

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY MAPPING SYSTEM

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

MAP LAYERS: refers to the data layers used to create a GIS (geographic information systems) mapping system. Data layers (much like layers in a cake) used in the Community Mapping System are collected from national, state and local resources. The data layers listed below are a collection of available data from the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) within its divisions plus national data, census data and other geographic and socioeconomic data collected by federal or academic institutions. Each data layer source is provided in parentheses behind the data layer name.

REGULATED FACILITIES

Aboveground Storage Tank Incidents (NCDEQ)

This layer represents sites where there has been a discharge (release) of petroleum to the soil and/or groundwater from a source other than an Underground Storage Tank (UST) system (i.e. Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) system, spills, dumping, etc.). Features are referred to as "incidents." This data is extracted from the Regional Aboveground Storage Tank (RAST) database. Learn more about [ASTs](#).

Air Quality Permitted Facilities (NCDEQ)

This layer includes all active facilities that require air permits in North Carolina. Facilities only need air permits if they meet a certain air emissions threshold. The permit type for each facility can be found in the attribute table for the Air Quality Permitted Facilities layer (see [How-To Guide](#) to learn how to view attribute table). To learn more about the different types of air permits that NCDEQ regulates, visit the [Air Quality Permitting webpage](#).

Animal Operation Permits (NCDEQ)

This layer includes all active animal operations that are required to be permitted by the state. This does not include all animal operations across the state. This data set was last updated from the Division of Water Resources (DWR) permitting database in October 2018. For more information on what type of operations are permitted by the State of North Carolina, please visit the [Animal Feeding Operations Permit webpage](#).

Brownfields Program Sites (NCDEQ)

This feature is for viewing North Carolina Brownfields projects and is continuously updated. The Brownfields Program takes idle or abandoned properties and redevelops them into productive sites. Examples of brownfields projects include redeveloping sites into retail centers, museums, mixed use developments and more. This data set shows the locations of North Carolina brownfields projects that have entered into the program to

receive a Brownfields Agreement. The marker points shown reflect the current status of the project. Learn more about the [Brownfields Program](#).

Coal Ash Structural Fills (Closed)(NCDEQ)

This layer shows all the now closed Coal Ash Structural Fills (CCB) in North Carolina. These are not permitted Coal Ash landfills or impoundments; all of these facilities have been permanently closed by law. See *Permitted Solid Waste Landfills (Open and Closed)* layer for information about currently permitted coal ash landfills. Learn more about [coal ash closure plans](#).

Contaminated Dry-Cleaning Sites (NCDEQ)

This layer shows the address, status and prioritization information for sites that have been certified into the North Carolina Dry-Cleaning Solvent Cleanup Act (DSCA) Program. The Act established a fund to assess and cleanup dry-cleaning solvent contamination at dry-cleaning and wholesale distribution facilities, and it authorized the Program to develop and enforce rules to prevent dry-cleaning solvent releases at operating facilities. Learn more about the [DSCA Program](#).

Federal Remediation Branch (NCDEQ/EPA)

The Federal Remediation Branch works with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to administer the federal Superfund program under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended. The branch helps the EPA distribute its resources to sites with the worst contamination or sites that need immediate emergency actions. Click on the links beside “EPA Info” and “Documents” in the pop-up window of each Federal Remediation Branch point on the map to learn more about that specific Superfund site. Learn more about the [Federal Remediation Branch](#).

Hazardous Waste Sites (NCDEQ/EPA)

This layer represents the locations of North Carolina sites that are regulated by the hazardous waste provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This includes Large Quantity Generators, Small Quantity Generators, Transporters of Hazardous Waste, permitted treatment, storage or disposal (TSD) facilities and TSD facilities that are under an Order or a Consent Agreement. (Note: facilities that are Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators may also be included if they are also a Transporter or TSD facility.) The data is from the EPA RCRAInfo database. The State of North Carolina, Division of Waste Management, Hazardous Waste Section is the implementer of record (agency responsible for data entry) for this data. Learn more about the [Hazardous Waste Section](#).

Inactive Hazardous Sites (NCDEQ)

This layer represents hazardous substance spill and disposal sites (as points), and includes active and inactive facilities and a variety of property types. These sites include

historic and any recent accidental releases of hazardous substances and, where present in or threatening groundwater, other contaminants. The term “inactive” refers to the fact that cleanup was inactive at large numbers of sites at the time of program enactment. This data set includes closed remediation sites that have land use restrictions recorded as part of the remedy. Learn more about the [Inactive Hazardous Sites Program](#).

Land Clearing and Inert Debris (LCID) Notifications (NCDEQ)

This layer reflects all the Land Clearing and Inert Debris (LCID) Landfill Notification facilities (fewer than two acres in size) in North Carolina. Land clearing and inert debris includes yard waste, trees, limbs, stumps, branches and untreated or unpainted wood. The NCDEQ Solid Waste Section regional staff must be contacted to approve selected temporary sites for debris storage, staging and processing. Learn more about [LCID guidelines](#).

Land Use Restriction and/or Notices (NCDEQ)

This layer shows locations of sites or projects managed by the NCDEQ, Division of Waste Management (DWM) that have a Notice and/or Land Use Restrictions recorded at a local register of deeds office. The location data is a combined collection from eight sections or programs operating within DWM. The Notice and/or Land Use Restrictions are subject to one of the following North Carolina General Statutes:

1. Notice of Open Dump; [G.S. §130A-301\(f\)](#)
2. Notice of Inactive Hazardous Substance or Waste Disposal Site; [G.S. §130A-310.8](#)
3. Notice of Brownfields Property; [G.S. §130A-310.35](#)
4. Notice of Oil or Hazardous Substance Discharge Site; [G.S. §143-215.85A](#)
5. Notice of Dry-Cleaning Solvent Remediation; [G.S. §143-215.104M](#)
6. Notice of Contaminated Site; [G.S. §143B-279.10](#)
7. Notice of Residual Petroleum; [G.S. §143B-279.11](#)
8. Notice of Residual Contamination; [G.S. §130A-310.71\(e\)](#)

North Carolina Census Tracts (U.S. Census)

Census tracts are small, relatively permanent geographic entities within counties. Generally, census tracts have between 2,500 and 8,000 residents and boundaries that follow visible features. When first determined, census tracts are meant to be as similar as possible with respect to population characteristics, economic status and living conditions. Census tracts are meant to approximate relative neighborhoods and their boundaries are determined by local committees. Learn more about how the U.S. Census [determines census tracts](#) and how the U.S. Census [defines all of its geographic boundaries](#).

N.C. One Map Parcels (N.C. Parcels Transformer)

Parcels represent property boundaries. The **N.C. Parcels Transformer** collects parcel data from all 100 North Carolina counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians into a standardized data set for display and analysis across county boundaries. The grant project, funded by the EPA, created an efficient platform that has been expanded to a statewide parcel data resource. Learn more about [N.C. OneMap and N.C. Parcels Transformer](#).

NPDES Stormwater Permits (NCDEQ)

This layer reflects all National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (NPDES) permits, which apply to numerous broad categories of industrial activities with potential stormwater discharges (runoff), that are permitted through the NCDEQ Stormwater Program. During rain and snowmelt events, stormwater runoff is generated when water flows over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots and building rooftops, and does not soak into the ground. The runoff picks up pollutants like trash, chemicals, oils and dirt/sediment that can harm rivers, streams, lakes and coastal waters ([EPA](#)). Learn more about NCDEQ's stormwater permitting program on the [Stormwater Program webpage](#).

NPDES Wastewater Treatment Facility Permits (NCDEQ)

This layer reflects all wastewater treatment facilities with an NPDES permit in North Carolina. All wastewater discharges to surface waters in North Carolina must obtain a permit to control water pollution. The federal Clean Water Act of 1972 placed strict regulations on wastewater discharges and gave wastewater discharge enforcement responsibilities to the EPA. The EPA then created the NPDES to track and control point sources of pollution. Learn more about the [NPDES Wastewater program here](#).

Permitted Solid Waste Landfills (Open and Closed) (NCDEQ)

This layer reflects all active or closed, but permitted Municipal Solid Waste landfills (MSW), Construction and Demolition landfills (CDLF), Land-Clearing and Inert Debris (LCID) Demolition (older facilities) landfills, Industrial landfills (INDUS) and Tire landfills (TIRE). Learn more about the [Solid Waste program](#).

Petroleum Contaminated Soil Remediation Permits (NCDEQ)

This data layer represents sites that have received a permit or Certificate of Approval from the state's Underground Storage Tank (UST) Section under the Petroleum-Contaminated Soil Remediation Permit Program. Petroleum-contaminated soil is any soil that has been exposed to petroleum by any means, including any emission, spillage, leakage, pumping, pouring, emptying or dumping of petroleum products onto or under the land surface, that shows characteristics or concentrations of typical petroleum components that are detectable by approved analyses. Learn more about the [petroleum cleanup process](#).

Possible Dry-Cleaning Contamination (N.C. Department of Labor)

This layer reflects dry-cleaner boiler inspections that may show contamination. The N.C. Department of Labor inspects new and existing pressure equipment installations for businesses, institutions, industries, assemblies, educational locations, apartments and other multifamily dwelling locations, recreational sites, public use and water supplies. Learn more about the [Boiler Safety Bureau](#).

Pre-Regulatory Landfill Sites (NCDEQ)

This layer shows pre-regulatory, non-industrial landfills that stopped accepting waste before 1983, when waste disposal permitting began. The Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch in NCDEQ conducts the assessment and remediation of these sites under its Pre-Regulatory Landfill Program. Local governments may conduct the assessment work and seek reimbursement of expenses if the work was pre-approved by the Branch. The Inactive Hazardous Sites Branch is located in the Superfund Section of the Division of Waste Management. Learn more about the [Hazardous Sites Program](#).

Solid Waste Septage Sites (NCDEQ)

This layer reflects all active and permitted Septage Land Application Site (SLAS) and Septage Detention and Treatment Facility (SDTF) sites in North Carolina. Septage is a fluid mixture of untreated and partially treated sewage solids, liquids and sludge of human or domestic origin that is removed from a septic tank system. The state's Septage Management Program is responsible for ensuring that septage is managed in a responsible, safe and consistent manner across the state. Learn more about [SLAS and SDTF](#).

Tribal Boundaries (U.S. Census)

This layer is provided by the U.S. Census and includes federally-recognized American Indian reservations and off-reservation trust land areas, along with state-recognized American Indian reservations. Learn more about [TIGER/LINE tribal layers](#) from the Census. Learn more about the [eight state-recognized American Indian tribes in North Carolina](#).

Underground Storage Tank Active Facilities (NCDEQ)

This layer represents the geographic locations of active, registered UST facilities. Features are referred to as "facilities." This data is extracted from the Tank Inventory Management (TIMS) database. Learn more about [USTs](#).

Underground Storage Tank Incidents (NCDEQ)

This layer represents sites where there has been a release of petroleum to the soil and/or groundwater from an UST system. Features are referred to as "incidents" when an incident number has been assigned. This data is extracted from the Regional Underground Storage Tank (RUST) database. Learn more about [USTs](#).

DEMOGRAPHICS

All demographic data comes from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). The survey is distributed by the U.S. Census Bureau every year between the decennial (every 10 years) census to accurately estimate population changes from year to year. This data layer will be updated as new survey versions are released. All definitions are provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. At the launch of this Mapping System, demographic data is from the 2017 ACS five-year estimates. Learn more about the [American Community Survey](#) and learn [more about definition of terms](#).

American Indian (U.S. Census)

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment. This category includes people who indicate their race as “American Indian or Alaska Native” or report entries such as Navajo, Blackfeet, Inupiat, Yup’ik or Central American Indian groups or South American Indian groups.

Asian (U.S. Census)

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand and Vietnam. It includes people who indicate their race as “Asian Indian,” “Chinese,” “Filipino,” “Korean,” “Japanese,” “Vietnamese” and “Other Asian” or provide other detailed Asian responses.

Black or African American (U.S. Census)

A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. It includes people who indicate their race as “Black or African Am.” or report entries such as African American, Kenyan, Nigerian or Haitian.

Disability (U.S. Census)

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), define disability as the product of interactions among individuals’ bodies; their physical, emotional and mental health; and the physical and social environment in which they live, work or play. Disability exists where this interaction results in limitations of activities and restrictions to full participation at school, at work, at home or in the community.

Federal Poverty Level (U.S. Census)

To determine a person's poverty status, one compares the person’s total family income in the last 12 months with the poverty threshold appropriate for that person's family size and composition (see example below). If the total income of that person's family is less

than the threshold appropriate for that family, then the person is considered “below the poverty level,” together with every member of his or her family. The breakdown of federal poverty level is provided in the table below. More information is provided [here](#).

Persons in Family Household	Federal Poverty Level
1	\$12,060
2	\$16,240
3	\$20,420
4	\$24,600
5	\$28,780
6	\$32,960
7	\$37,140
8	\$41,320

Hispanic or Latino (U.S. Census)

The data on the Hispanic or Latino population were derived from answers to a question that was asked of all people (Question 5 in the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS)). The terms “Hispanic,” “Latino” and “Spanish” are used interchangeably. Some respondents identify with all three terms while others may identify with only one of these three specific terms. Hispanics or Latinos who identify with the terms “Hispanic,” “Latino” or “Spanish” are those who classify themselves in one or more of the specific Hispanic, Latino or Spanish categories listed on the questionnaire (“Mexican,” “Puerto Rican” or “Cuban”) as well as those who indicate that they are “another Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin.”

Household Income (U.S. Census)

Household income is the total income of households over the past 12 months. This includes the income of the head of house and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. The median household income in 2017 was \$60,336. Learn [more about household income](#).

Non-Hispanic White (U.S. Census)

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East or North Africa. It includes people who indicate their race as “White” or report entries such as Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Arab, Moroccan or Caucasian.

HEALTH

All health rates are measured in people per **100,000** unless otherwise specified. For example: if the rate of heart disease in a census tract is 125, that means that 125 out of

every 100,000 people may have heart disease in that census tract on average. **All health data is represented on a county level because it is the smallest scale of data available.**

Asthma Hospitalization (NCDEQ)

This layer shows the most recent rates of hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of asthma per county. Asthma hospitalization data has not been updated by NCDHHS since 2014. NCDEQ will be manually updating asthma hospitalization data as new information becomes available.

Cancer (NCDHHS)

This layer shows all deaths attributed to cancer per 100,000 people. Mortality rates are derived from information collected from North Carolina resident death certificates. The death rates are age-adjusted, calculated using the projected United States 2000 population as the standard.

Cardiovascular Disease (NCDHHS)

This layer shows cardiovascular disease deaths and includes all resident deaths where heart disease was coded as the underlying (primary) cause of death. Mortality rates are derived from information collected from North Carolina resident death certificates. The death rates are age-adjusted, calculated using the projected United States 2000 population as the standard.

Child Mortality Rate (NCDHHS)

This reflects the rate of deaths of children ages 0-17. Mortality rates are developed using information collected from North Carolina resident death certificates.

Diabetes (NCDHHS)

This data layer shows diabetes deaths and includes all resident deaths where diabetes mellitus (diabetes) was coded as the underlying (primary) cause of death. Mortality rates are derived from information collected from North Carolina resident death certificates. The death rates are age-adjusted, calculated using the projected United States 2000 population as the standard.

Heart Disease (NCDHHS)

This data layer shows heart disease deaths and includes all resident deaths where heart disease was coded as the underlying (primary) cause of death. Mortality rates are derived from information collected from North Carolina resident death certificates. The death rates are age-adjusted, calculated using the projected United States 2000 population as the standard.

Infant Death Rate (NCDHHS)

This data layer represents the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Infant death measures the number of infants who died fewer than 365 days after birth.

Preterm Birth Rate (NCDHHS)

This data layer represents the number of infants born at fewer than 37 weeks of gestation (pregnancy), based on the clinical/obstetric estimates of gestation. Data is the average from 2011 to 2015 by county. Information was collected from the North Carolina resident live birth certificate files.

Primary Care Physicians (NCDHHS)

This data layer represents the number of primary care physicians per 10,000 residents. Primary care physician numbers include those who are active in the profession and those with unknown activity status, but inactive physicians are not included. Primary care physicians are those who indicate a primary specialty of family practice, general practice, internal medicine, pediatrics or OB/GYN.

Stroke (NCDHHS)

This data layer shows stroke deaths and includes all resident deaths where cerebrovascular disease (stroke) was coded as the underlying (primary) cause of death. Mortality rates are derived from information collected from North Carolina resident death certificates. The death rates are age-adjusted, calculated using the projected United States 2000 population as the standard.