

Urban and Community Greenspace Target

August Protected Lands Workgroup Meeting
August 4, 2026

Urban and Community Greenspace



Urban and Community Greenspaces are publicly accessible lands in census-designated places and urban areas that provide opportunities for both passive and active recreation while offering exposure to nature. These public spaces deliver human health, community, and environmental benefits and include, but are not limited to, parks, trails, gardens, sports fields, waterfronts, outdoor gathering areas, and natural landscapes like forests or grasslands.

Baseline Numbers

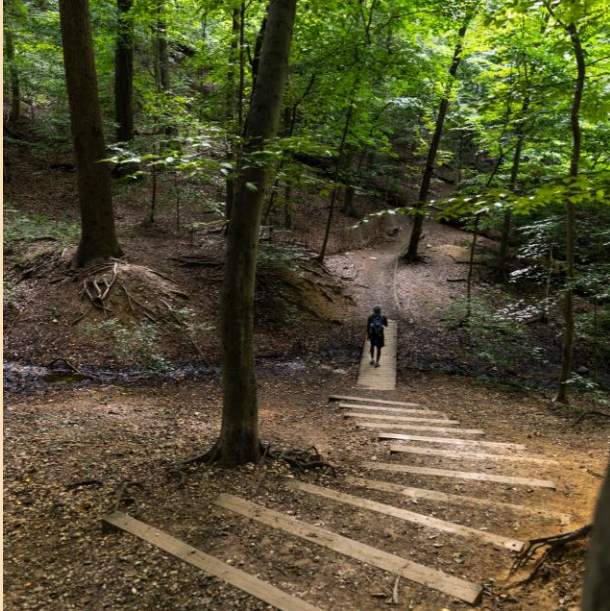
- Census-Designated Places and Urban Areas Footprint: 7 million acres
- Protected Lands within Footprint: 650,300 acres (9%)
- Publicly Accessible lands within Footprint: 296,000 acres (4%)
 - Derived from Trust for Public Lands ParkServe database





Background

- Baseline numbers were derived from the Protected Lands Indicator Dataset and from the Trust for Public Lands ParkServe database.
- Summarized acres within the census-designated places and urban areas footprint to identify baseline numbers



ParkServe

Trust for Public Lands tool that maps park access for cities, towns and communities in the US.

To be included in the ParkServe database, a park or 'park-like' place must meet the following criteria:

- Be located outdoors
- Be a named destination (e.g. not an unnamed median or drainageway)
- Encourage informal public use (e.g., the public is encouraged to walk through and stay awhile)
- Encourage at least one 'park-like' activity such as socializing, enjoying nature, or play/exercise

Outcome-Based Target: All Protected Lands within Census-Designated Places and Urban Areas

Target	Total Protected Acres	Additional Acres Needed
10% of 7.0M acres	700,000	50,000
15% of 7.0M acres	1,050,000	400,000
20% of 7.0M acres	1,400,600	750,000

By 2040, protect an additional 50,000 acres of land in the census-designated places and urban areas footprint.

Outcome-Based Target: Publicly Accessible Lands within Census-Designated Places and Urban Areas

Target	Total Protected Acres	Additional Acres Needed
5% of 7.0M acres	350,000	54,000
10% of 7.0M acres	700,000	404,000
15% of 7.0M acres	1,050,000	754,000

By 2040, protect an additional 404,000 acres of publicly accessible land in the census-designated places and urban areas footprint.

Growth-Based Target: % Increase

650,300 acres of protected lands

% increase	Total Protected Acres	Additional Acres Needed
10%	715,330	65,030
15%	747,845	97,545
20%	780,360	130,060

By 2040, protect an additional 98,000 acres of land in the census-designated places and urban areas footprint.

296,000 acres of publicly accessible lands

% increase	Total Protected Acres	Additional Acres Needed
5%	310,800	14,800
10%	325,600	29,600
15%	340,400	44,400

By 2040, protect an additional 30,000 acres of publicly accessible land in the census-designated places and urban areas footprint.

Discussion

1. Should the target be based on a percentage of the total footprint or on a growth from the baseline condition?
2. Should protection and public access have separate targets?
3. What target is ambitious yet achievable by 2040?
4. What questions remain?