

Tree Canopy Land Uses for the Phase 6 Watershed Model

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Today's requested decision

- In July, the UTC Expert Panel decided there was a significant WQ difference with how Tree Canopy over pervious and Tree Canopy over impervious perform.
- On August 5, the FWG agreed on this point and the need to have tree canopy over pervious and over impervious distinctly mapped across the watershed.
- Recently having realized the need to separate Tree Canopy in rural areas, the FWG suggested a third Tree Canopy category (TCI, TCT, and TCO).
- Asking for WQGIT concurrence with this direction.

Tree Canopy over Impervious Surfaces (TCI)

- a. Small or narrow patches of trees (or the edges of forests for areas mapped with regional land use data) that cover all types of impervious surfaces, e.g., street trees.
- b. Located within developed areas: residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and recreational areas and proximal to rural buildings and other structures.
- c. Understory dominated by roads.
- d. Nutrient and Sediment Loads = some fraction of loads for “Impervious-Roads” land use.
- e. Included in the “Developed” macro land use class.

Tree Canopy over Turf Grass (TCT)

- a. Small or narrow patches of trees (or the edges of forests for areas mapped with regional land use data) with an herbaceous understory, e.g., turf grass and landscaped areas.
- b. Located within developed areas: residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and recreational areas and proximal to rural buildings and other structures.
- c. Understory dominated by turf grass.
- d. Nutrient and sediment loads = some fraction of loads for “Turf Grass” land use.
- e. Included in the “Developed” macro land use class.

Tree Canopy over Open Space (TCO)

- a. Small or narrow patches of trees (or the edges of forests for areas mapped with regional land use data) with a scrub-shrub or unfertilized herbaceous understory, e.g., wind breaks, trees in the median of divided highways, narrow riparian buffers, and trees in pasture/cropland.
- b. Located in rural areas that are largely agricultural.
- c. Understory dominated by either scrub-shrub or herbaceous vegetation.
- d. Nutrient and sediment loads = some fraction of loads for “Open Space” land use.
- e. Included in the “Natural” macro land use class.

Developed



Tree Canopy
over Impervious
&
Tree Canopy
over Turf Grass

Forest

Tree Canopy
over Open Space

Forest

Role and Input from Urban Tree Canopy Expert Panel

- The Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) panel continues to focus on the water quality benefits associated with urban trees. They plan to deliver their report later this year.
- Expert panel supports development of two tree canopy land cover classes:
 - over impervious
 - over pervious
- UTC panel itself is not charged with developing the TC land use loading rates, but this is closely related to the BMP efficiencies.