

## Durham area, North Carolina

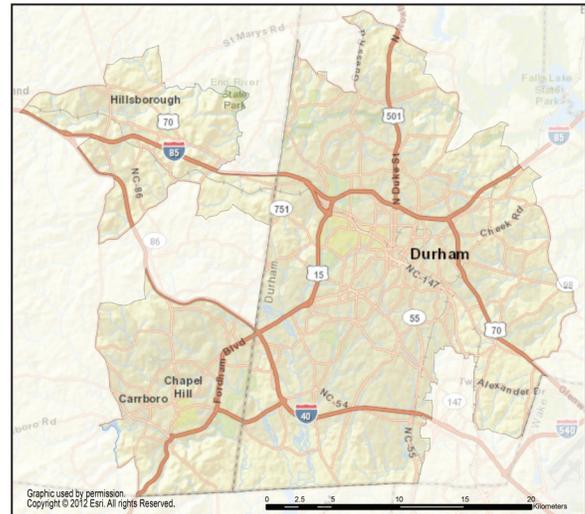
EnviroAtlas includes maps and research on for selected communities in the United States. The EnviroAtlas boundary for the Durham, NC area encompasses 193 census block groups and includes the City of Durham, the Towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough, as well as unincorporated areas of Durham and Orange County. This fact sheet highlights some of the community data available in EnviroAtlas.

### Overview

The Durham area covers nearly 570 square kilometers and has an estimated population of over 340,000 people.

Demographic maps in EnviroAtlas can help screen for potential disparities in the benefits that neighborhoods receive from nature, also called ecosystem services, as well as their associated health impacts.

Total land area	569.39 km <sup>2</sup>
Total population	340,851
Under 1 year old	1.39%
Under 13 years old	16.40%
Over 70 years of age	6.29%
Non-white/Hispanic	50.32%



### Landcover

Using one-meter aerial photography, the EnviroAtlas community component estimates land coverage for the area. This unique data provides insight into the ecosystem services or benefits the community may receive from existing natural resources.

Landcover	Percent of area
Forest	64.02%
Grass/Herbaceous	13.88%
Impervious	19.71%
Water	.78%
Barren/soil	1.61%

### Green space and access to parks

Research indicates access to and visibility of green space and vegetation has positive physical, mental, and emotional benefits. EnviroAtlas estimates that in this area:

- There are 244.82 square meters of green space per person
- Over 84 percent of the population does not have a park within walking distance
- Almost 29,000 residents have less than 5 percent tree coverage within 50 meters of their home
- 22 out of 114 K-12 schools and 7 out of 211 day care centers cannot see green space within a 100 meters of the building

### Pollutant Removal by Tree Cover

Natural resources such as trees, soils, and wetlands absorb pollutants and nutrients from the air and water. EnviroAtlas estimates the volume of removal, as well as the health costs and incidences of diseases avoided by these natural filtration processes. Each year in this area:

- Trees remove over 1,656,000 kilograms of ozone
- Over 330 cases of asthma exacerbation are avoided because of the nitrogen dioxide removed by tree cover
- The removal of nitrogen dioxide by tree cover can save an estimated \$16,100 in hospital admissions
- The value of school days not lost to illness because of sulfur dioxide removal is over \$15,900
- The median concentration of phosphorus in streamflow is reduced by 9 percent on average
- Trees sequester over 113,000,000 kilograms of carbon

### Near-Road Environments

Studies indicate that the capacity of trees to filter air may reduce impacts of road pollution on human health and well-being. EnviroAtlas analyzes the coverage of trees next to busy roads. In the Durham area:

- An estimated 57 percent of the population live within 300 meters of a busy roadway
- 58 percent of these roads have greater than 25 percent tree coverage alongside
- Just over one-third of the estimated population (35 percent) live within 300 meters of a roadway that has little to no tree coverage.