



Boundary for Durham, NC and Vicinity

The Durham, NC, area was chosen as the first EnviroAtlas community based on its proximity to the EPA offices in Research Triangle Park, NC, and its inclusion as the research pilot for EPA's [Sustainable and Healthy Communities](#) program. The EnviroAtlas boundary for the Durham, NC area was determined using the 2000 Census definition of an Urban Area. It includes Durham, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough; the area measures 569 square kilometers, and encompasses 193 census block groups.

How was this boundary created?

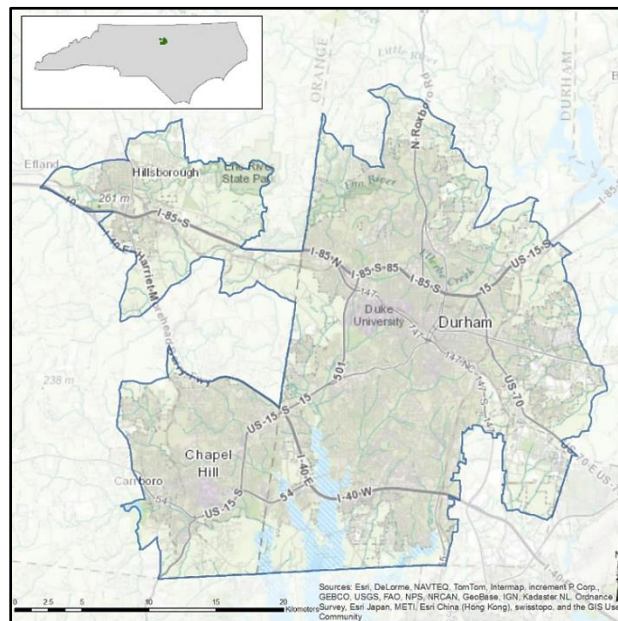
Most EnviroAtlas community boundaries are derived from the 2010 US Census Bureau's Urbanized Areas (UAs). In Durham, NC, the community boundary was derived from the UAs in the 2000 Census because the 2010 UAs were not yet available.

The UAs are created using Census Blocks that "comprise a densely settled core of ... blocks that meet minimum population density requirements, along with adjacent territory containing non-residential urban land uses as well as territory with low population density included to link outlying densely settled territory with the densely settled core." UAs must have at least 50,000 people. Because the EnviroAtlas community component uses the Census Block Group (each comprised of 4-10 Census Blocks) as a unit of analysis, community boundaries were created from the UAs rather than reflecting the UAs themselves. Block groups were initially included if 50% of their population was within the UA boundary. From there, all holes were filled and all islands were excluded. If a block group only touched the main body of block groups at one corner, it was excluded.

The EnviroAtlas team then assessed each community boundary individually to ensure that it included all the area relevant to the principal community of focus and did not extend far beyond that community. Where available, the municipal boundaries were compared to the EnviroAtlas boundaries to ensure that the municipal core of the principal community was fully included.

Where can I get more information?

For answers to frequently asked questions regarding the Census 2000 Urban Rural Classification, go to the U.S. Census [website](#).



EnviroAtlas provides [community summary](#) fact sheets for each EnviroAtlas community that give an overview of the featured area and descriptions of some of the available community ecosystem services metrics—for example, the air and water filtration services provided by tree cover or the benefits of green space to residents' health.

In-depth information on the relationships between urban ecosystems and human residents, such as green space and human health and well-being, can be found in EPA's [Eco-Health Relationship Browser](#).

For additional information on data creation, access the metadata found in the drop-down menu for each map layer listed in the EnviroAtlas table of contents and click again on metadata at the bottom of the metadata summary page for more details. Click [here](#) to view the map service REST page pertinent to Urban Area attributes used in EnviroAtlas. To ask specific questions about this data layer, please contact the [EnviroAtlas Team](#).

Acknowledgments

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