



# GIS in Earth and Environmental Sciences

Spring 2019

Dr. James Heiss

Office: Olney Hall 102C

[james\\_heiss@uml.edu](mailto:james_heiss@uml.edu)

Office hours: TR 9:30-10:30, F 1:30-2:30

# Syllabus

## Course Objective

The objective of this course is to provide a theoretical and practical introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The ESRI's ArcGIS will be used extensively during class and for laboratory assignments. The course emphasizes practical application and laboratory exercises and is heavily hands-on.

## Textbook and Flash Drive

Price, Maribeth, 2014, Mastering ArcGIS, 8th Edition.

You will need a personal flash drive >8gb. All data files for in-class assignments, labs, and tutorials will be stored on this flash drive. No data files, assignments, or lab reports can be stored on lab PCs.

## Learning Outcomes

- After successful completion of this course you will be able to:
- Explain and demonstrate proficiency of major concepts/skills of GIS, spatial data, attribute data, data structures, coordinate systems, data projection, spatial analysis, vector and raster datasets, metadata, and several analytical GIS tools
- Navigate within the ArcGIS software environment and perform introductory-level analytical skills such as joining data, creating buffers, digitizing, georeferencing, and conducting geospatial queries, performing raster and terrain analysis
- Distinguish between spatial and attribute data
- Differentiate vector and raster data and how the data type affects storage, display, and analysis
- Collect, process, and analyze geospatial data
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of GIS for spatial analysis

# Syllabus

## **Course Requirements**

### *Class Participation*

Students are expected to be in class for lectures and in-class exercises. The best way to learn GIS software is to work with it and to work with others on GIS objectives, both of which are done in class.

### *In-class exercises:*

GIS is complex and learning by doing is the most effective learning strategy. These assignments are intended to demonstrate or reinforce concepts or skills that can be applied in laboratory assignments. In-class exercises are due at the end of the class period. Any student not present in class that misses an in-class exercise will receive a grade of zero for that assignment.

### *Lab assignments:*

Lab assignments will involve working within ArcGIS and will be completed outside of class. The deliverable includes maps, tables, and text presented as a report (see lab rubric). Labs are due on the assigned date (see class schedule).

### *Exams:*

Two exams are scheduled that will cover topics and skills learned in class and will include a hands-on component. Attendance is mandatory for all exams. Any discussion about missing an exam must occur prior to the exam.

### *Final project*

Students will complete and report on a final GIS project of their choosing. This will involve 1) developing an objective and a set of research questions that can be answered using GIS, 2) seeking and identifying the geospatial data to answer that question, 3) selecting the appropriate GIS methods, 4) analyzing and interpretation of results, and 5) presenting the project to the class.

### Grading

In-class exercises	20%
Labs	40%
Exams	30%
Final project	10%
Total:	100%

Percentage	Letter Grade
>92	A
90 – 92	A-
88 – 89	B+
83 – 87	B
80 – 82	B-
78 - 79	C+
73 – 77	C
70 - 72	C-
68 – 69	D+
60 – 67	D
<60	F

## Email

Any email that you send to me must have ENVI3010S19 at the beginning of the subject line.  
Any email that you receive from me will have ENVI3010S19 in the subject line.

# Course Topics

Geospatial data  
Data management  
Spatial reference systems  
Geodesy  
map projections  
Interpolation  
Stream flow direction  
Stream flow accumulation

Analytic toolboxes  
Cartographic design  
Vector analysis  
Raster analysis  
Raw data collection  
Georeferencing

# Course website

[jamesheiss.com/ENVI3010S19.html](http://jamesheiss.com/ENVI3010S19.html)

# What is GIS?

## Geographic Information System

- Computer tools that allow analysis of data tied to location
- Database that is designed to work with map data
- GIS involves:
  - Data entry
  - Data management
  - Thematic mapping
  - Data analysis
  - Map layout
- GIS NOT mapping software



# What can GIS do?

- US Dept. of Agriculture
- Elk Habitat in Black Hills, WY
- GPS tagging and tracking
  - Location, date, time
- Tie Elk location data to other spatial datasets
- GIS explains why

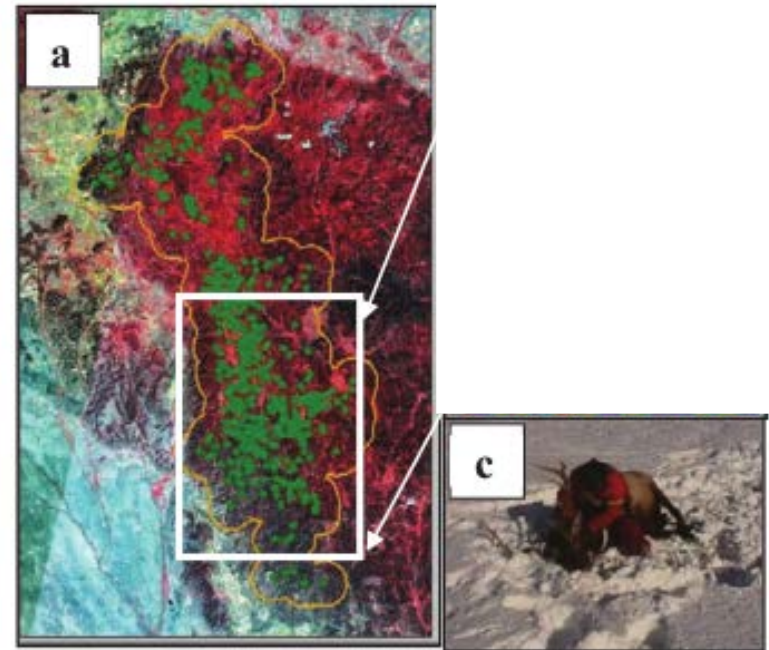
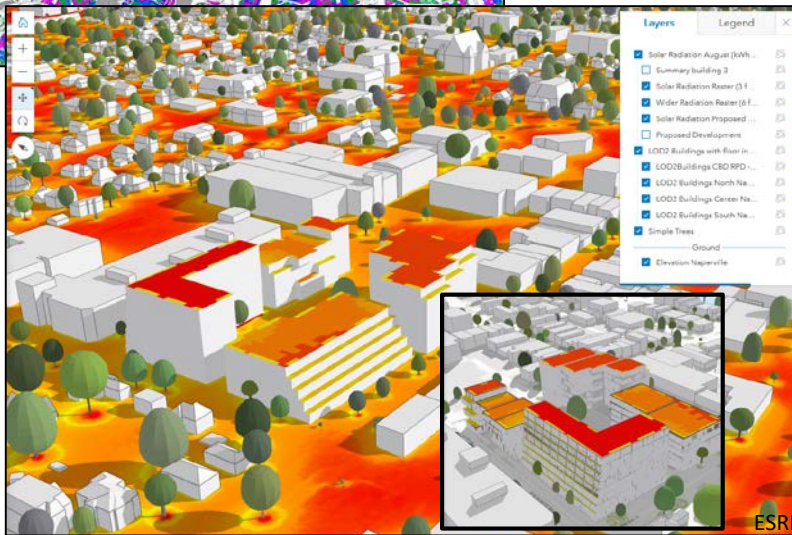


Fig. 1.1. Analyzing elk habitat use: (a) elk locations and study area; (b) locations on a map of distance to nearest road; (c) collaring an elk

# GIS applications



- Geoscience
- Government
- Defense and intelligence
- Engineering and construction
- Business
- Health and human services
- Conservation
- Natural resources
- Aviation



[illegible]

- Real Estate
- Education
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Telecommunication
- Public safety
- Marketing
- Insurance



## BEST JOBS IN AMERICA Money/Payscale.

[Full List](#)[High Pay](#)[Job Growth](#)[Quality of](#)[Low stress](#)[Security](#)[Flexibility](#)[Future growth](#)[Satisfaction](#)[Benefit to](#)

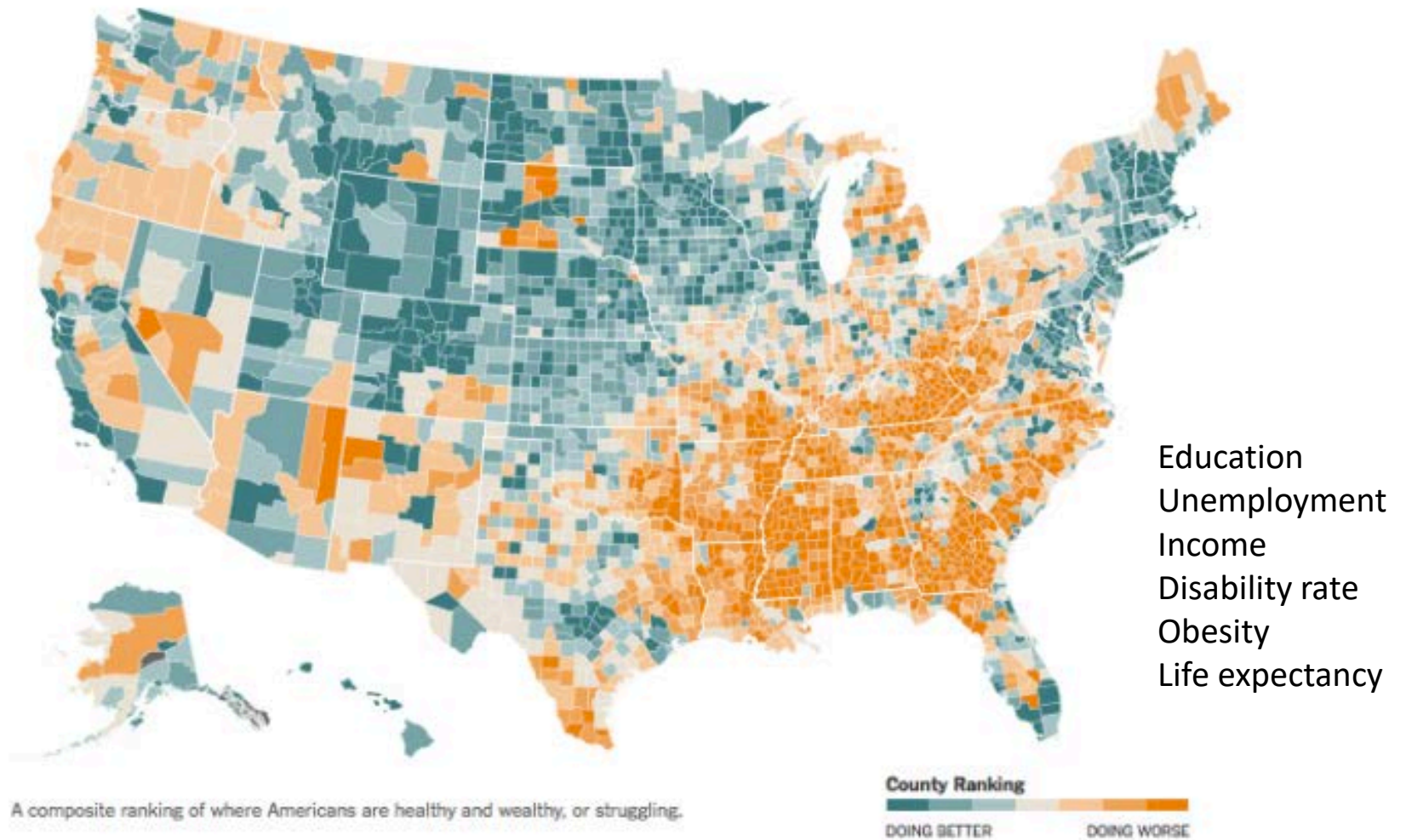
### Low stress

Rank	Job title	Best Jobs rank	% who say their job is low stress
1	Biomedical Engineer	10	70.0
2	Transportation Engineer	51	69.0
3	Statistician	64	64.0
4	Web Developer	67	57.7
5	Geographic Information Systems Analyst	97	55.6
6	Technical Writer	88	54.9
7	Test Software Development Engineer	30	54.2
8	Marketing Consultant	61	53.5
9	Civil Engineer	6	53.3
10	Optometrist	56	53.1



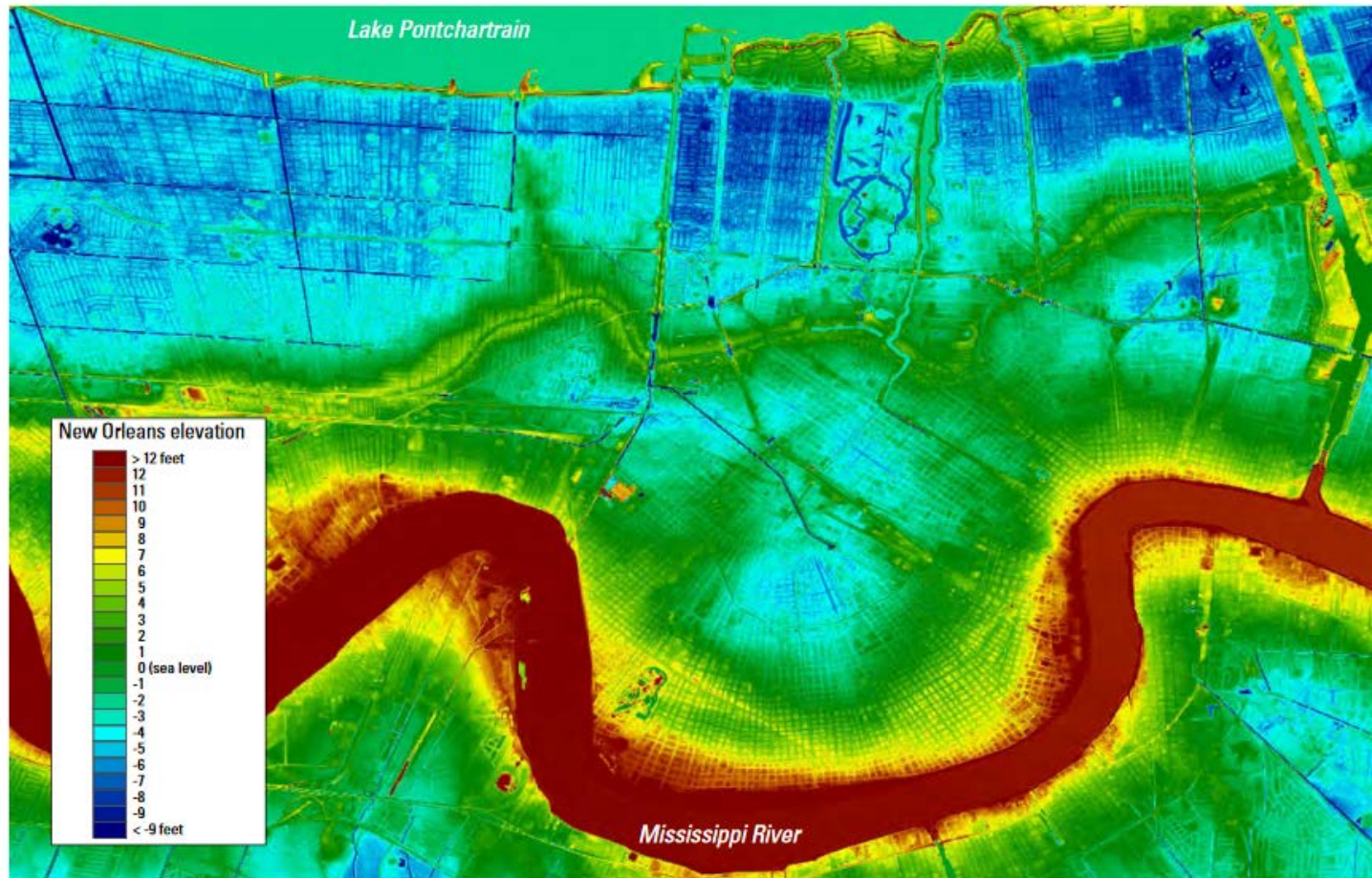
# Where Are the Hardest Places to Live in the U.S.?

JUNE 26, 2014



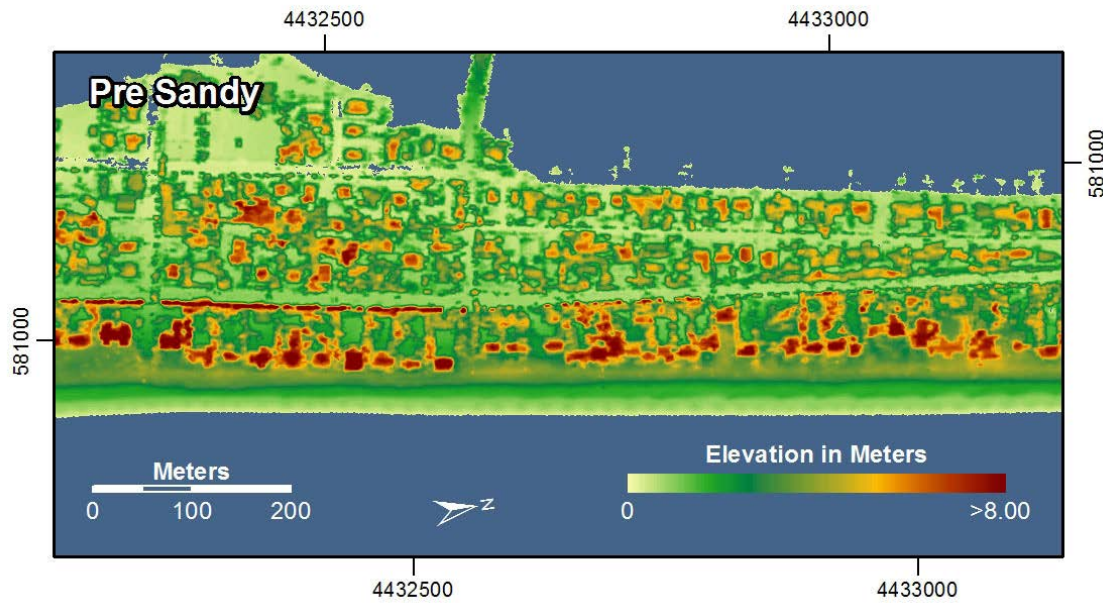
Source: New York Times

# Flood analysis

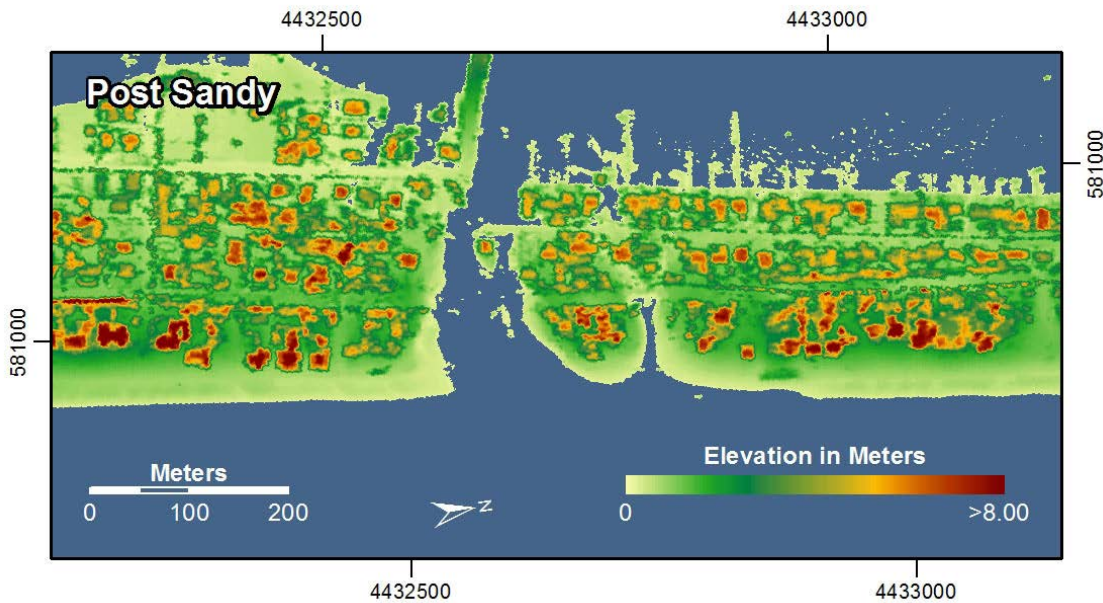


**Figure 1.** High-resolution elevation data of New Orleans, La., derived from light detection and ranging (lidar) data collected in 2002. Note that the land along Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River is higher than the land in the center of the city, which is below sea level, resulting in what is often referred to as the bowl shape of New Orleans. Also note that on this map the level of Lake Pontchartrain has been set to a constant value. In reality, the level of the lake changes. In many cases, lidar measurements over water are inaccurate; therefore, elevation of the water surface is inferred from surrounding areas or other data sources.

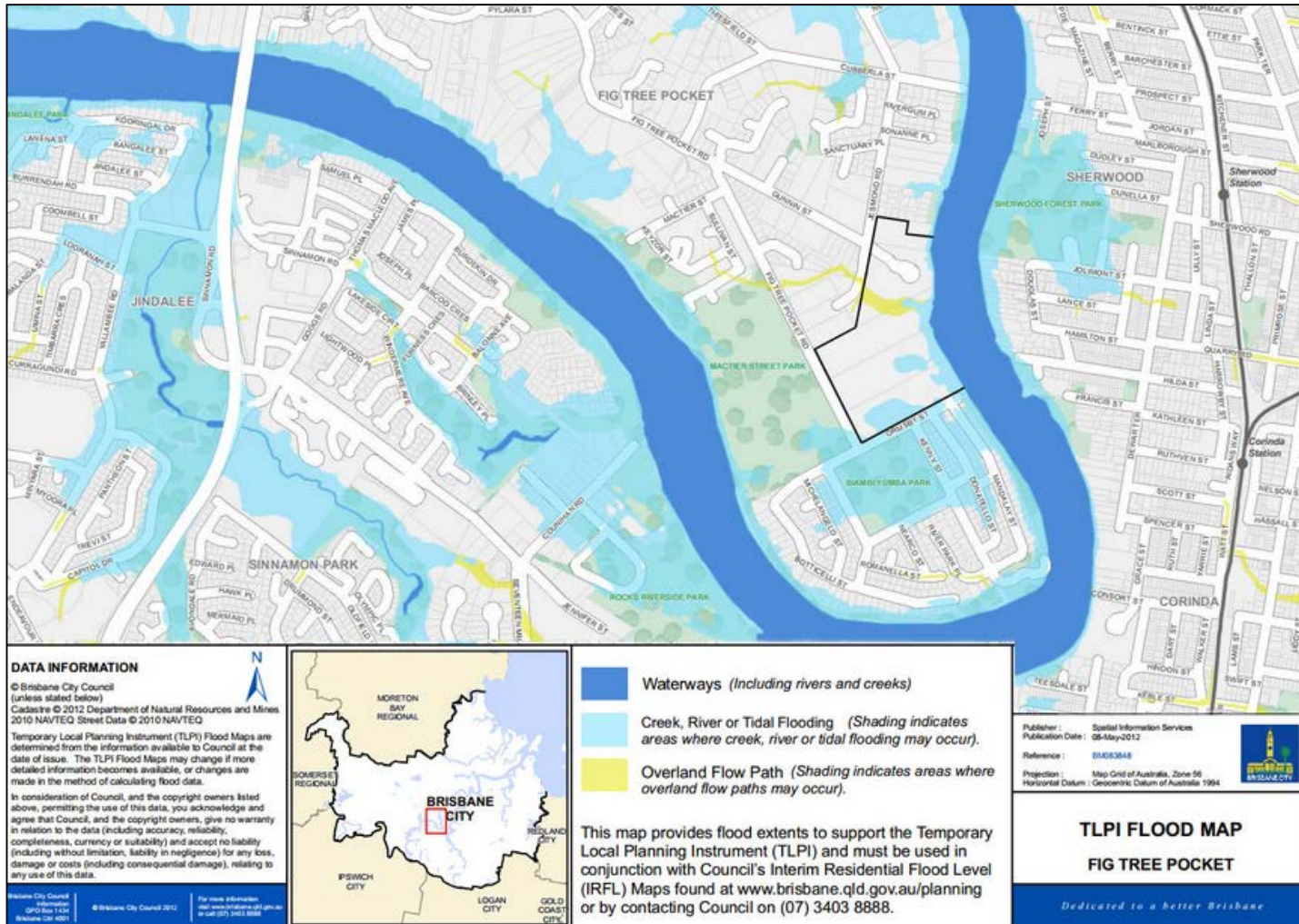




Pre- and post-storm  
terrain analysis

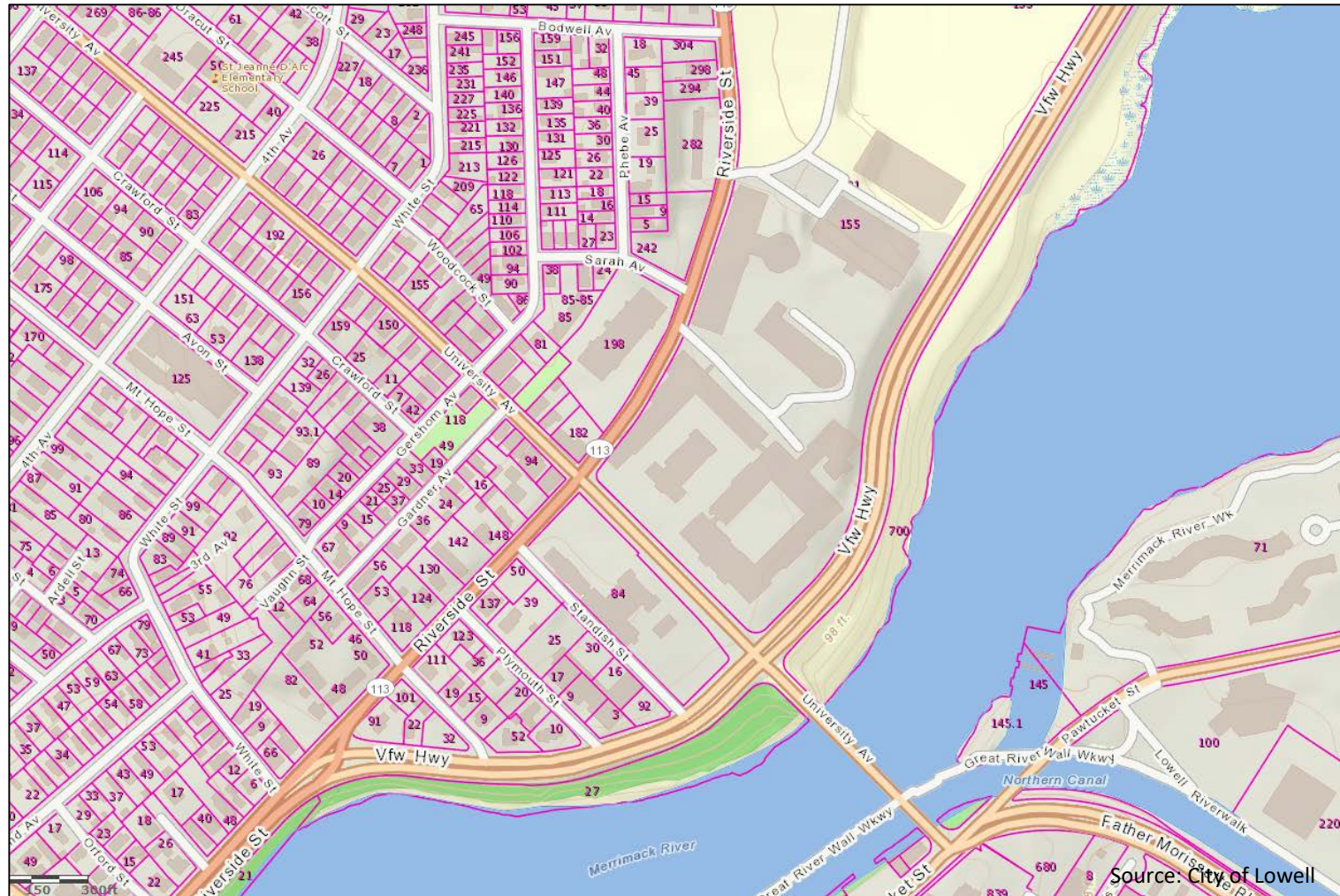


# Sea level rise and storm surge analysis

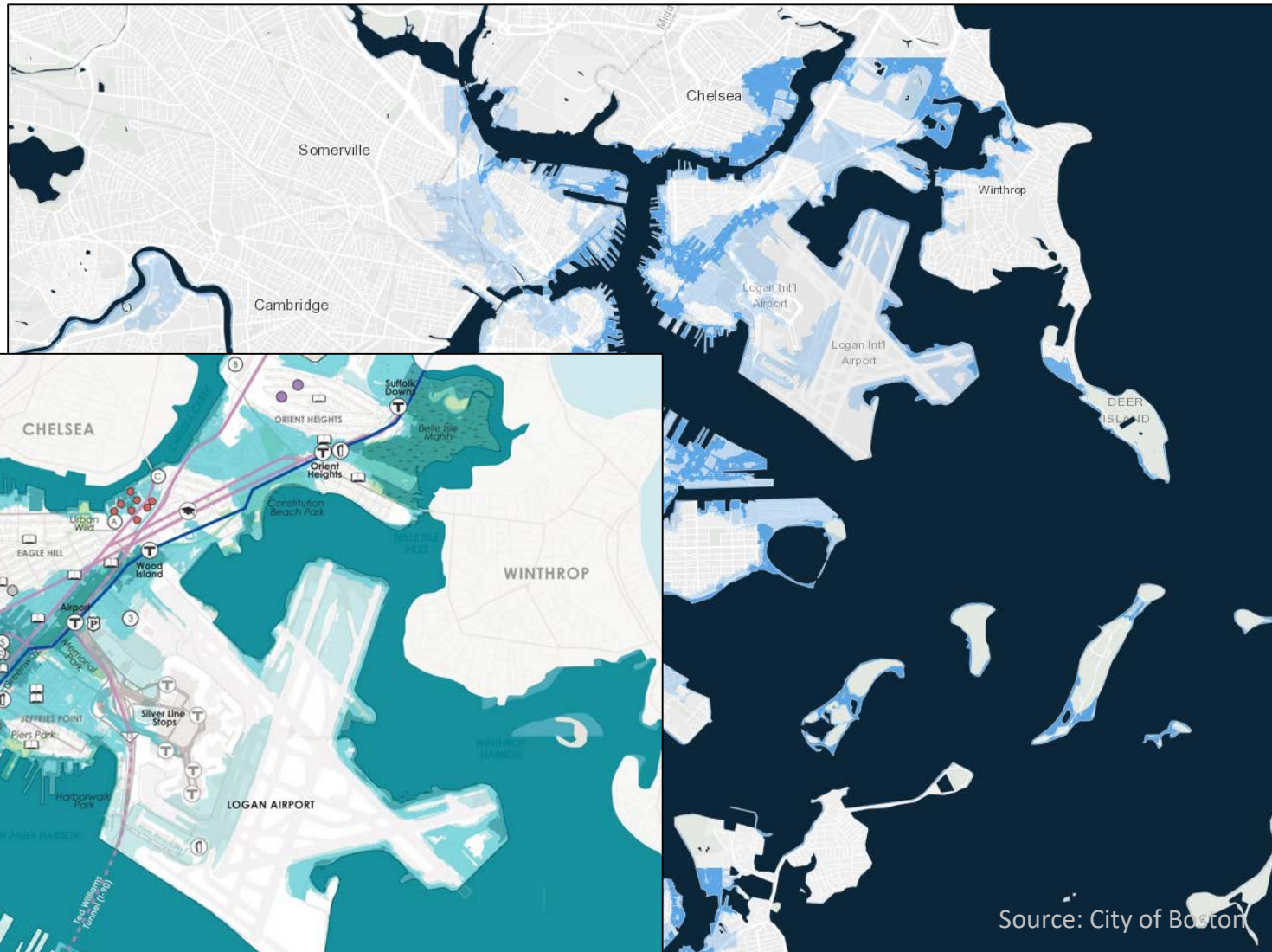




## Demographics and land parcels



# Sea level rise and storm surge analysis

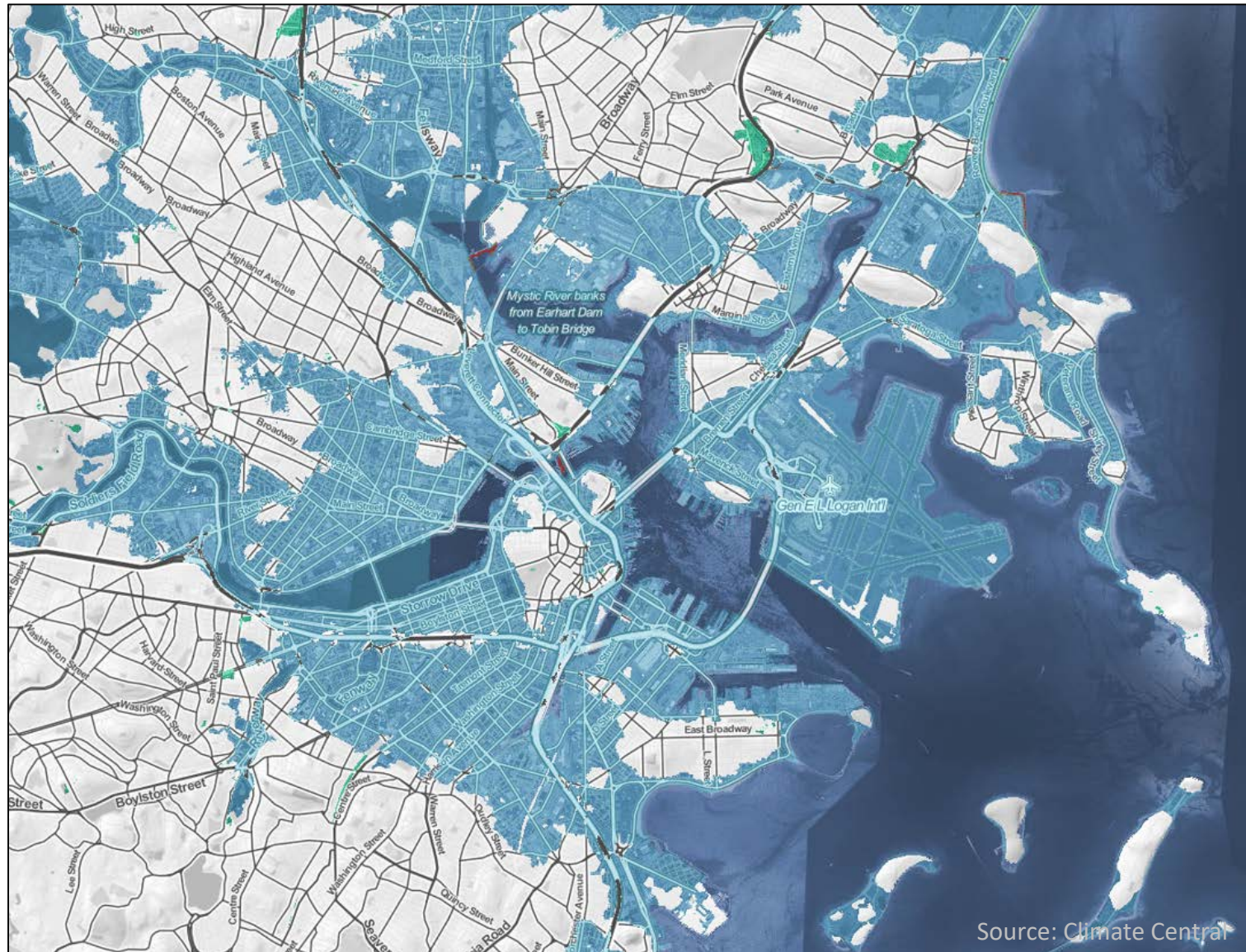


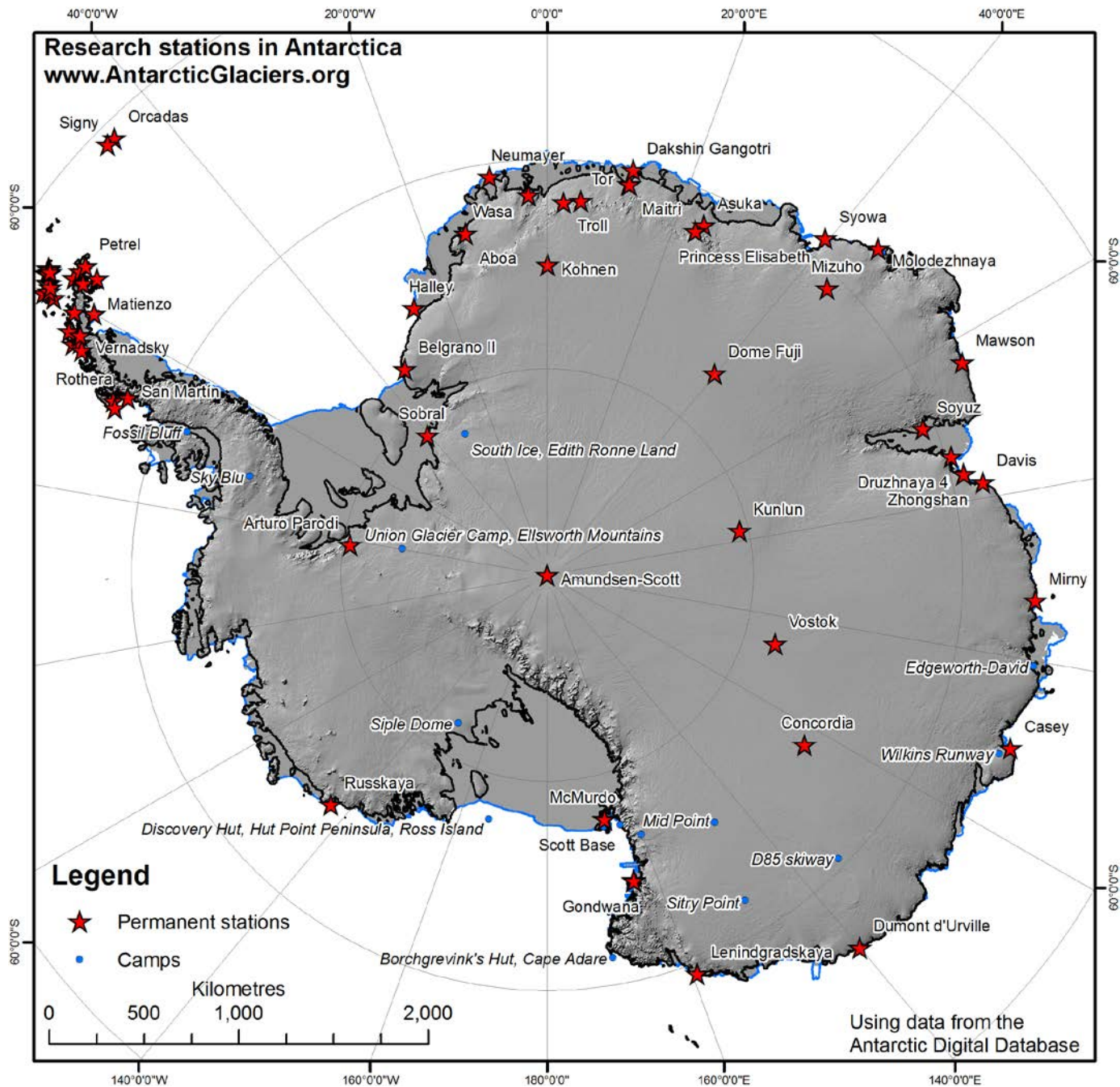
Source: WBUR

Source: City of Boston

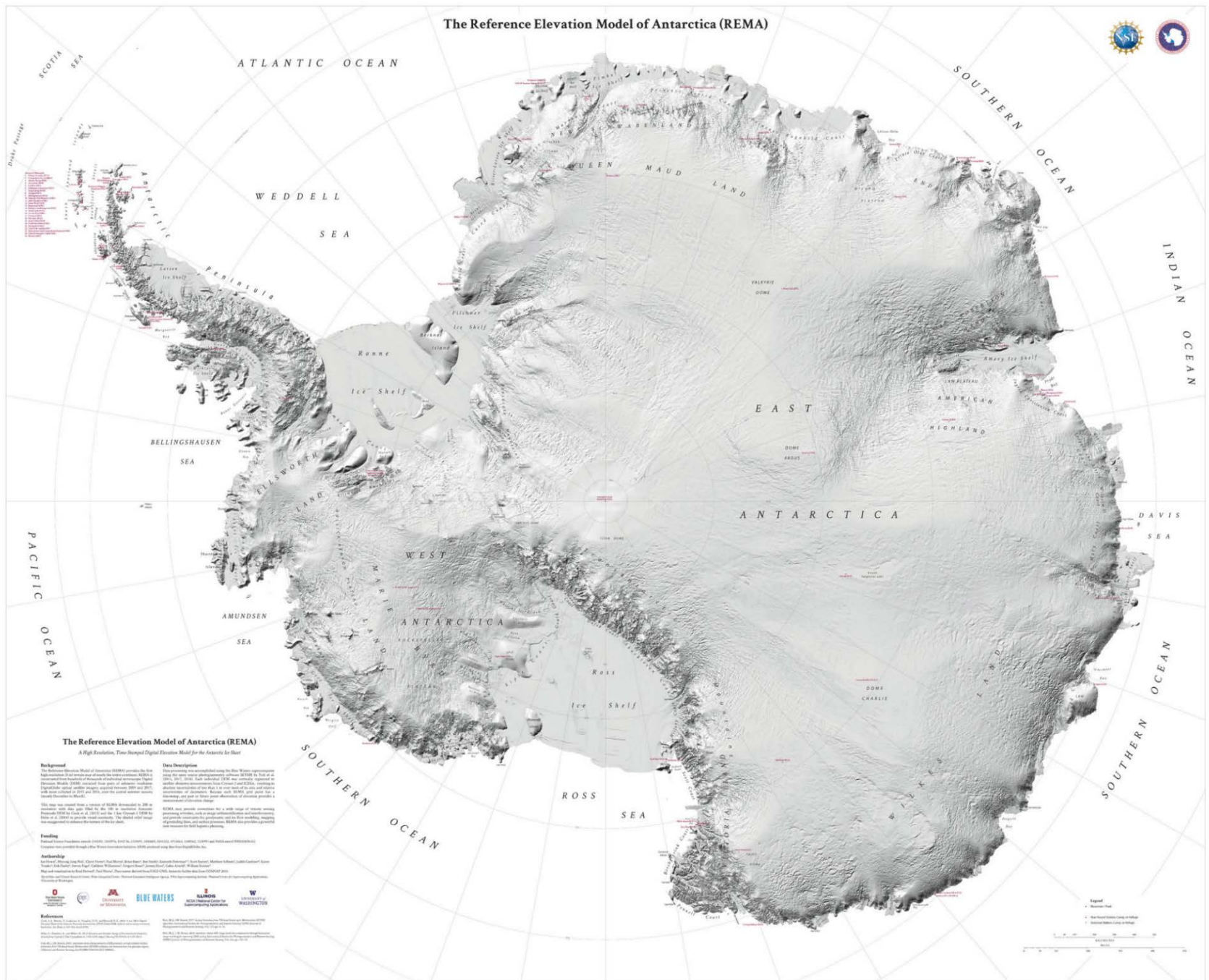


# Sea level rise and storm surge analysis

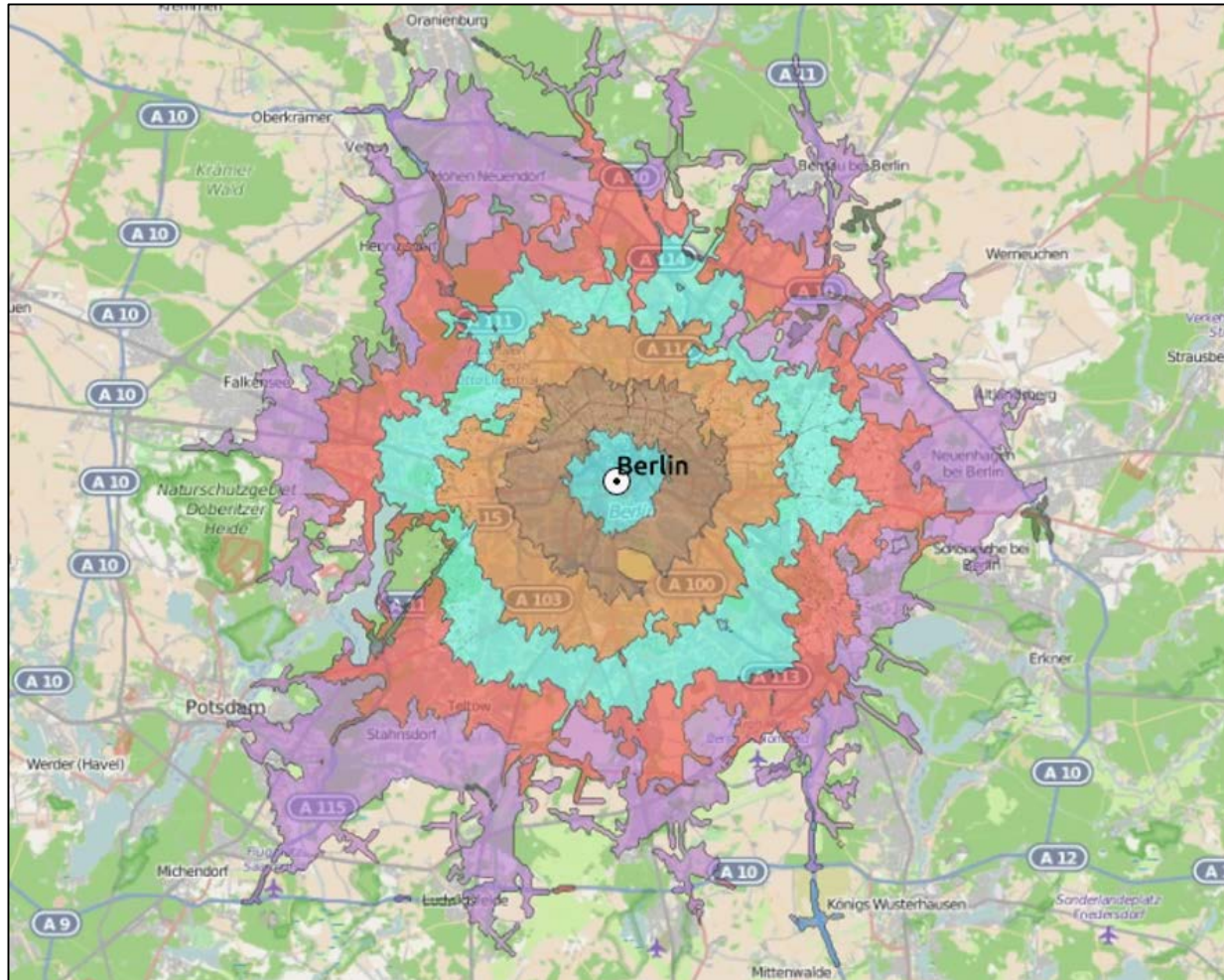








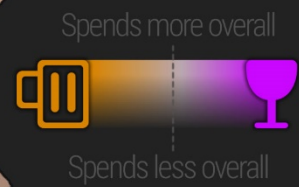
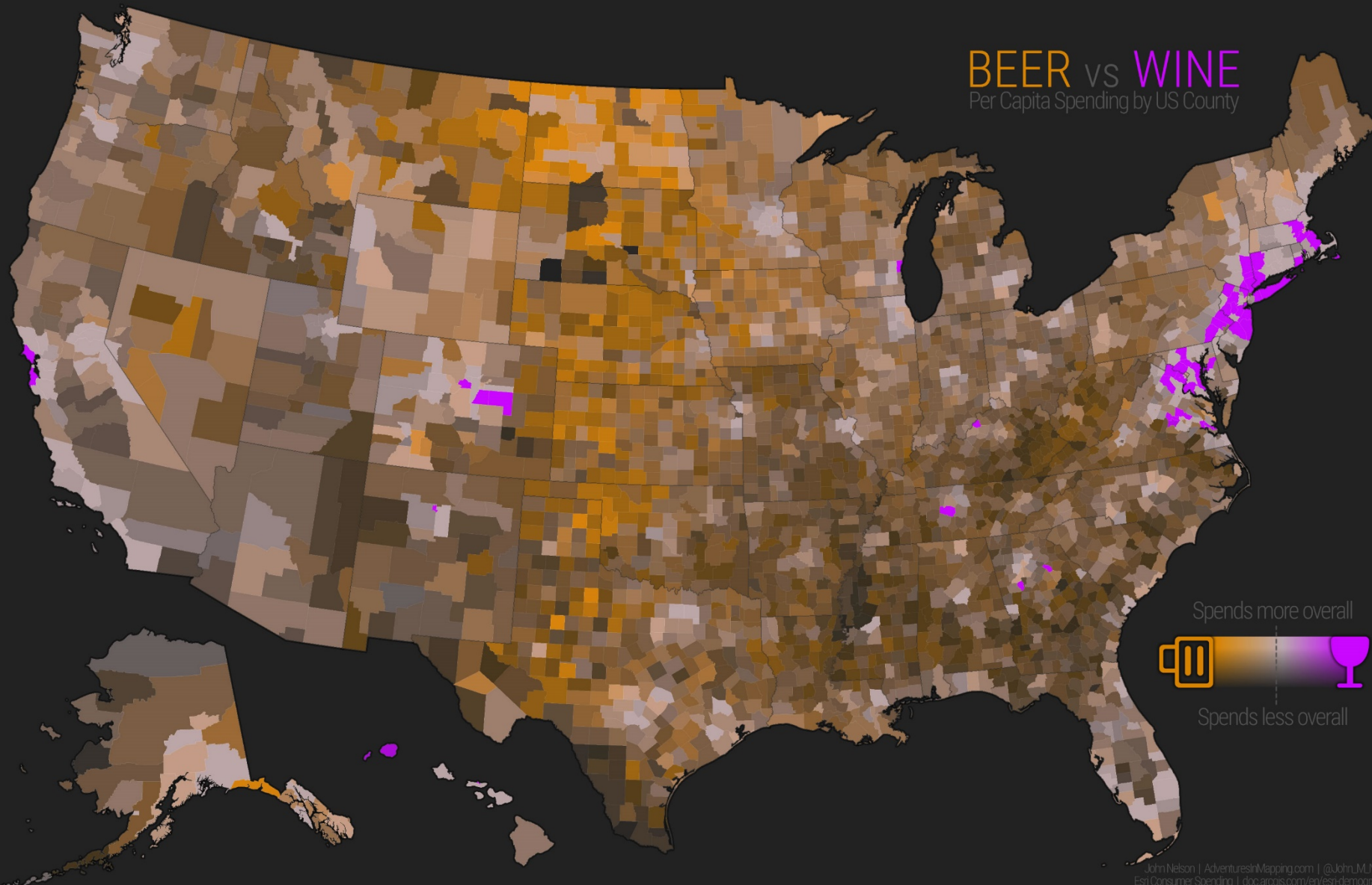
# Berlin car accessibility from city center divided into 5 minute isochrones

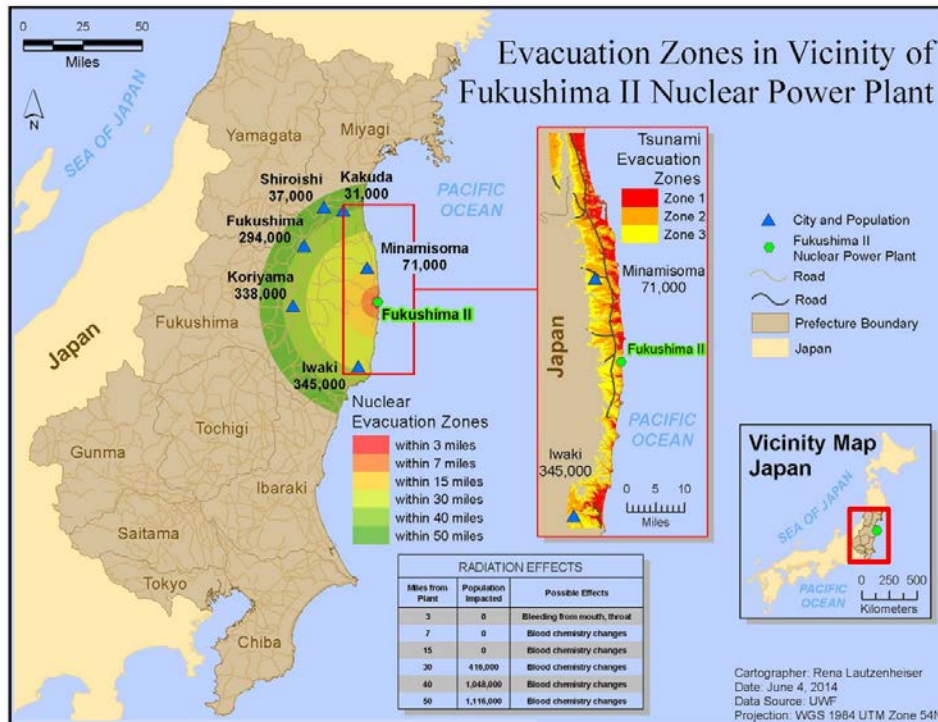
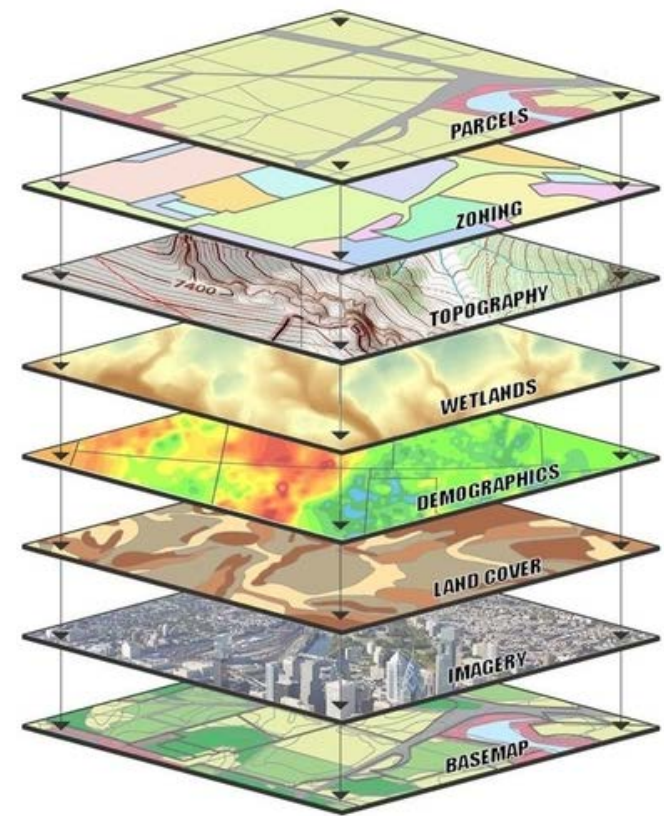
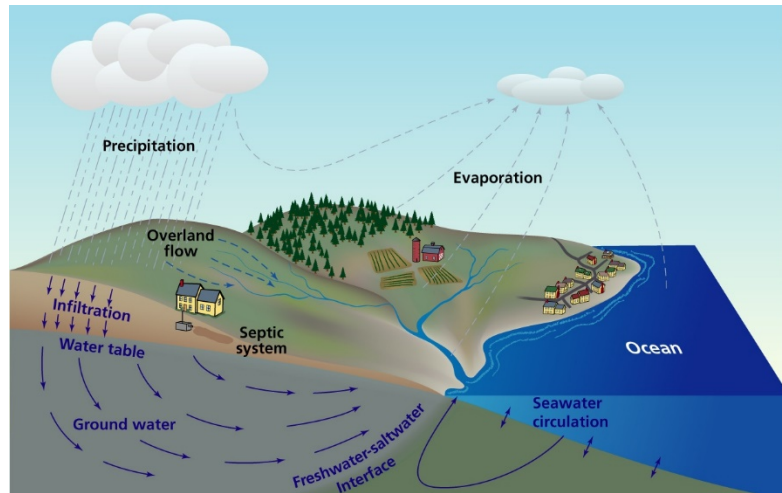




# BEER vs WINE

Per Capita Spending by US County





OBJECTID	SHAPE	Name of Building	Size of Building	Operational Hours	Acc
1	Polygon	Gym	1768.992398	8:30am-5:00pm	Emf
2	Polygon	Gym	1043.515552	8:30am-5:00pm	Emf
3	Polygon	J	3834.247963	8:30am-5:00pm	Emf
4	Polygon	OA	14550.305355	8:30am-5:00pm	Emf
5	Polygon	G	11507.921772	8:30am-5:00pm	Emf
6	Polygon	S	2690.197171	8:30am-5:00pm	Emf
7	Polygon	L	11246.731494	8:30am-5:00pm	Emf
8	Polygon	E	10625.150848	8:30am-5:00pm	Emf
9	Polygon	F	4913.179712	8:30am-5:00pm	Emf
10	Polygon	O	25929.942586	8:30am-5:00pm	Emf



## California's Camp Fire

### [A story map of damage](#)

The GIS team in Butte County, CA, developed a story map to help organize their initial damage assessment and to provide county residents with evacuation, damage, service, and lost pet information.

### [Debris flow](#)

The USGS is using a GIS to model the spatial distribution of post-fire debris flow potential. Debris flow models are based on terrain and soils information, rainfall conditions, and burn–severity data representing recently burned areas.

### [Burn Severity](#)

The USFS is using a GIS to model burn–severity in recently burned areas.

# Climate Ready Boston

# GIS is a new Science

**1970s:** First example of GIS in the U.S. and Canada used data linked to property locations for environmental purposes

**1980s:** Computer chips advance to allow GUIs and commercial GIS takes hold – ESRI, PCI, MAPinfo

**1990s:** GIS becomes widely used in academia, government, and private businesses (oil and gas, mining), first academic journal dedicated to GIS established

**2000s:** Open source GIS, computationally intensive geospatial analysis tools developed, graphic capabilities improve

**2010s:** GIS becomes a basic tool in nearly all fields involving geospatial data

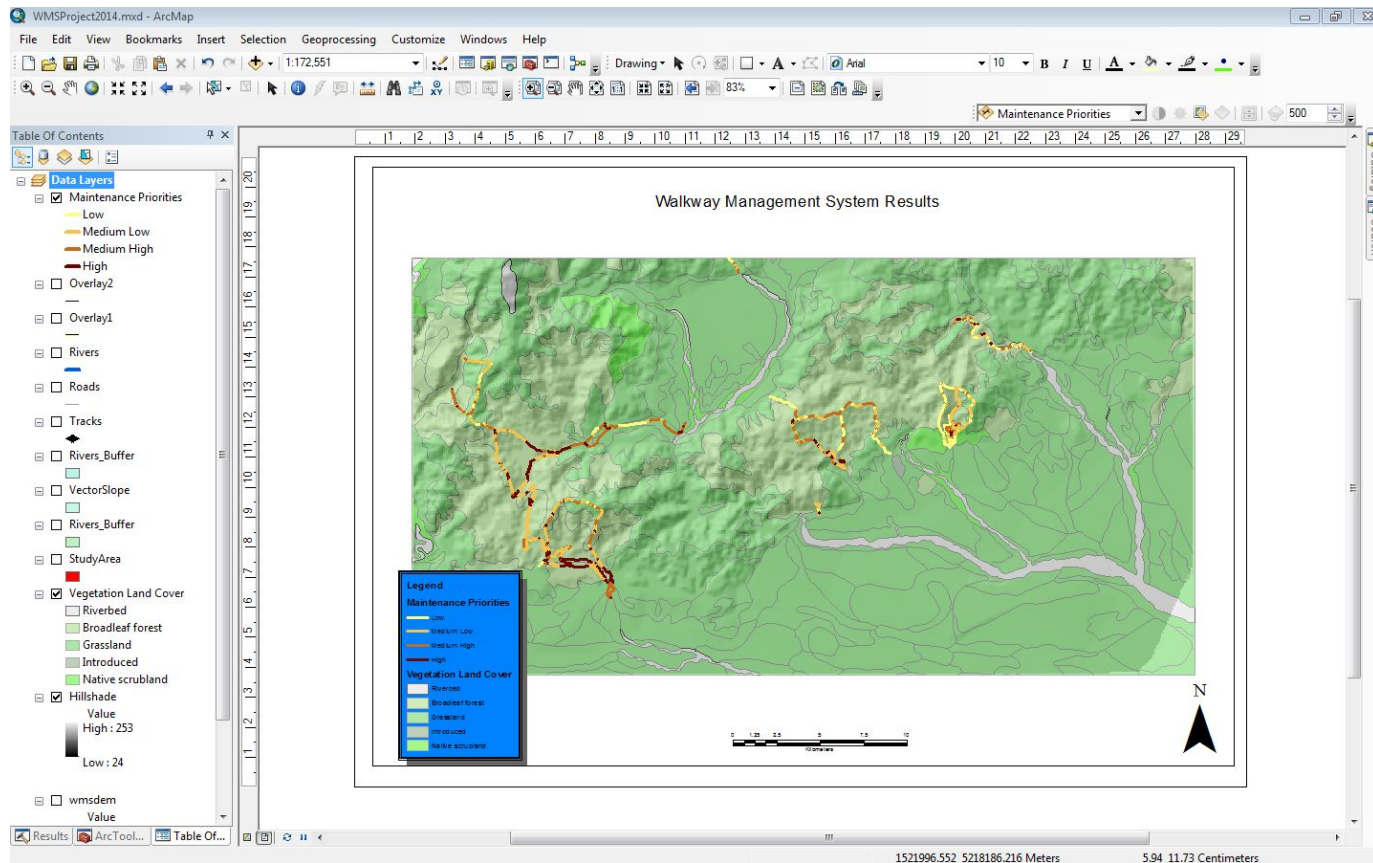
# GIS Software

- IDRISI GIS – Clark University
  - Focused on raster analysis
- GRASS GIS
  - Free and open source
- QGIS
  - Free and open source
- ESRI ArcGIS
  - Industry and academic standard

# ESRI ArcGIS

ArcGIS includes:

ArcMap, ArcCatalog, ArcScene, ArcGlobe



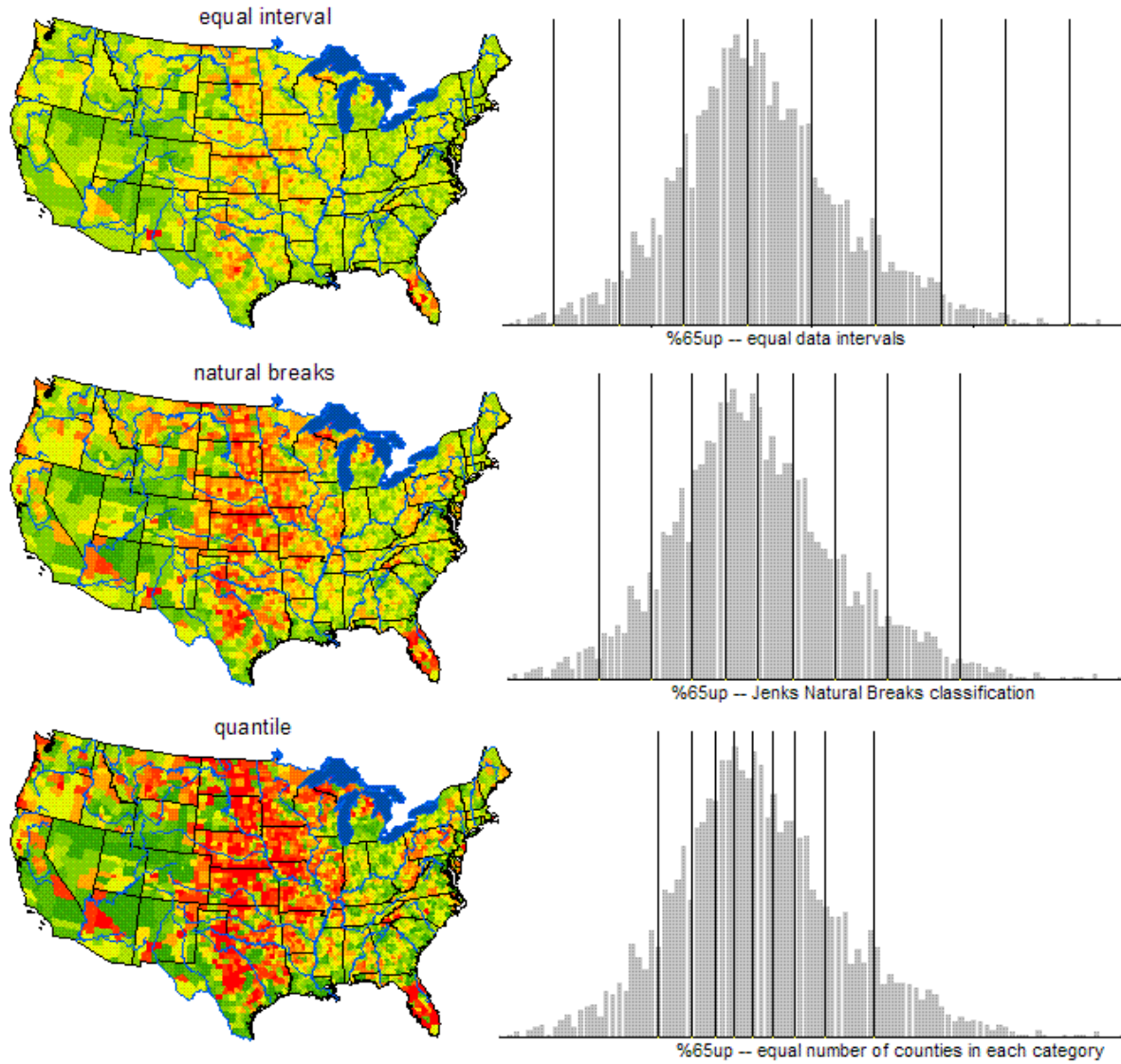
# ArcMap Demo

[Jamesheiss.com/ENVI3010S19/proj1.mdb](http://Jamesheiss.com/ENVI3010S19/proj1.mdb)

## COMPARISON OF CLASSIFICATION METHODS

Percentage of US Population Age 65 or Older, by County

Distributions of Counties



Source: John Mackenzie