I-TREE LANDSCAPE AS A TOOL FOR CHANGE

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These guides were made in collaboration with the following partners below. All fellow tree lovers.

i-Tree Landscape

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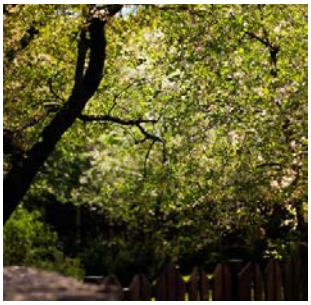

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WHY I-TREE LANDSCAPE?

Around the globe, people depend on urban ecosystems for cooling, air quality regulation, cultural identity, recreation and tourism, physical, and mental health (Wu 2014). Urban areas rely on the ecosystem services that green infrastructure like street trees and urban forests provide. These ecosystem services provide benefits to the environment, local ecosystems, and society at large, improving the livability of these regions.

i-Tree Landscape is a tool made by the USDA Forest Service and the Davey Tree Company that provides urban and community forest analysis and benefit assessment tools (iTree 2014). i-Tree Landscape is a peer-reviewed software suite that is free to use and offers state-of-the-art assessment tools for all. Learning how to use i-Tree tools can help communities learn more about their urban forest, quantify the benefits provided by trees, prioritize areas for additional tree planting based on a variety of factors (i.e. census or land use data), and investigate resilience of current planted areas to future climate changes. i-Tree Landscape visually assesses urban forest structures and ecosystem services via a web-based mapping interface, which can be grouped in different ways (e.g., counties, cities, census block groups, and watersheds). i-Tree Landscape is a tool for change that allows communities to take action in becoming more sustainable.

WHY I-TREE LANDSCAPE?

The World is Becoming More Urban

The amount of the world's population living in cities is increasing (UN, 2018). The future of ecological management in a broader sense may depend on the ability of people in cities to create and maintain urban ecosystem services. Urban forests need to be viewed as an important part of the economic and social fabric of the city (Nowak 2006). iAs our world and its natural landscapes are changing, many in the world will soon never see examples of organisms, habitats, or anything natural at all that cannot be found in cities. Despite this lack of familiarity with the natural world, a majority of future environmental decision making will be done in urban areas (Dunn et al., 2006). i-Tree Landscape provides a tool for visualizing and managing tree ecosystems in urban areas.

A Healthier City

There is growing evidence that suggests that surrounding oneself with nature and natural environments can help improve overall physical and psychological well being. Even passive viewing of parks or greenery creates positive attitudes, less stress, and increased attention (Hartig et al., 2014.) Increasing plant abundance can help decrease and control air pollution leading to positive effects in combating respiratory and heart diseases (Clark et al., 2014.) Exposure to diverse plant life and species richness has been shown to lead to lower allergy prevalences (Hanski et al., 2012) Chicago is currently dealing with the loss of trees due to emerald ash borer. In a study conducted by Donovon et al. (2013), this tree loss has led to increased mortality related to heart and lung illnesses across 15 states. Across these 15 states, emerald ash borer was associated with additional 6113 deaths related to illness of the lower respiratory system, and 15,080 cardiovascular-related deaths.

WHY I-TREE LANDSCAPE?

A Tool for Equity

Underprivileged communities typically do not receive as many social and environmental services as advantaged communities (Garcia-Cuerva et al., 2018). Ecosystems and ecosystem services are critical components to human well-being, particularly for the urban poor (Derkzen et al., 2017). Being able to identify underserved communities and the ecosystem services that best suit their needs can help address these inequities. i-Tree landscape is a useful tool for visually illustrating where there is a need for more ecosystem services from trees. By prioritizing tree planting based on areas with low tree cover or high poverty areas, i-Tree landscape can help cities, land managers, and communities to increase urban forests based on equity measures.

Combat Climate Change

Urban nature is increasingly recognized as an asset for climate change mitigation and adaptation (Demuzere et al. 2014). i-Tree landscape features forecast modeling based on projected future conditions and planting/management scenarios. Using this tool allows users to identify areas at high risk due to climate change. Being able to take preventative measures with one's urban forest is important and leads to money saved, communities being better served, and long-lasting ecosystem services.

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VISION

i-Tree Landscape is a tool with many uses. Because it is free, we hope that this guide inspires many to use it regularly and adapt it to fit the needs of different user groups. i-Tree landscape has immediate uses for forest managers and urban planners. In the future, however, we hope that i-Tree Landscape also becomes popularized beyond current practitioner circles. We see i-Tree Landscape as being particularly useful and important in community science and education. Use of i-Tree in these circles can be beneficial in bringing about equity in marginalized communities with less access to environmental education (and fewer resources to invest in data collection and analysis of the benefits/lack of benefits from urban trees).

Community Science

Learning how to use i-Tree Landscape provides opportunities for citizens to engage with others in their communities and to advocate for their needs. Community science allows citizens and community groups to document otherwise unnoticed or controversial environmental problems (Bonney et al., 2015) like gaps in urban tree cover. The goal of community science is to bridge the gap between the public and science, to facilitate a more active scientific role for the general public, and to increase dialogue and have more participatory decision-making in environmental policy creation (Irwin, 1995). Public involvement and volunteering has also been linked to strong advocacy for the environment (Ryan et al., 2001), essentially creating long-term environmental stewards.

VISION

Combatting "Ecophobia"

Combatting "Ecophobia": In his book Beyond Ecophobia, David Sobel talks about how children can become scared when they learn about the many things happening in the environment (i.e. climate change or the degradation of the rainforest) and develop a kind of "ecophobia." Being in a city where surrounding nature is not immediately thought of, ecophobia is likely more prominent. This is because classrooms are going to try to teach about lush environments such as the Amazon or the Arctic and try to create environmental stewards of children by encouraging them to take action in with these dire issues. Allowing children to love nature first, essentially building a foundational education around nature allows it to be more immersive.

Combatting Nature Deficit Disorder

Nature Deficit Disorder: In the US, outdoor activity was at 10% among children in 2003 (Soga & Gaston, 2016.) Robert Pyle stated that the "extinction of experience" was one of the biggest reasons for our environmental challenges. Disconnect with nature leads to an overall apathy and lack of environmental awareness. The term nature-deficit disorder was coined by Robert Louv in his book Last Child in the Woods, and is the idea that people, especially children, are spending too little time outdoors. Louv believes that this change results in a wide range of behavioral problems in children that are "human costs of alienation from nature: diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties, higher rates of physical and emotional illnesses, a rising rate of myopia, child and adult obesity, Vitamin D deficiency, and other maladies."

VISION

Forestry in Education

Forestry is an important field, especially as climate change and urbanization are rapidly co-occurring. However, enrollment in university forestry programs is declining (Winistorfer,2005). Despite the fact that students are interested in the environment and the issues surrounding the environment, there is still a low interest in forestry (Hager et al., 2007). Integrating i-Tree landscape into educational activities and curriculum might prove valuable in increasing student interest in forestry, and in making lasting environmental stewards.

Creating Meaningful Relationships with Nature

By empowering and educating the youngest residents of our city, we are endowing a new generation of environmental stewards with knowledge and a meaningful relationship with nature within their urban home. Although interactions with nature are not the only route to interest in conservation, they are clearly an important and arguably necessary condition. Chawla (1999) states that one's "predisposition to take an interest in learning about the environment, feeling concern for it, and acting to conserve it," is based on "formative experiences" with nature. Robert Bateman said, "If you can't name things, how can you love them? And if you don't love them, then you're not going to care a hoot about protecting them or voting for issues that would protect them."

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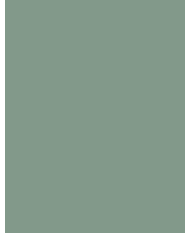
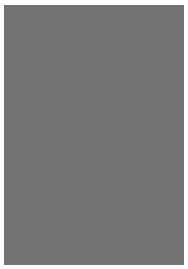




SELECT YOUR LOCATION

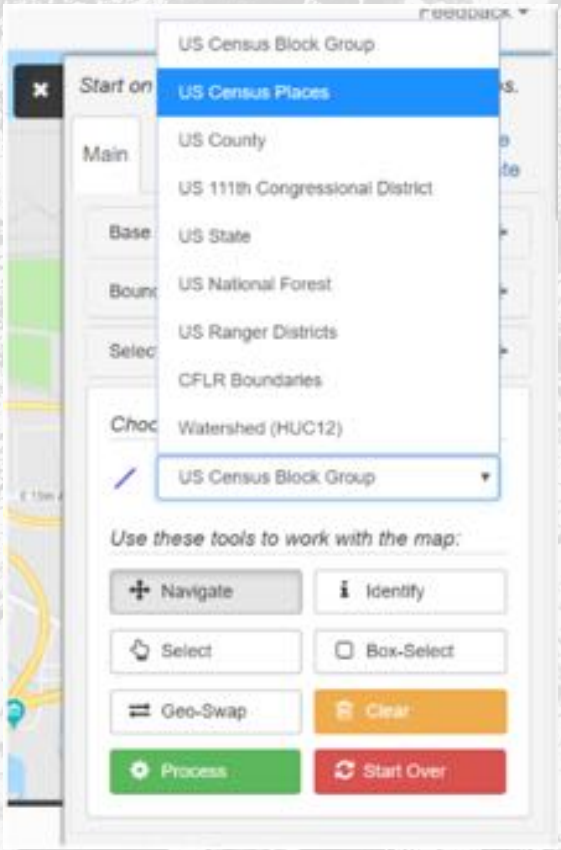
What makes i-Tree Landscape unique among other i-Tree tools is the absence of any significant data collection or input. This manual describes how to select the location for your project. Potential next steps are to Explore Location Data, See Tree Benefits, Prioritize Tree Planting, or explore different map layers.

SELECT YOUR LOCATION

1. To begin your project, type a location into the top left search bar.

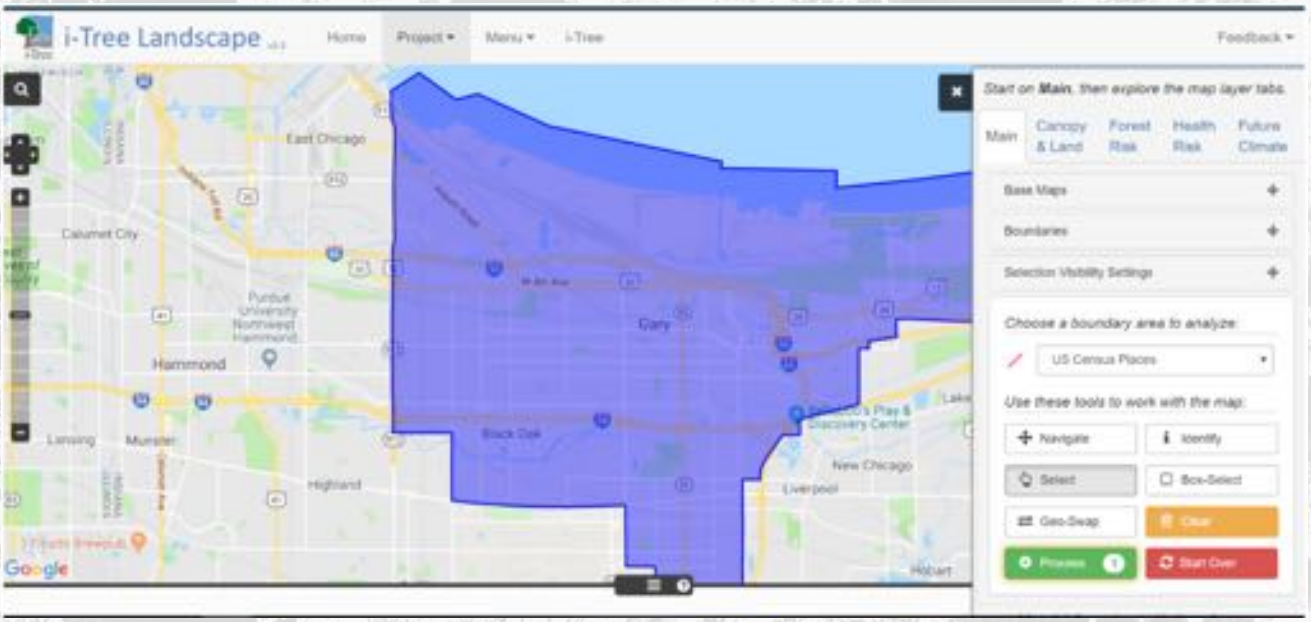
2. Choose the boundary type for your location selection in the drop-down menu in the right control panel. Options include:

- **US Census Block Group**
- **US Census Places**
- **US County**
- **US 111th Congressional District**
- **US State**
- **US National Forest**
- **US Ranger Districts**
- **CFLR Boundaries**
- **Watershed (HUC12)**

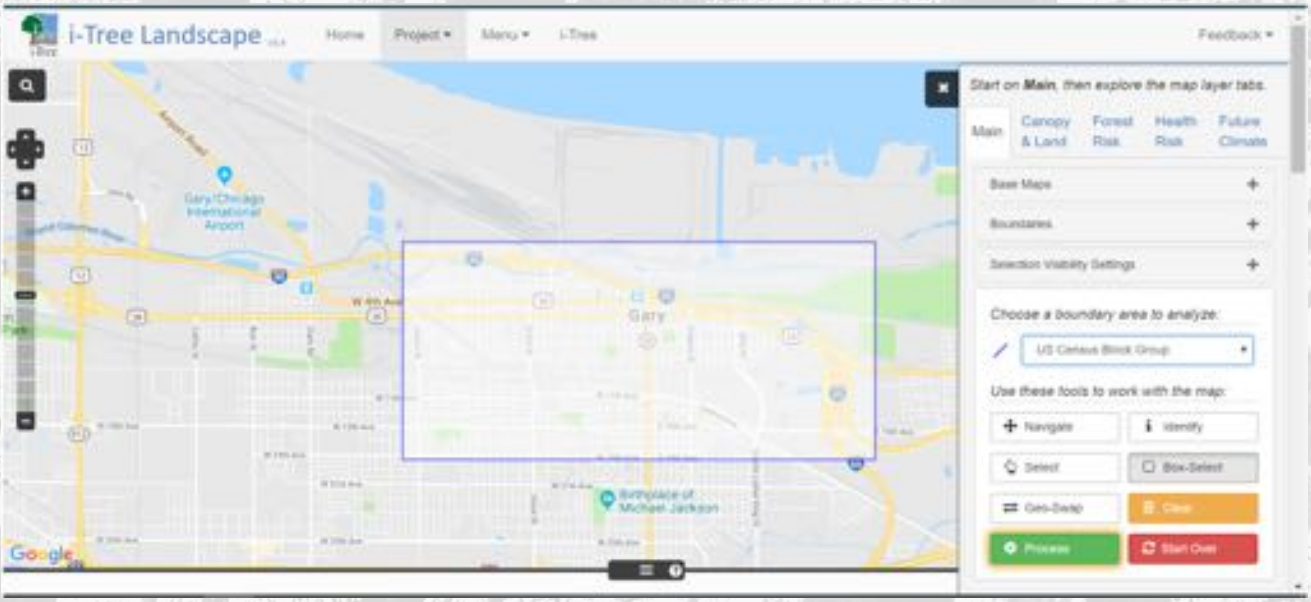


SELECT YOUR LOCATION

3. Click on the Select tool in the right control panel to choose your boundary area. Click on your desired location on the map. The selected boundary area should be highlighted in blue.



You may also use the Box-Select tool to select all the regions that intersect with a drawn rectangle.

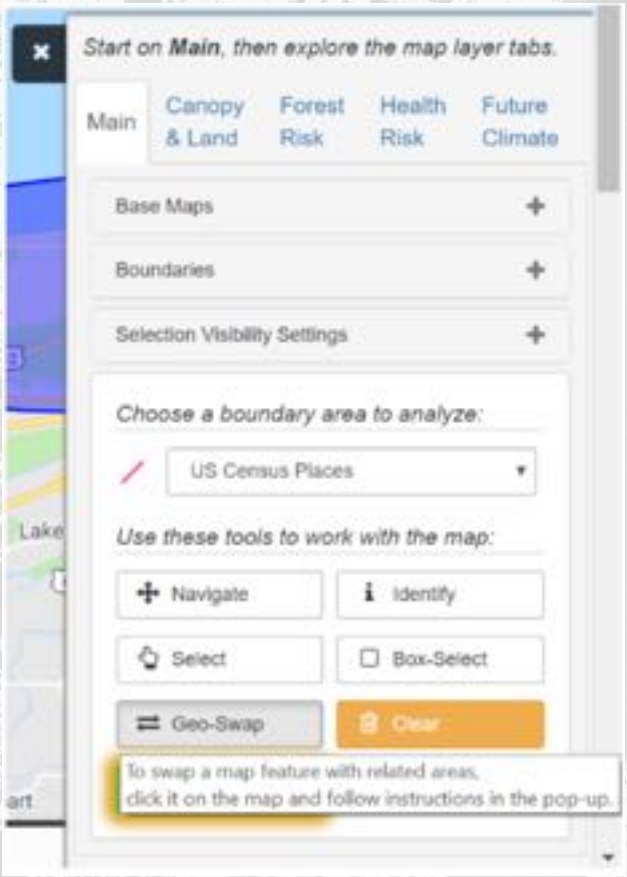


SELECT YOUR LOCATION

4. i-Tree Landscape allows you to easily switch to smaller or larger geographies that intersect with your selected boundary area.

For example, when a Census Place / is selected:
You can swap for smaller geographies (like Census Block Groups / it intersects). You can swap for larger geographies (like Congressional Districts / it intersects).

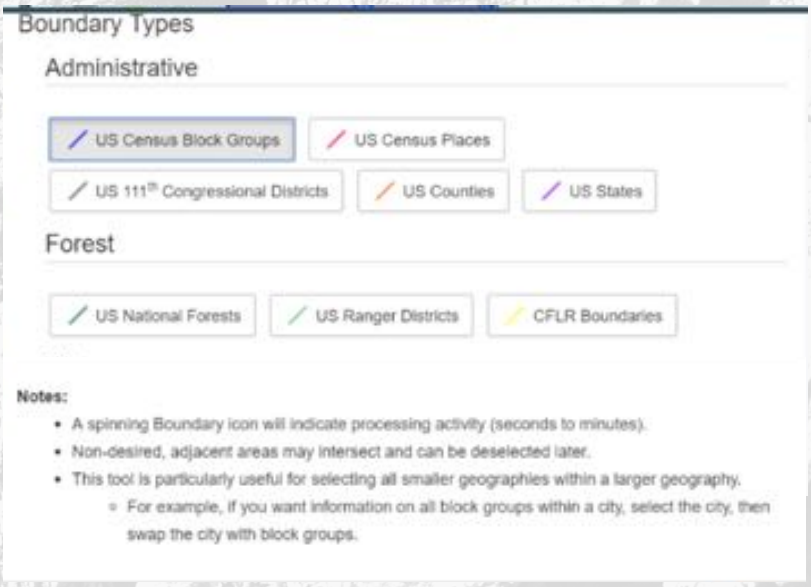
To do so, click on the Geo-Swap tool in the control panel.



SELECT YOUR LOCATION

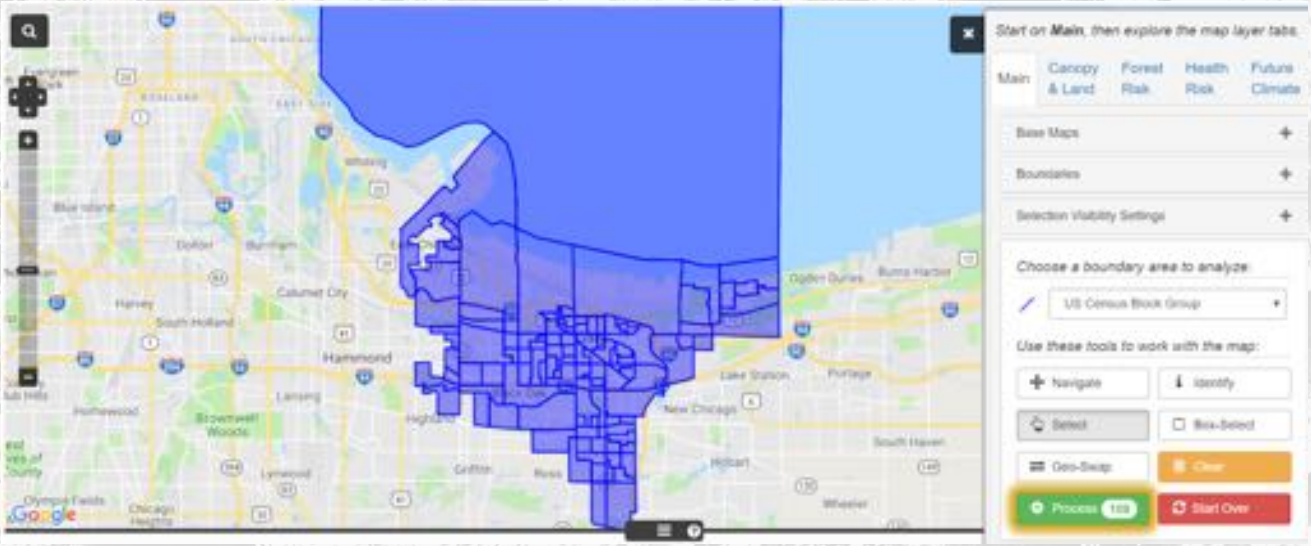
5. Once the Geo-Swap tool is activated, click on your highlighted boundary area and this window should pop up.

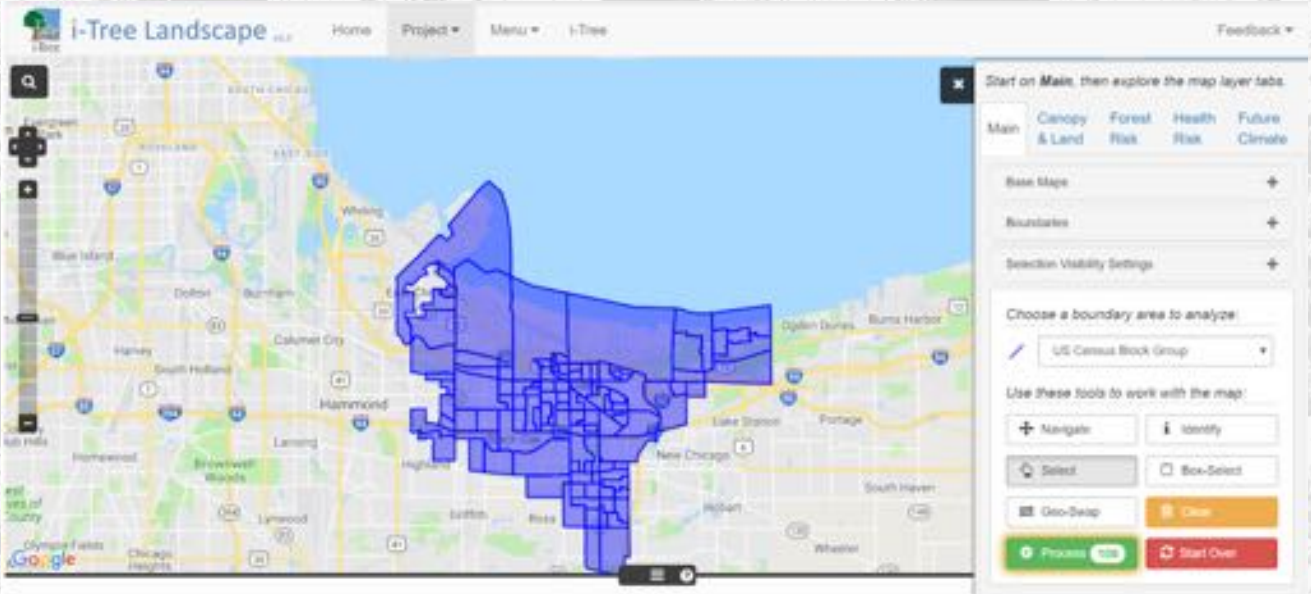
6. Select a Boundary Type that you want to swap with the currently selected geography using the buttons in the Geo-Swap window. Press Okay to swap the original selection for the intersected features or Cancel to prevent any changes.



SELECT YOUR LOCATION

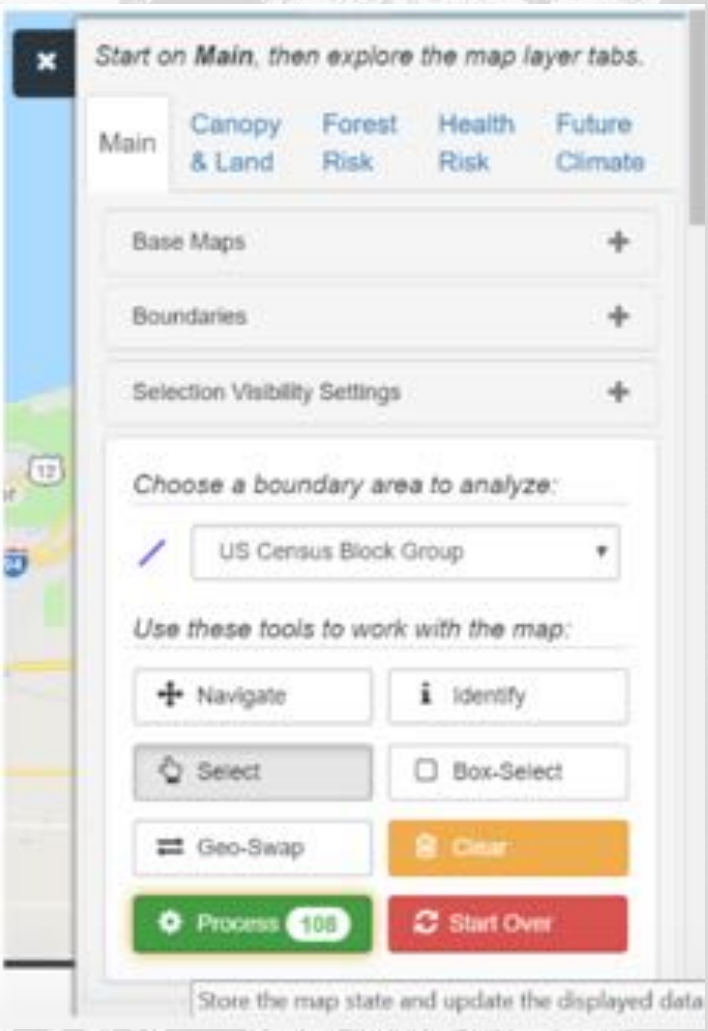
7. Your newly divided selected boundary area should be highlighted in blue (first picture). Using the Select tool in the control panel, deselect non-desired, adjacent areas (i.e. bodies of water) that intersect with your new boundary type (second picture).

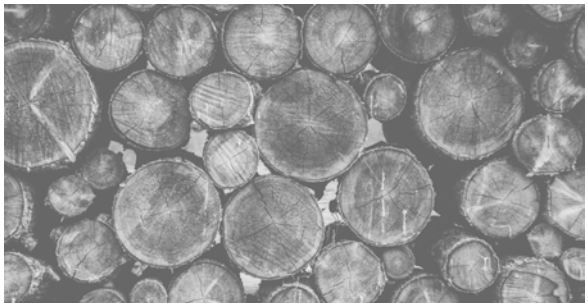




SELECT YOUR LOCATION

8. When you have successfully selected your desired location and boundary type, press the green Process button on the control panel to continue your project.





EXPLORE LOCATION DATA

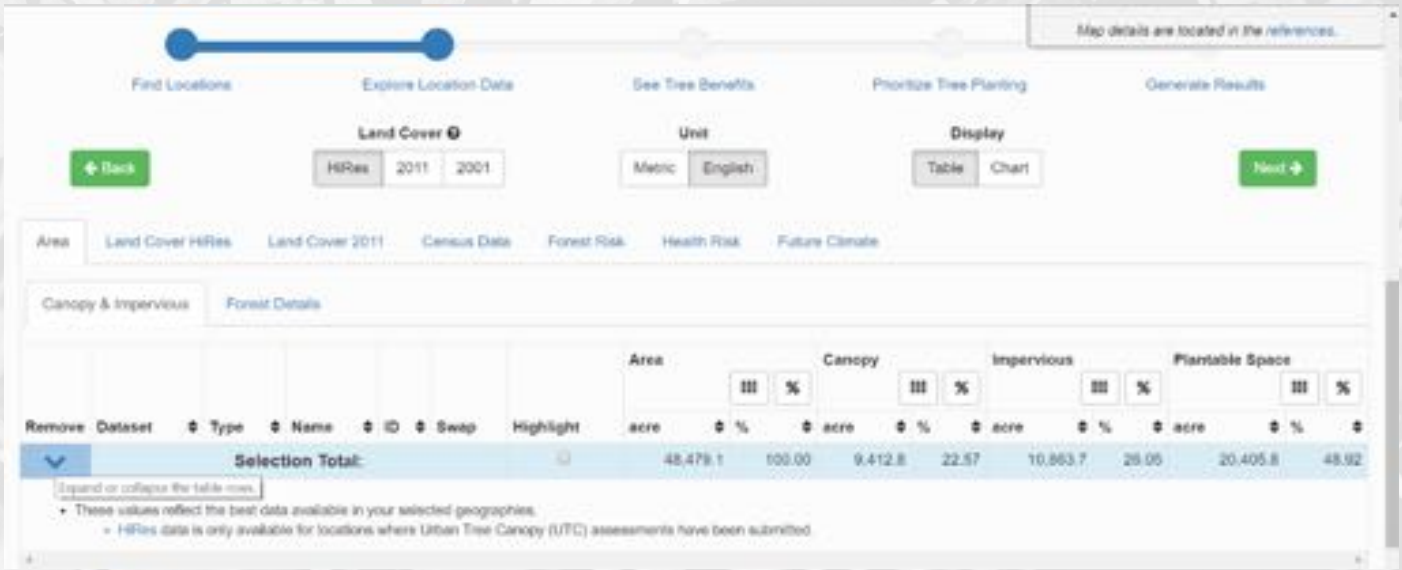
i-Tree Landscape provides a wide range of data for your desired project location including: Area, Forest Composition, Land Cover, Census Data, Forest Risks, Health Risks, and Future Climate predictions. This manual describes how to explore data from your selected geography. For instructions on how to *Select Your Location*, see the manual titled Select Your Location. Potential next steps are to See Tree Benefits, Prioritize Tree Planting, Other Map Layers, or Generate Results Report.

EXPLORE LOCATION DATA

1. After selecting your location, you will be brought to the **Area** tab on the **Explore Location Data** page. Press the blue arrow under **Remove** to expand or collapse table rows.

- If you have multiple locations selected (i.e. several Census Block Groups), you will initially see your selection total. To see data for each location individually, expand table rows.

These values reflect the best data available in your selected geographies. High Resolution data is only available for locations where **Urban Tree Canopy (UTC)** assessments have been submitted.



EXPLORE LOCATION DATA

2. Most of the tabs on the Explore Location Data page have sub-tabs.

Under Area, there is:

- Canopy & Impervious
- Forest Details (Forest Type Groups and Top 10 Species by Basal Area)

Under Land Cover 2011, there is:

- Developed
- Forest
- Shrubland
- Herbaceous
- Planted/Cultivated
- Barren
- Wetlands
- Water

Under Census Data, there is:

- Population
- Income Overview
- Home Overview
- Household Type
- Home Tenure
- Educational Attainment

Under Forest Risk, there is:

- Wildfire Potential
- Hardiness Zones
- Pests

EXPLORE LOCATION DATA

Under Health Risk, there is:

- Air Quality
- UV
- Land Surface Temperature
- Drinking Water
- Non-Attainment Areas

Under Future Climate, there is:

- RCP 4.5 Model
- RCP 8.5 Model

Under each Future Climate model, there is another set of tabs with climate predictions for every decade from 2020 to 2100.

Definitions of many data headings (i.e. Developed, Open Space under Land Cover 2011) can be found by clicking on the heading.

Data details can be found at https://landscape.itreetools.org/references/data/

3. Above the tabs on the Explore Location Data page, there are several options for how to display the data.

Under Land Cover, you may select:

- HiRes (if available)
- 2011
- 2001

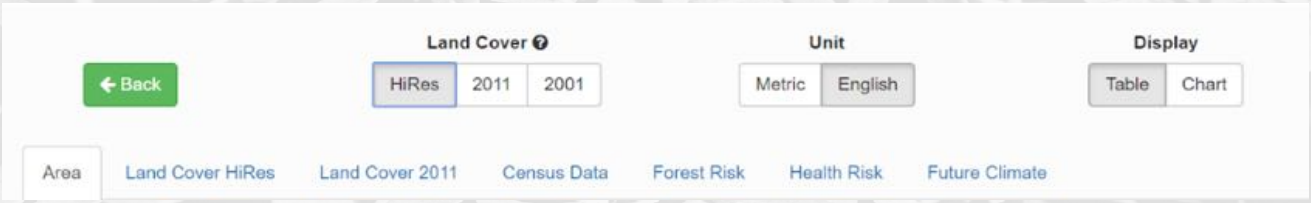
Under Unit, you may select:

- Metric
- English

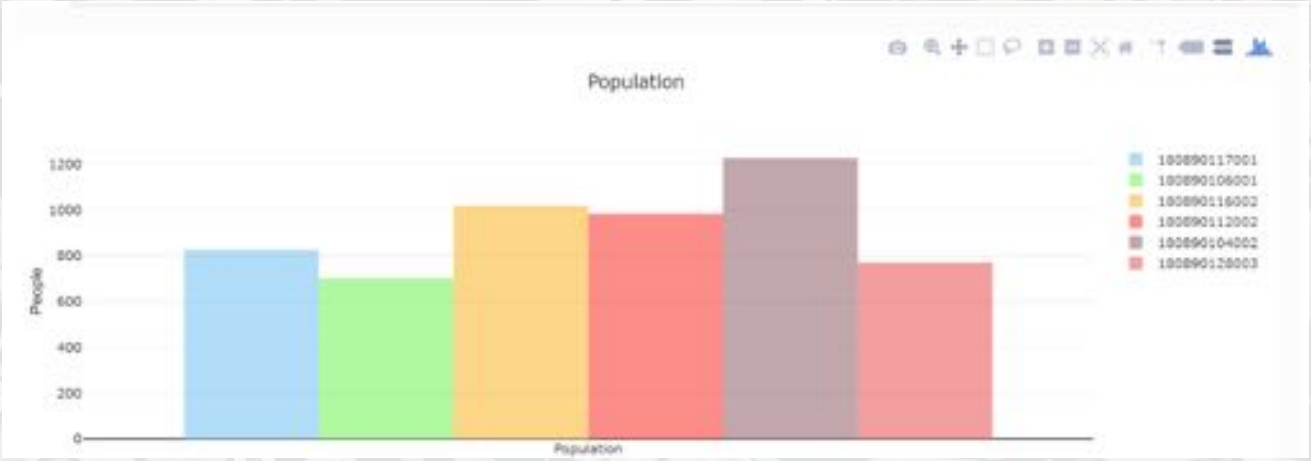
EXPLORE LOCATION DATA

Under Display, you may select:

- Table
- Chart

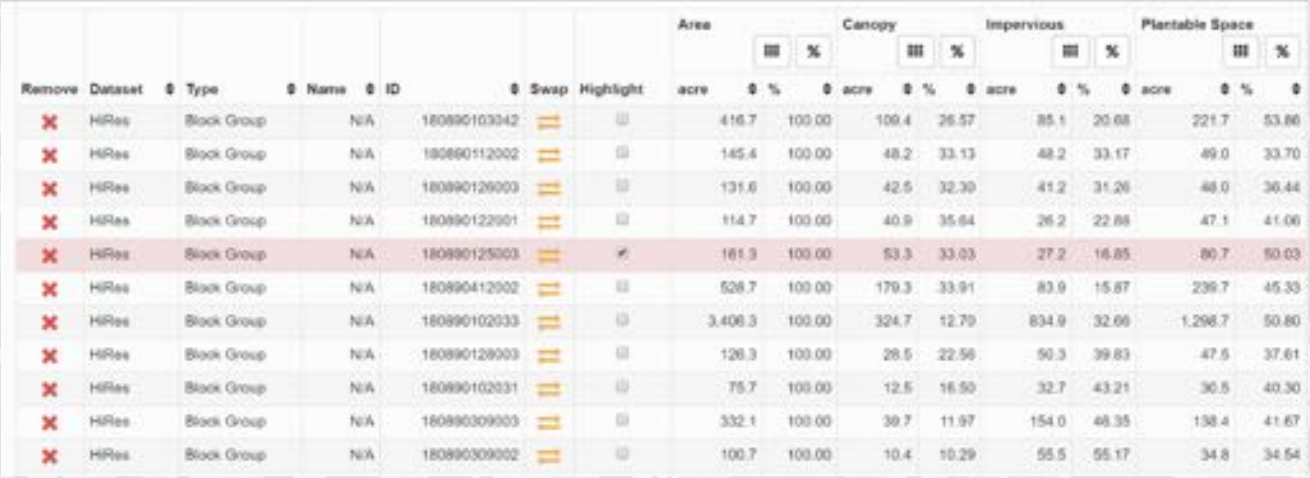


If you choose to display your data as a chart, hover over the chart area to see the charts toolbar.

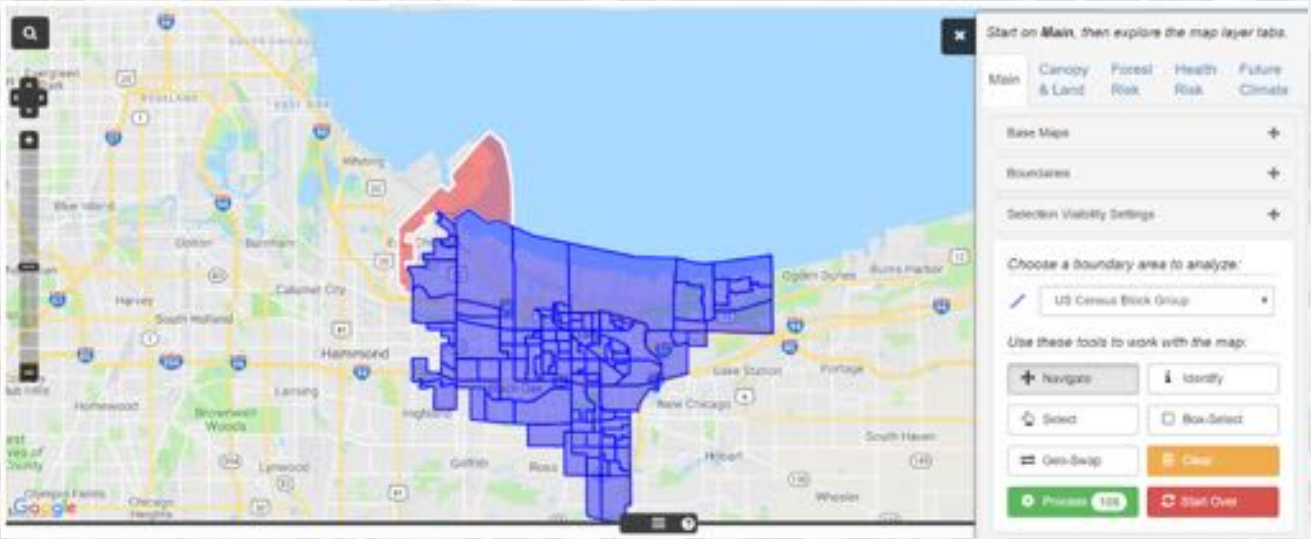


EXPLORE LOCATION DATA

4. To highlight a particular location out of many selected on the map, click the box in the **Highlight** column in that row (first picture). If you scroll back to the map, you should see that location highlighted in red (second picture)



Remove	Dataset	Type	Name	ID	Swap	Highlight	Area acre	Area %	Canopy acre	Canopy %	Impervious acre	Impervious %	Plantable Space acre	Plantable Space %
✕	HiRes	Block Group	N/A	180890103042	⇄	☐	416.7	100.00	109.4	26.57	85.1	20.68	221.7	53.86
✕	HiRes	Block Group	N/A	180890112002	⇄	☐	145.4	100.00	48.2	33.13	48.2	33.17	49.0	33.70
✕	HiRes	Block Group	N/A	180890126003	⇄	☐	131.6	100.00	42.5	32.30	41.2	31.26	48.0	36.44
✕	HiRes	Block Group	N/A	180890122001	⇄	☐	114.7	100.00	40.9	35.64	26.2	22.88	47.1	41.06
✕	HiRes	Block Group	N/A	180890125003	⇄	☑	161.3	100.00	53.3	33.03	27.2	16.85	80.7	50.03
✕	HiRes	Block Group	N/A	180890412002	⇄	☐	528.7	100.00	179.3	33.91	83.9	15.87	239.7	45.33
✕	HiRes	Block Group	N/A	180890102033	⇄	☐	3,406.3	100.00	324.7	12.70	834.9	32.66	1,298.7	50.80
✕	HiRes	Block Group	N/A	180890128003	⇄	☐	126.3	100.00	28.5	22.56	50.3	39.83	47.5	37.61
✕	HiRes	Block Group	N/A	180890102031	⇄	☐	75.7	100.00	12.5	16.50	32.7	43.21	30.5	40.30
✕	HiRes	Block Group	N/A	180890309003	⇄	☐	332.1	100.00	39.7	11.97	154.0	46.35	138.4	41.67
✕	HiRes	Block Group	N/A	180890309002	⇄	☐	100.7	100.00	10.4	10.29	55.5	55.17	34.8	34.54



5. To learn how to generate a report containing your location data, see the manual titled **Generate Results.**

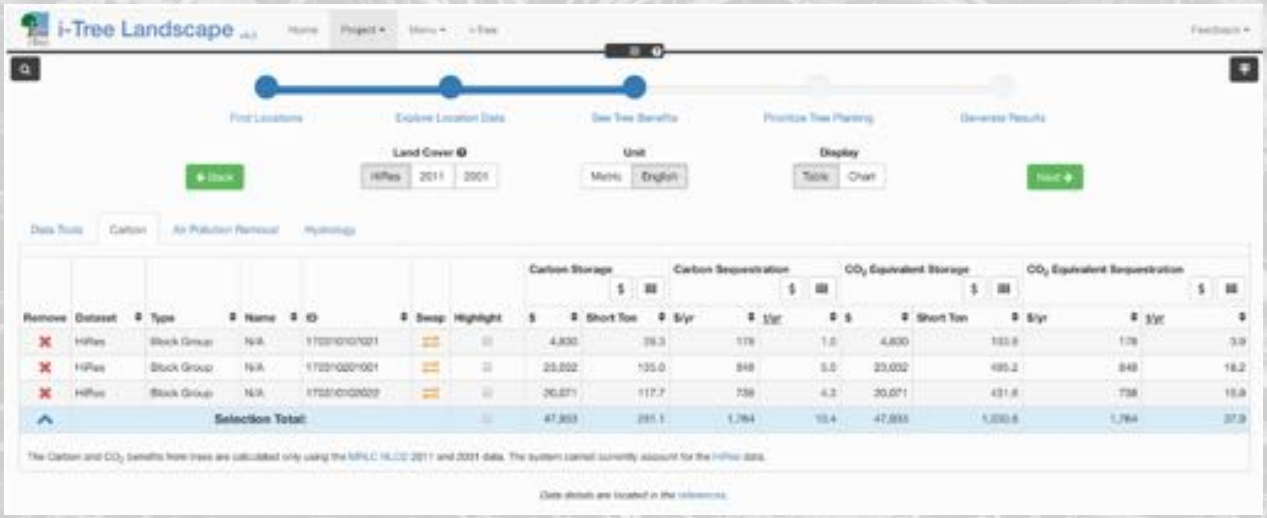
SEE TREE BENEFITS

i-Tree Landscape gives you the opportunity to see the tree benefits associated with your desired project location. This manual describes the different features of iTree Landscape, the benefits associated with tree cover in your selected location, and how iTree Landscape shows you that data. Potential next steps are to Prioritize Tree Planting, Other Map Layers, or Generate Results Report.

SEE TREE BENEFITS

1. Data are displayed underneath the map and you can choose whether you would like your dataset to be viewed in English or Metric units and in table or chart form. In the chart form you have the option of saving a png. version of your tree benefits. You can also choose the dataset that you would like your location data to be based on by clicking one of the following buttons:

- "HiRes"– data are based on high resolution land cover data, however depending on your location this data may or may not be available.
- "2011" – data are based on the 2011 National Land Cover Database.
- "2001" – data are based on the 2001 National Land Cover Database.



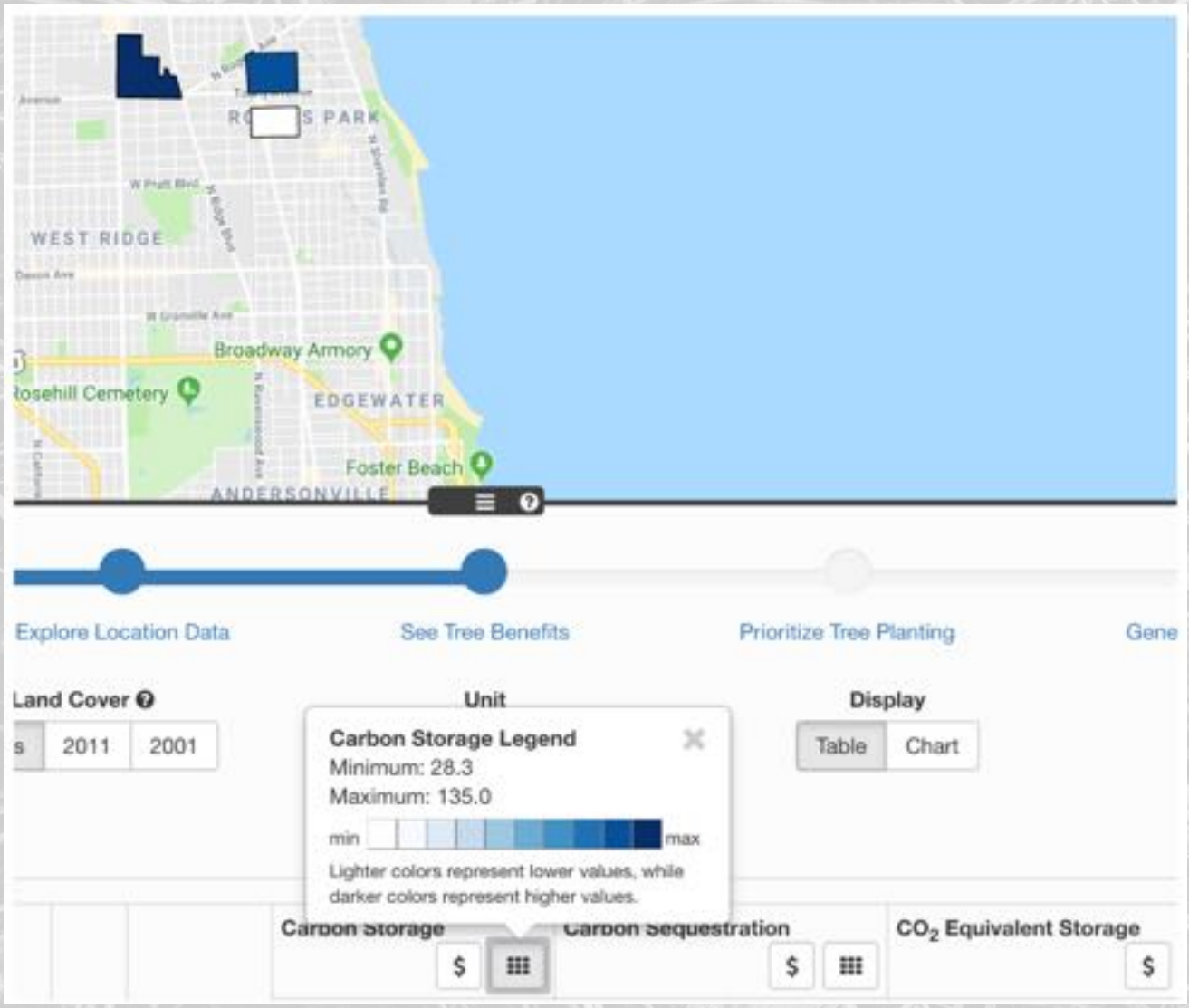
SEE TREE BENEFITS

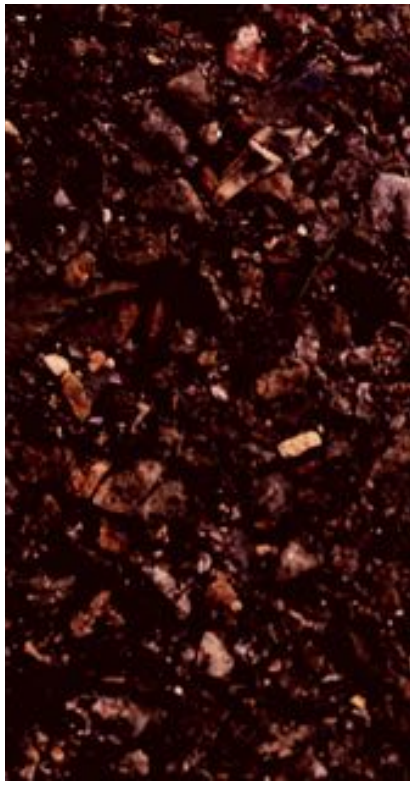
2. The data below the map is divided into the following tabs which you can click on to see in either table or chart form as well:

- Carbon - The 'Carbon' tab includes carbon and carbon dioxide equivalent that is sequestered and stored by the trees your project's location. Carbon sequestration refers to the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Carbon storage refers to the amount of carbon bound up in woody material above and below ground. The associated monetary value of carbon storage and sequestration is also displayed.
- Air Pollution - The 'Air Pollution' tab includes the amount and monetary value of the air pollution that is removed by the trees in each selected region.
- Hydrology - The 'Hydrology' tab shows how the trees in your project's location affect the local hydrology. This section's results include transpiration, rainfall interception, and avoided runoff estimates.

SEE TREE BENEFITS

3. For each category there are option to view color-coded legends showing you ‘Min’ to ‘Max’ from light to dark respectively.





PRIORITIZE TREE PLANTING

i-Tree Landscape has the ability to prioritize areas for tree planting based on census data (i.e. poverty, population, percentage minorities) and existing land use data (i.e. canopy area, plantable space) to create tree planting priority maps.

It is important to note that using the priority planting index requires multiple regions. If your project area does not contain at least two regions, this stage will not be able to operate.

PRIORITIZE TREE PLANTING

PLANTING SCENARIO OPTIONS

1. Start by indicating which of the land cover datasets you would like for your priority planting scenario this is the data your location will be based on:

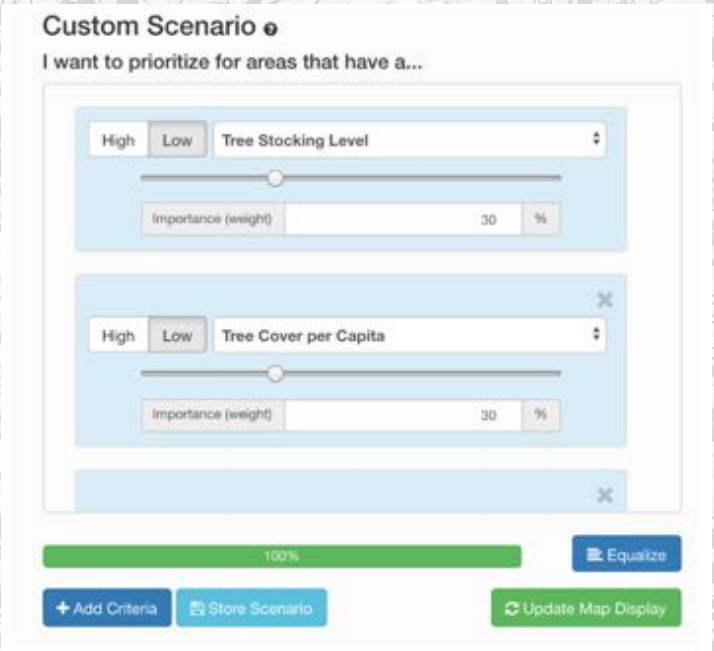
- "HiRes" – data are based on high resolution land cover data, however depending on your location this data may or may not be available.
- "2011" – data are based on the 2011 National Land Cover Database.
- "2001" – data are based on the 2001 National Land Cover Database.

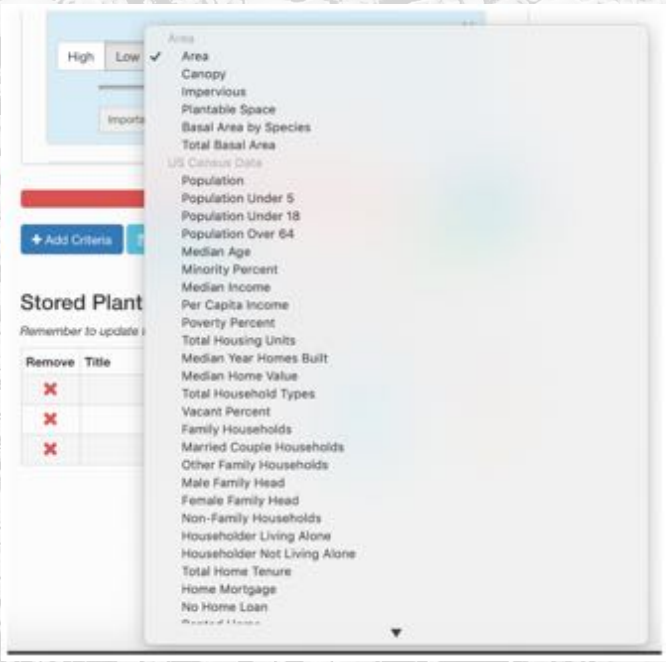
2. i-Tree Landscape already provides common scenarios such as population, minorities, or poverty. Depending on your project area the common scenarios that can be changed, prioritized, and combined to best meet your project area's needs. Below is how each of the common scenarios are weighted on i-Tree Landscape:

- Population: (default) an index weighted towards areas of relatively high population density, low tree cover per capita, and high available planting space.
- Minorities: an index weighted towards areas of relatively high minority population density, low tree cover per capita, and high available planting space.
- Poverty: an index weighted towards areas of relatively high proportion of population below the poverty line, low tree cover per capita, and high available planting space. (i-Tree Landscape)

PRIORITIZE TREE PLANTING

3. Beyond these common scenarios i-Tree Landscape also gives you the opportunity to create custom scenarios that you to best address your project area's concern(s). Choose to create your own custom priority planting scenarios by defining the criteria and weights in the boxes provided. Inside the Custom Scenario area there will be various light blue colored boxes. Each of these boxes contain a different factor that can be prioritized in your scenario. By clicking Add Criteria you can add more attributes of your choosing by clicking their drop down menu and selecting the attributes of your choice.





4. The custom scenario is weighted from 0 to 100. The sum of all the weights of each of your attributes must equal 100. In each light blue box you can set the importance/ weight of that attribute or if you want the weights to be equal click the Equalize button at the bottom of your attributes list.

PRIORITIZE TREE PLANTING

5. Click **Update Map Display** to see the results on map and on the **Current Prioritization Scenario Legend** (See more on legend below)

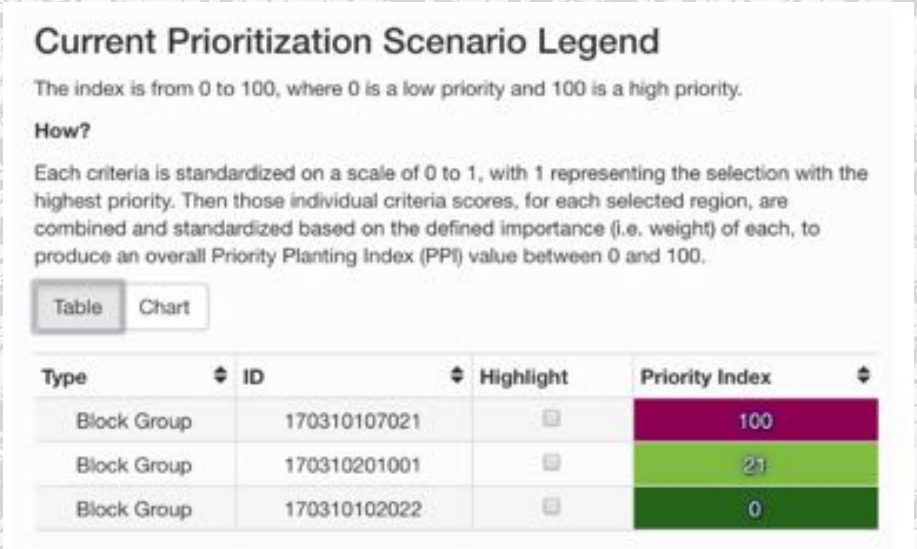
6. Each Custom Scenario can be saved by clicking **Store Scenario.** These saved scenarios can be included in your report when you **Generate Results.**

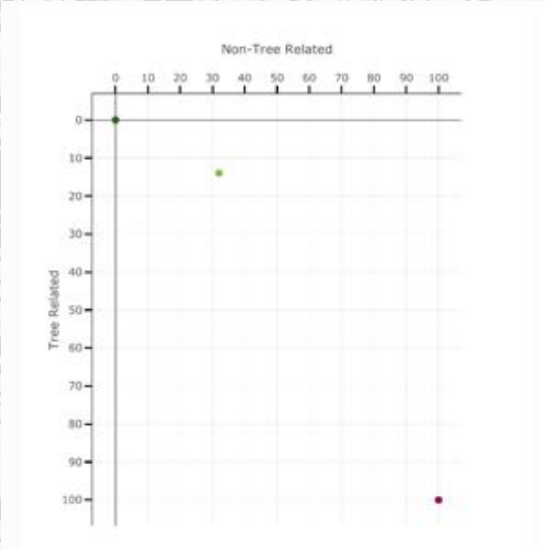
PRIORITIZE TREE PLANTING

CURRENT PRIORITIZATION SCENARIO LEGEND

Each time you **Update Map Display** your custom scenario will change this legend along with the map above. This legend shows you how your current custom scenario impacts each of your block groups. This is helpful in helping you indicate if your scenario is affecting your areas of highest priority. The index is from 0 to 100, 0 representing a low priority and 100 representing a high priority.

Some high priority areas may be located on private or already developed properties. Ground truthing will allow practitioners to determine the feasibility of planting in high priority areas or allow them to use these i-Tree Landscape materials to start conversations about tree planting with private property owners.





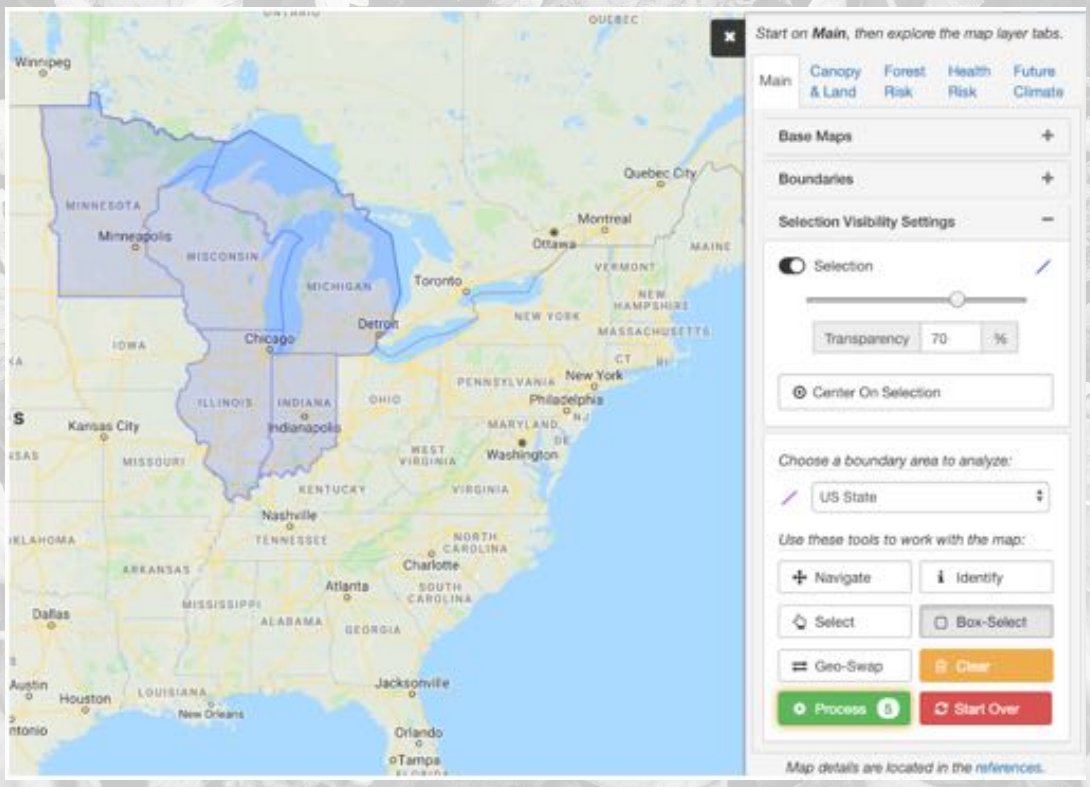
OTHER MAP LAYERS

Beyond the Main base map layer there are several other map layers that will aid in your project. i-Tree Landscapes other map layers are **Canopy and Land, Forest Risk, Health Risk,** & **Future Climate.** These map layers give insight into how your location is affected by current risks and how your location will be impacted due to climate change/future climate. These insights are crucial in the planning for future tree planting in your project area. The following paragraphs will break down what information each map layer provides and how to use each map layer.

OTHER MAP LAYERS

Our map is going to show the following map layers on 5 midwestern states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. This is just to show you more variability in color differentiations to fully show you the possibilities i-Tree offers in each map layer. Each color may not pop up as distinctly in your project area if it is a smaller specific area. For instructions on how to Select Your Location, see the manual titled **Select Your Location.**

We selected these 5 states using the “US State” boundary area selection option in the **Main** map layer tab.

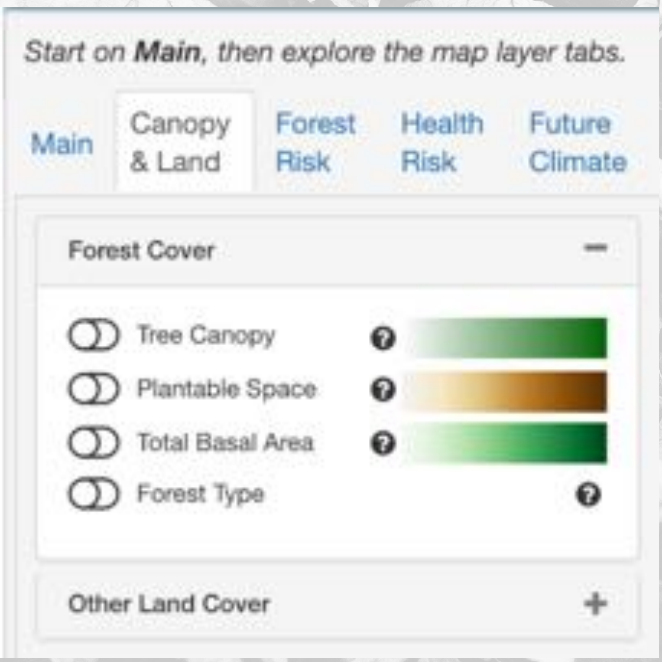


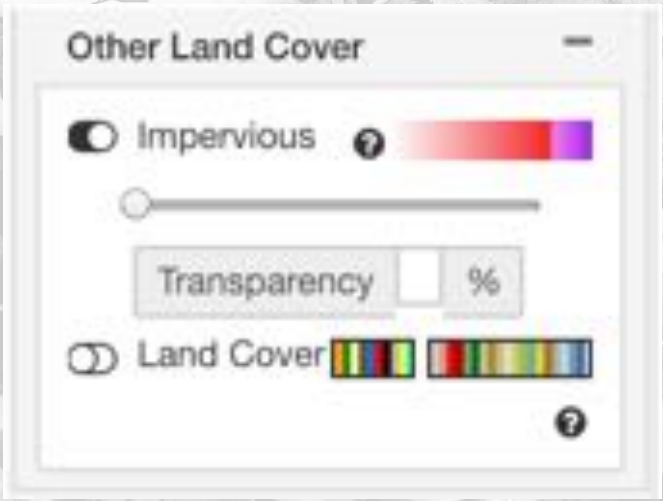
We have also lowered the transparency of the 5 states through the use of the **Selection Visibility Settings** in the **Main** map layer tab to increase your view-ability in the guided images. Our transparency is set to 70%

OTHER MAP LAYERS

CANOPY AND LAND

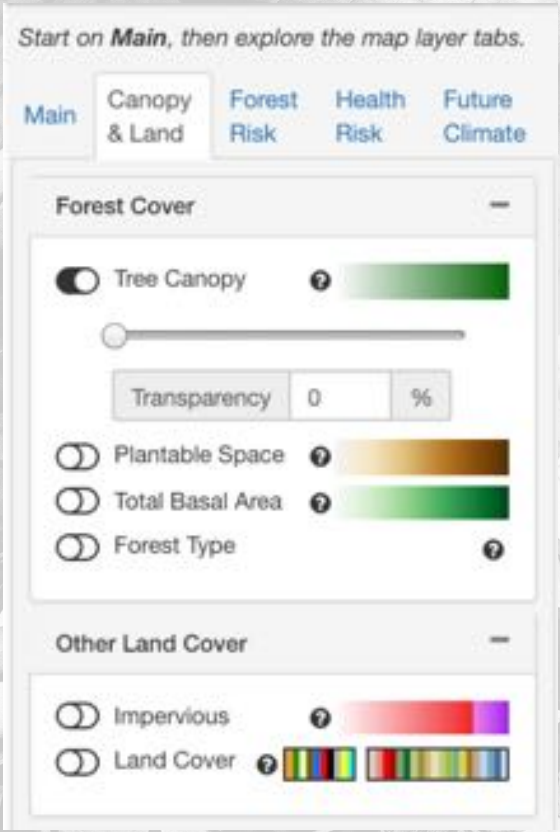
In the **Canopy & Land** map layer tab, you have the tools to be able to see what your project area looks like currently in terms of **Forest Cover** and **Other Land Cover. Forest Cover** lets you look at **Tree Canopy, Plantable Space, Total Basal Area** (area occupied by tree trunks or stems), and **Forest Type. Other Land Cover** shows you **Impervious** surfaces and other types of **Land Cover** in your project area. (See other types of **Land Cover** below.) This step is important in choosing your project area and also learning more about how your project area's overall landscape. This knowledge can aid you in future planning of tree planting or species selection for your project area.

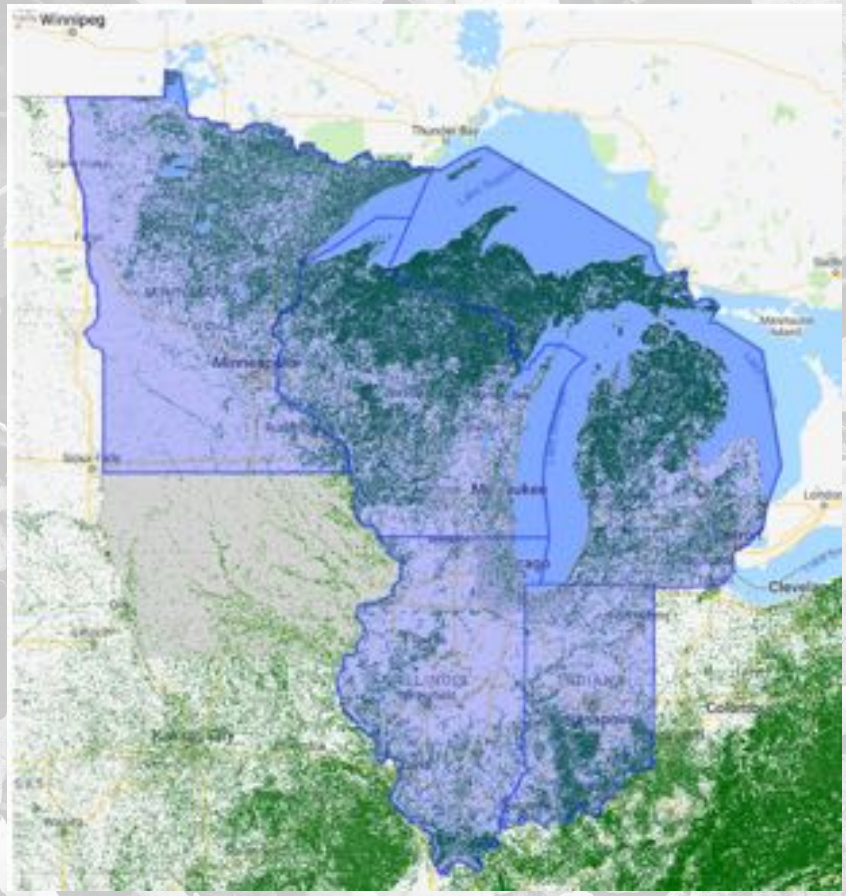




OTHER MAP LAYERS

The following images show the various options to view in the **Canopy & Land** map layer are displayed on i-Tree Landscape.





Other **Forest Cover** options in the **Canopy & Land** map layer to explore are:

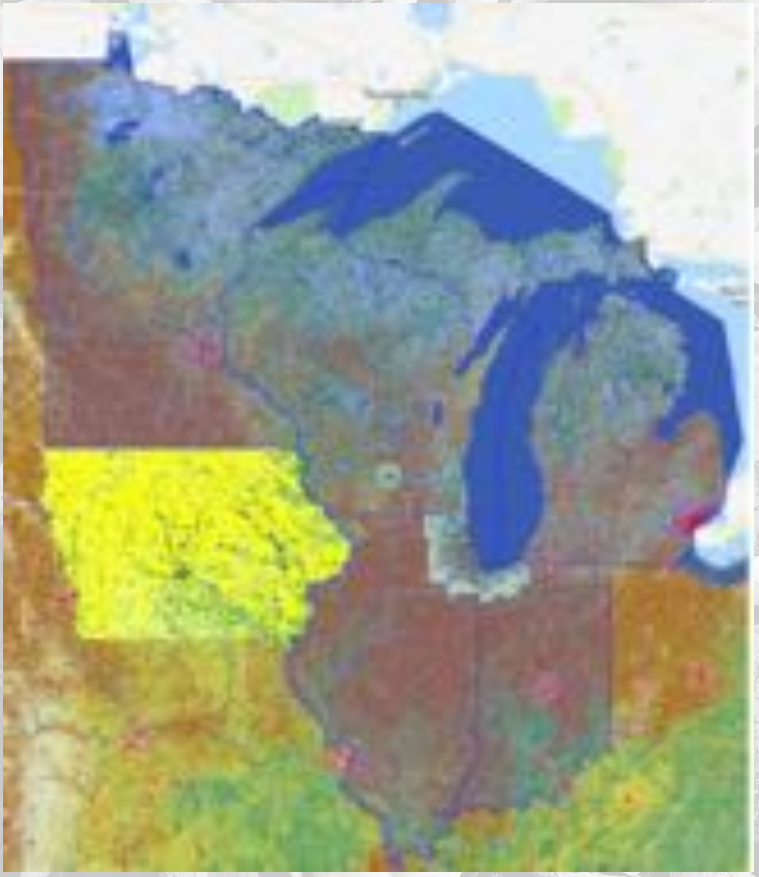
- Plantable Space
- Total Basal Area (area occupied by tree trunks or stems)
- Forest Type

OTHER MAP LAYERS

Other Land Cover within the **Canopy & Land** map layer, gives you the opportunity to explore different features in your project area. This option offers two different features: **Impervious** or **Land Cover.**

OTHER MAP LAYERS

Land Cover features a wide variety of land cover to explore within your project area (See below for images all **Land Cover** options.)



OTHER MAP LAYERS

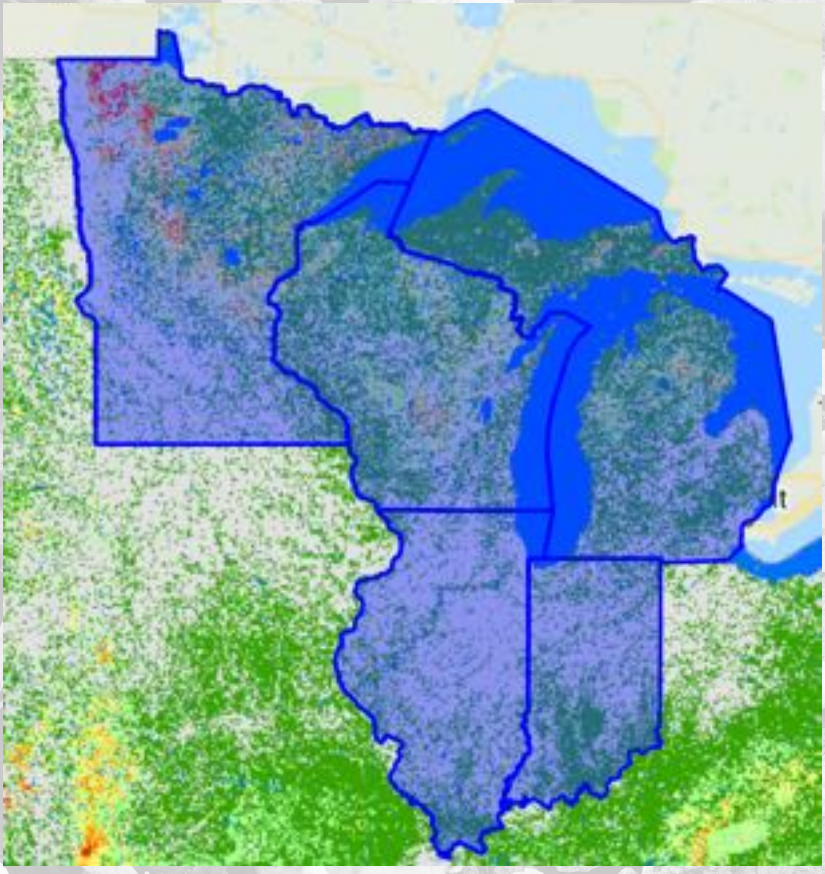
OTHER MAP LAYERS

FOREST RISK

In the **Forest Risk** map layer tab, you have the tools to identify potential risks in your project area and around it. **Forest Risk** contains information regarding **Wildfire potential, Hardiness Zones, Brownfields, Water risk, Disease- Forest Pest,** and **Insect- Forest Pest.** The information provided in this map layer may give you insight into prevention plans your project may need, or the types of tree species you should be planting.

OTHER MAP LAYERS

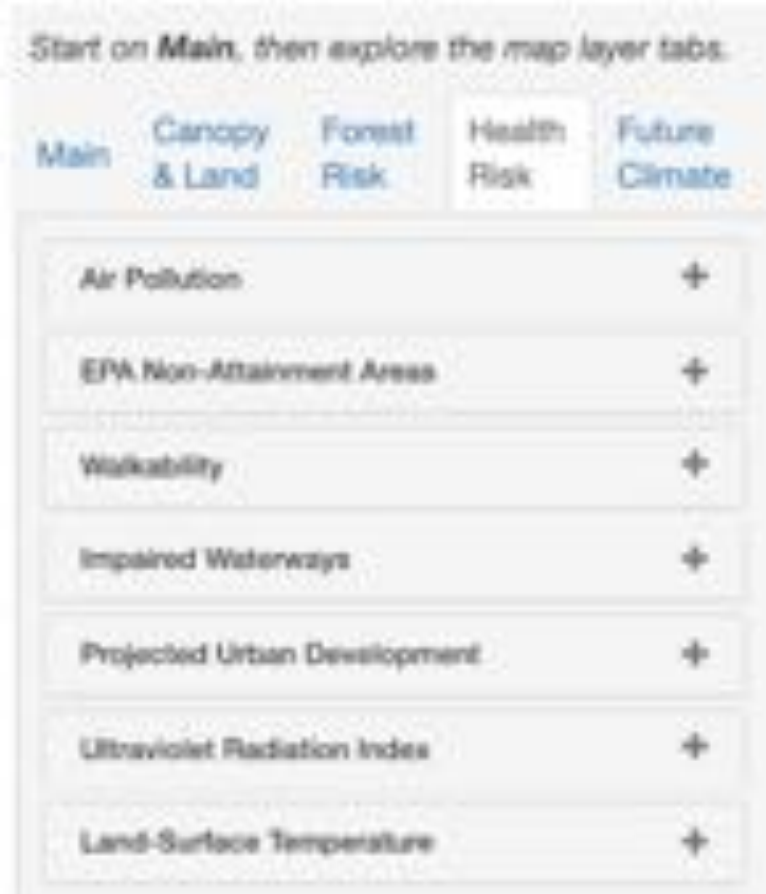
The following images show the various options to view in the Forest Risk map layer are displayed on i-Tree Landscape.



OTHER MAP LAYERS

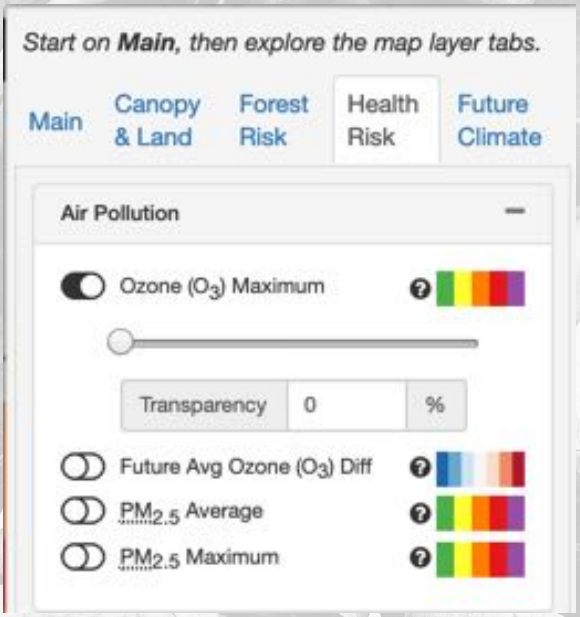
HEALTH RISK

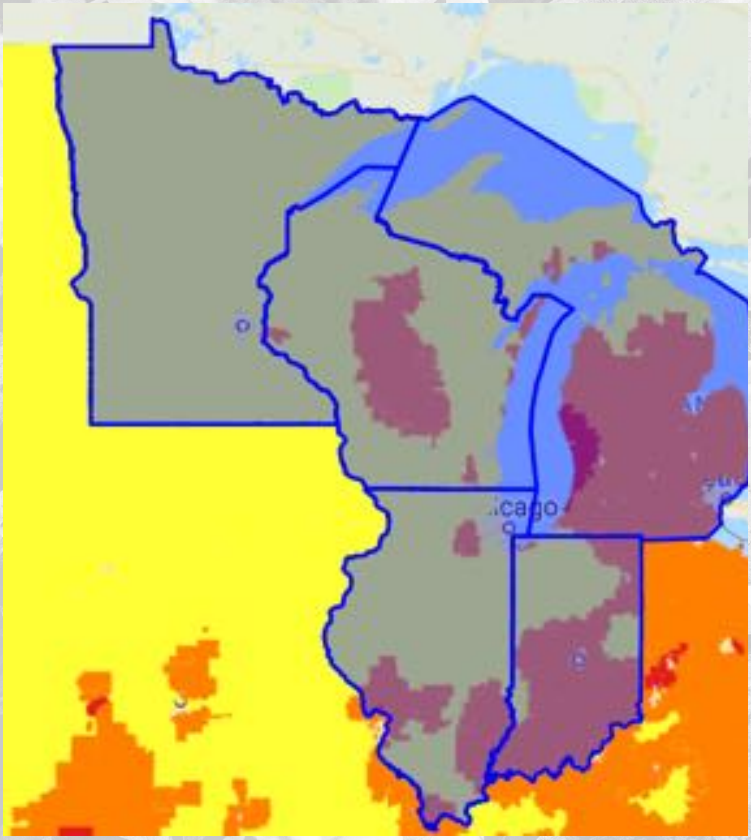
In the **Health Risk** map layer tab, you have the tools to identify areas that are a risk to human health currently. This tab is useful if you are interested in tree planting for human health benefits. **Health Risk** contains information regarding **Air Quality, EPA Non-Attainment Areas** (these are areas the EPA considered to have air quality worse than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards as defined in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970 (P.L. 91-604, Sec. 109)), **Walkability** (this is based on sidewalk availability in the area), **Impaired Waterways, Projected Urban Development, Ultraviolet Radiation Index** (UV rays), and **Land Surface Temperature.**



OTHER MAP LAYERS

The following images show various options that can be displayed in the Health Risk map layer.





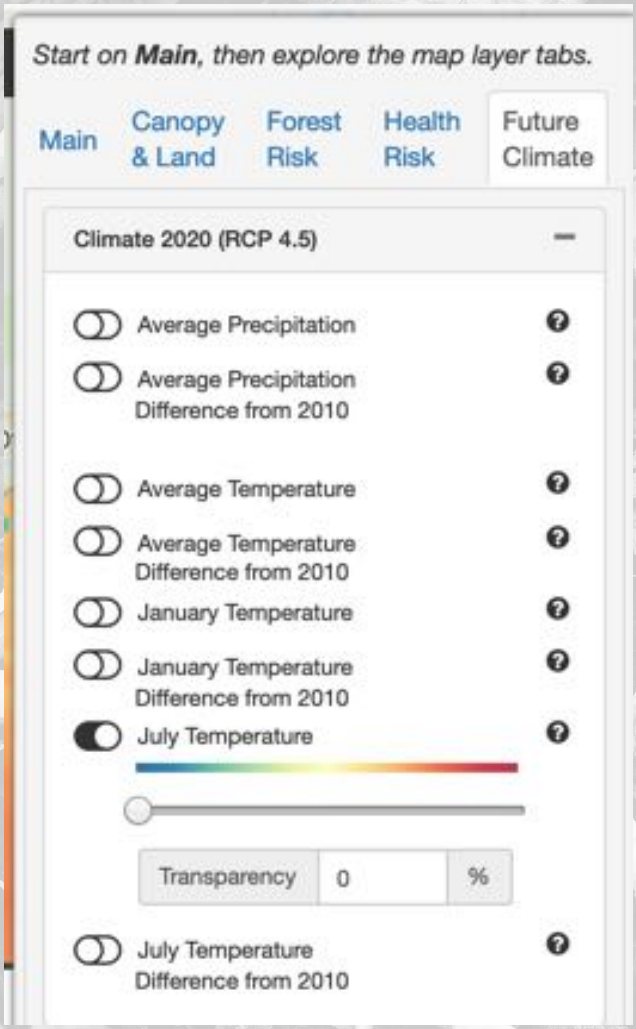
OTHER MAP LAYERS

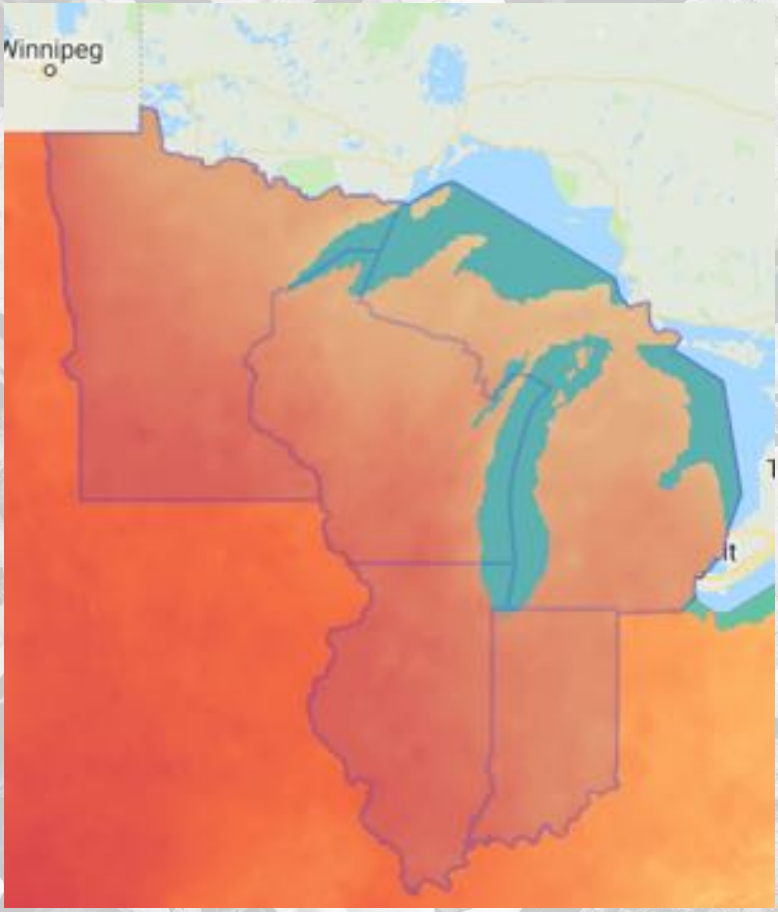
FUTURE CLIMATE

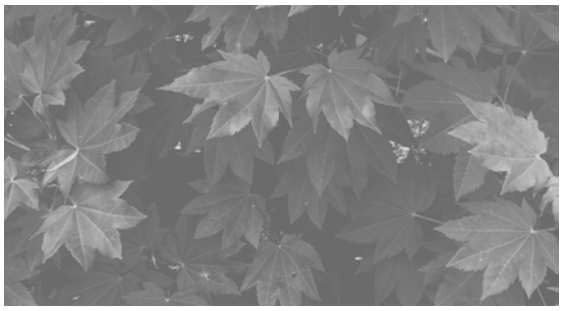
In the **Future Climate** map layer tab, you have the tools to view your project area's changing future climate. Projections of future climate are available from year 2020 to year 2100. This tab is important in the planning of your project in order to see what types of tree species would do well in future climate conditions. This tab facilitates planning for future generations to come.

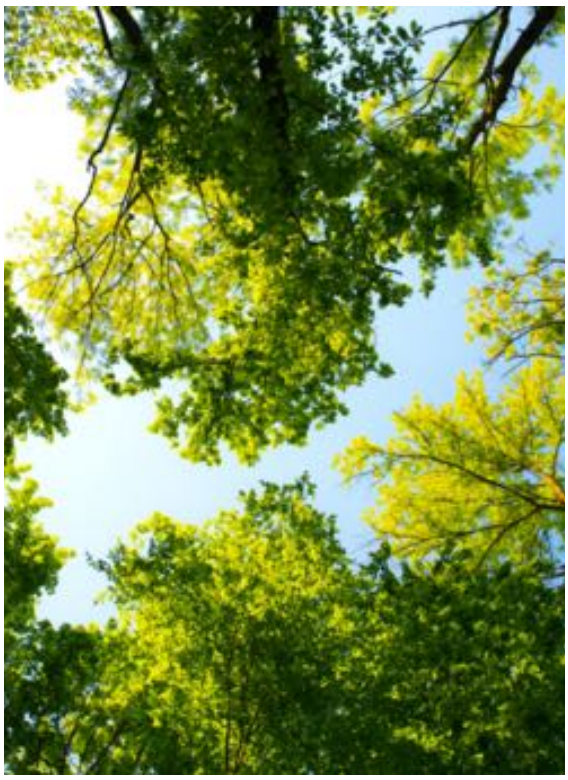
OTHER MAP LAYERS

The following images show various options that can be displayed in the Future Climate map layer.









GENERATE RESULTS

You are near the completion of your project! You are now at the point where you can create, view, and export reports containing your results. i-Tree Landscape provides several standard reports or you can create your own custom reports.

GENERATE RESULTS

To move back to a different step, click the Back button or click on the desired step in the progress bar.

In these top buttons you have the **Pre-Formatted Reports** button that gives you various kinds of standard reports to click and use. There is also the **Export Data** button that allows you to export the database your location data is based off of.

GENERATE RESULTS

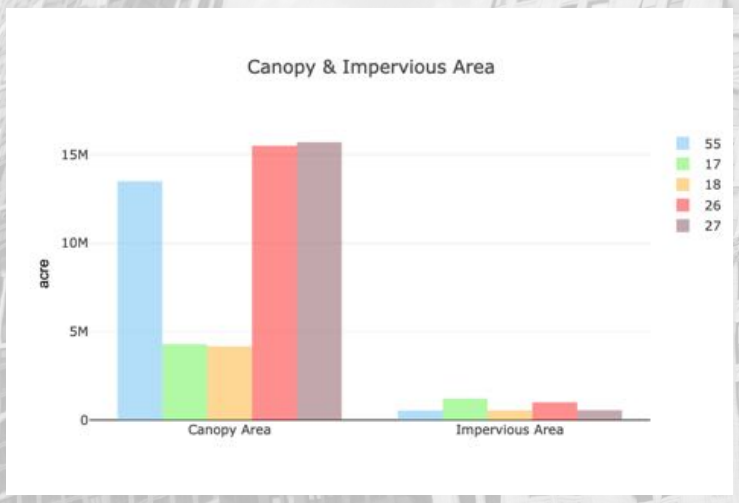
In generating a custom report there are several boxes going along with each previous step you have conducted during your project such as: Location Information, Tree Benefits, and Prioritization. Within each box, the following features are available:

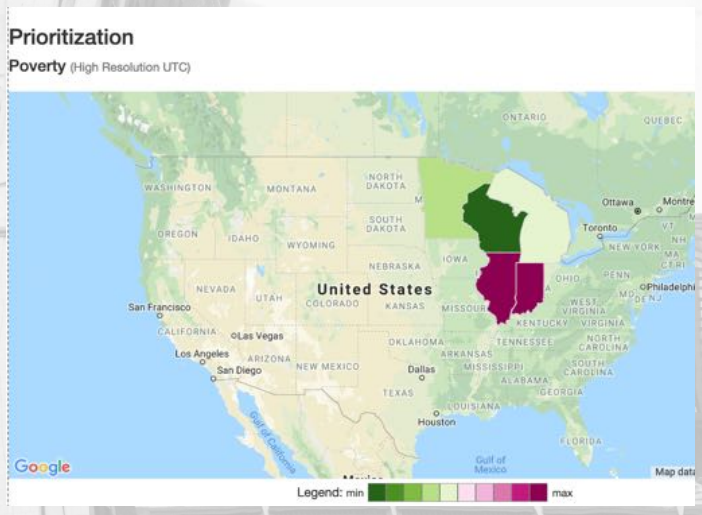
- Report Element – Choose the data that you would like to include in your project's report by selecting from the drop-down menu.
- Display As – Choose how you would like to view your report element in "Table," "Chart," or "Map" by selecting from the drop-down menu.

Tree Benefits

Carbon and CO_2 (High Resolution UTC)

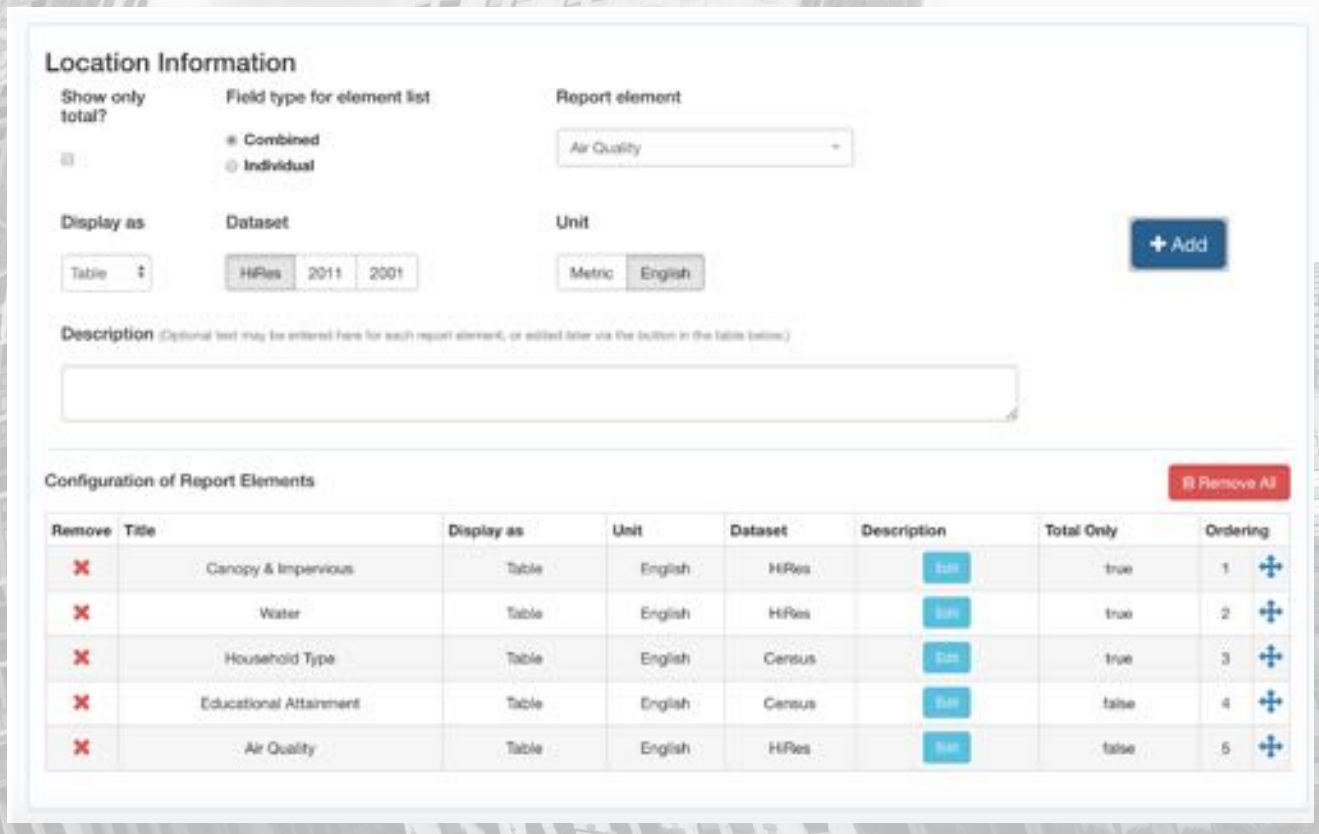
	Carbon Storage		Carbon Sequestration		CO_2 Equivalent Storage		CO_2 Equivalent Sequestration	
	$	Short Ton	$/yr	t/yr	$	Short Ton	$/yr	t/yr
Selection Total:	301,989,286,041	1,770,671,305.9	5,050,664,159	29,613,852.3	301,989,286,041	6,492,461,454.8	5,050,664,159	108,584,125.0





GENERATE RESULTS

- Show Only Total? – Check this box if you would like only the total for your selection group to be displayed in your results. Leave this box unchecked to show the total and the results of each individual selection group.
- Unit – Choose to view your location data in "Metric" or "English" units.
- Dataset – Choose the dataset that you would like your location data to be based on by clicking one of the following buttons:
  - "HiRes" – data are based on high resolution land cover data, however depending on your location this data may or may not be available.
  - "2011" – data are based on the 2011 National Land Cover Database.
  - "2001" – data are based on the 2001 National Land Cover Database.



GENERATE RESULTS

- Description – Add optional text to help describe your report element.

The elements that will be included in your project's report will all be listed in the Configuration of Report Elements section. In this section you can pick which sections you would like to:

- Remove – Click on the X in the Remove column of the data table. This will remove an element from your report.
- Ordering – Click on the arrow symbol in the Ordering column of the table and drag up or down in an order of your liking.

When you have customized the report to your liking, click Done to view and choose the layout of your results. Use your Internet browser's print function to print the results that are displayed on this page. Everything within the dashed border will be printed from this page.