

2017/18 LU Classification Definitions (subject to change)

Estuary (TBD): the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.

Lakes and Ponds: non-flowing open water bodies such as lakes, ponds, reservoirs, playas etc.

Rivers and streams (TBD): water not classed as estuary, lakes and ponds, and representative of a network of flowing water.

Roads: Impervious surfaces that are used and maintained for transportation.

Structures: Human-constructed objects made of impervious materials that are greater than approximately 2 meters in height such as buildings, shelters, and structures with roofs.

Other Impervious: Human-constructed surfaces through which water cannot penetrate and that are below approximately 2 meters in height such as parking lots and driveways. Due to the compacted nature of rail beds, herbaceous, barren, scrub/shrub, and wetlands within 3 meters of railroad centerlines are included in this class.

TC over Impervious: Tree canopy overhanging and obscuring impervious surfaces from view from above. Tree canopy within 3 meters of railroad centerlines is in this class.

Turf Grass: Herbaceous lands that have been altered through compaction, removal of organic material, and/or fertilization.

Bare Developed: Barren lands indicative of the initial stages of construction. These barren lands are typically found within or near already built up areas.

Suspended Succession: Barren, herbaceous, or scrub/shrub areas that are actively managed to suppress the regrowth of trees. Management might include mowing, bush-hogging, or other means of suppressing tree growth. These lands may be partially compacted but are not fertilized. Examples: road and utility line rights-of-way, landfills, and abandoned mines.

Forest: Tree canopy patches that are over an acre in area with a minimum radius of 120-ft.

TC over Turf Grass: Tree canopy with a likely understory of turf grass located within small residential lots, 10m of structures and other impervious surfaces in rural areas and within 20m of structures and other impervious surfaces in more built-up areas.

TC in Agriculture and Other Tree Canopy: Tree canopy patches less than an acre in area or with a maximum radius less than 120-ft that do not qualify as “TC over Turf Grass”. These patches represent windbreaks bounding agricultural fields and small patches in the latter stages of natural succession.

Harvested Forest: Areas of bare and herbaceous ground where tree canopy has been recently cleared for harvesting between 2015 and 2017.

Natural Succession: Areas of barren, herbaceous, or scrub/shrub assumed to be in an early to mid successional stage of regrowth such as abandoned or fallow fields.

Cropland: Herbaceous and barren areas where land is planted with crops other than hay and grasses.

Pasture/Hay: Herbaceous and barren areas where land is planted or managed for hay, alfalfa, and other forage grasses.

Orchard/Vineyard: Scrub/shrub, herbaceous, and barren areas where land is planted with non-tilled crops such as apples, grapes, or nursery trees.

Solar Fields: Lands with ground mounted solar arrays and the herbaceous, barren, or scrub/shrub areas between and surrounding the arrays.

Extractive: Active mining locations that are classed as other Impervious or barren.

Tidal Wetlands: Emergent vegetation within 1-ft of adjacent tidal waters and connected lands including some forests categorized as tidal wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), e.g., ‘Estuarine and Marine Wetland”, “Estuarine and Marine Deepwater”, “Freshwater Emergent Wetlands”.

Riverine Wetlands: NWI and topographically potential wetlands partially or completely associated with riverine systems. Riverine systems were mapped using a combination of topographically derived flow paths, SSURGO’s frequently flooded and hydric soils, and FEMA’s 100-year floodplain.

Terrene/Isolated Wetlands: NWI and topographically potential wetlands not associated with tidal waters or riverine systems.

Bare shore: Barren lands that are adjacent to other water bodies, but not adjacent to wetlands.