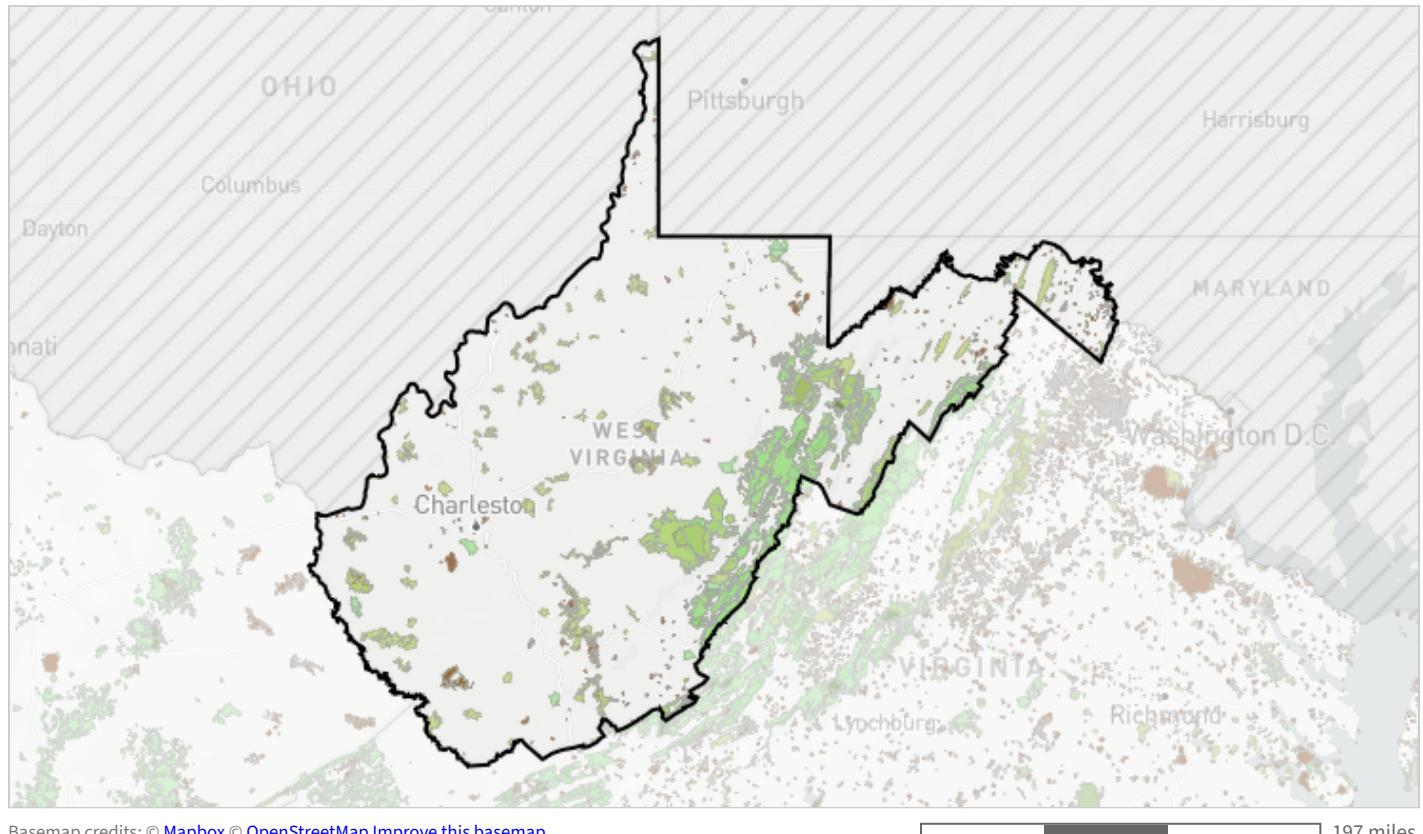
49 98 197 miles

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Federal■ State/province■ Territorial■ Regional■ Local | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Joint■ Private non-profit conserved lands■ Private conservation land■ Tribal■ Designation■ Ownership unknown |
|---|--|

Table 18: Extent of ownership class within West Virginia. Protected areas are derived from the [Protected Areas Database of the United States](#) (PAD-US v3.0) and include Fee, Designation, Easement, Marine, and Proclamation (Dept. of Defense lands only) boundaries. Note: areas are based on the polygon boundary of this area compared to protected area polygons, rather than pixel-level analyses used elsewhere in this report. Also note: PAD-US v3.0 includes protected areas that may overlap within a given area; this may cause the area within and between the following categories to be greater than the actual ground area.

Ownership	Acres	Percent of Area
Federal	2,285,640	14.7%
State/province	380,184	2.5%
Regional	524	<0.1%
Local	22,732	0.1%
Joint	64,290	0.4%
Private non-profit conserved lands	14,600	<0.1%
Private conservation land	94,424	0.6%
Designation	466,993	3.0%
Ownership unknown	131,394	0.8%

Land protection status



- Managed for biodiversity (disturbance events proceed or are mimicked)
- Managed for biodiversity (disturbance events suppressed)
- Managed for multiple uses (subject to extractive uses such as mining or logging, or OHV use)
- No known mandate for biodiversity protection

Table 19: Extent of land protection status within West Virginia. Protected areas are derived from the [Protected Areas Database of the United States](#) (PAD-US v3.0) and include Fee, Designation, Easement, Marine, and Proclamation (Dept. of Defense lands only) boundaries. Note: areas are based on the polygon boundary of this area compared to protected area polygons, rather than pixel-level analyses used elsewhere in this report. Also note: PAD-US v3.0 includes protected areas that may overlap within a given area; this may cause the area within and between the following categories to be greater than the actual ground area.

Land Protection Status	Acres	Percent of Area
Managed for biodiversity (disturbance events proceed or are mimicked)	119,333	0.8%
Managed for biodiversity (disturbance events suppressed)	1,716,583	11.1%
Managed for multiple uses (subject to extractive uses such as mining or logging, or OHV use)	1,448,184	9.3%
No known mandate for biodiversity protection	176,681	1.1%

Protected Areas

- Monongahela National Forest (USDA FOREST SERVICE; 920,727 acres)
- Cranberry Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Forest Service; 159,286 acres)
- Potomac Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Forest Service; 145,991 acres)
- George Washington and Jefferson National Forest (USDA FOREST SERVICE; 125,889 acres)
- Little River Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Forest Service; 121,604 acres)
- Neola Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Forest Service; 105,694 acres)
- Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks (99,824 acres)
- Cheat Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Forest Service; 79,571 acres)
- Rimel Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Forest Service; 68,056 acres)
- Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Forest Service; 67,620 acres)
- Tea Creek Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Forest Service; 67,455 acres)
- Blackwater Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Forest Service; 61,316 acres)
- Wardensville Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Forest Service; 54,942 acres)
- NERI (NPS; 52,890 acres)
- Shenandoah Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Forest Service; 50,719 acres)
- Cranberry Wilderness (47,742 acres)

- Beaver Dam Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Forest Service; 40,641 acres)
- Tomblin Wildlife Management Area (WV Division of Natural Resources; 25,180 acres)
- EAST LYNN (Unknown; 24,834 acres)
- East Lynn Lake Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; 24,791 acres)
- Seneca Creek (22,287 acres)
- Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area (WV Division of Natural Resources; 22,232 acres)
- BLUESTONE (Unknown; 22,147 acres)
- Otter Creek Wilderness (20,705 acres)
- Elk River Wildlife Management Area (WV Division of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; 19,678 acres)
- ... and 1,093 more protected areas ...

Nearby land trusts

[Click here](#) to search for land trusts within 250 miles of this area on the Land Trust Alliance website.

Credits

This report was generated by the Southeast Conservation Blueprint Explorer, which was developed by [Astute Spruce, LLC](#) in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the [Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy](#).

Data credits

Land ownership and conservation status is derived from the [Protected Areas Database of the United States](#) (PAD-US v3.0).

Future urban growth estimates derived from [FUTURES model projections for the contiguous United States](#) developed by the [Center for Geospatial Analytics](#), NC State University.

Sea level rise data are derived from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [Sea Level Rise Inundation Depth Data](#) and the [2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report](#).