

Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper Land Cover Details for Classes Extracted from Coastal Change Analysis Program Land Cover Data

The following land cover classes were extracted from the Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) land cover data. Some C-CAP classes were combined and cartographic colors changed from the original data set for use in the Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper. For more information, email coast.info@noaa.gov.

Development includes the following land cover classifications from C-CAP:

-  **Developed, High Intensity** – contains significant land area and is covered by concrete, asphalt, and other constructed materials. Vegetation, if present, occupies less than 20 percent of the landscape. Constructed materials account for 80 to 100 percent of the total cover. This class includes heavily built-up urban centers and large constructed surfaces in suburban and rural areas with a variety of land uses.
-  **Developed, Medium Intensity** – contains areas with a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation or other cover. Constructed materials account for 50 to 79 percent of total area. This class commonly includes multi- and single-family housing areas, especially in suburban neighborhoods, but may include all types of land use.
-  **Developed, Low Intensity** – contains areas with a mixture of constructed materials and substantial amounts of vegetation or other cover. Constructed materials account for 21 to 49 percent of total area. This subclass commonly includes single-family housing areas, especially in rural neighborhoods, but may include all types of land use.
-  **Developed, Open Space** – contains areas with a mixture of some constructed materials, but mostly managed grasses or low-lying vegetation planted in developed areas for recreation, erosion control, or aesthetic purposes. These areas are maintained by human activity such as fertilization and irrigation, are distinguished by enhanced biomass productivity, and can be recognized through vegetative indices based on spectral characteristics. Constructed surfaces account for less than 20 percent of total land cover.

Wetlands include the following land cover classifications from C-CAP:

Palustrine Wetlands

Palustrine Forested Wetland – includes tidal and nontidal wetlands dominated by woody vegetation greater than or equal to 5 meters in height, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is below 0.5 percent. Total vegetation coverage is greater than 20 percent.

Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Wetland – includes tidal and nontidal wetlands dominated by woody vegetation less than 5 meters in height, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is below 0.5 percent. Total vegetation coverage is greater than 20 percent. *Species present could be true shrubs, young trees and shrubs, or trees that are small or stunted due to environmental conditions.*

Palustrine Emergent Wetland (Persistent) – includes tidal and nontidal wetlands dominated by persistent emergent vascular plants, emergent mosses or lichens, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is below 0.5 percent. Total vegetation cover is greater than 80 percent. *Plants generally remain standing until the next growing season.*

Estuarine Wetlands

Estuarine Forested Wetland – includes tidal wetlands dominated by woody vegetation greater than or equal to 5 meters in height, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is equal to or greater than 0.5 percent. Total vegetation coverage is greater than 20 percent.

Estuarine Scrub/Shrub Wetland – includes tidal wetlands dominated by woody vegetation less than 5 meters in height, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is equal to or greater than 0.5 percent. Total vegetation coverage is greater than 20 percent.

Estuarine Emergent Wetland – Includes all tidal wetlands dominated by erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytes (excluding mosses and lichens). These wetlands occur in tidal areas in which salinity due to ocean-derived salts is equal to or greater than 0.5 percent and are present for most of the growing season in most years. Total vegetation cover is greater than 80 percent. *Perennial plants usually dominate these wetlands.*



Beaches and Dunes include the following land cover classifications from C-CAP, extracted to encompass only shore-adjacent areas since C-CAP does not directly map beaches and dunes:

Barren Land

Unconsolidated Shore – includes material such as silt, sand, or gravel that is subject to inundation and redistribution due to the action of water. Substrates lack vegetation except for pioneering plants that become established during brief periods when growing conditions are favorable.

Barren Land – contains areas of bedrock, desert pavement, scarps, talus, slides, volcanic material, glacial debris, sand dunes, strip mines, gravel pits, and other accumulations of earth material. Generally, vegetation accounts for less than 10 percent of total cover.



Other Natural Areas and Open Space include the following land cover classifications from C-CAP:

Forest Land

Deciduous Forest – contains areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall and greater than 20 percent of total vegetation cover. More than 75 percent of the tree species shed foliage simultaneously in response to seasonal change.

Evergreen Forest – contains areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall and greater than 20 percent of total vegetation cover. More than 75 percent of the tree species maintain their leaves all year. Canopy is never without green foliage.

Mixed Forest – contains areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall, and greater than 20 percent of total vegetation cover. Neither deciduous nor evergreen species are greater than 75 percent of total tree cover. *Both coniferous and broad-leaved evergreens are included in this category.*

Scrub Land

Scrub/Shrub – contains areas dominated by shrubs less than 5 meters tall with shrub canopy typically greater than 20 percent of total vegetation. This class includes tree shrubs, young trees in an early successional stage, or trees stunted from environmental conditions.

Agricultural Land

Cultivated Crops – contains areas intensely managed for the production of annual crops. Crop vegetation accounts for greater than 20 percent of total vegetation. This class also includes all land being actively tilled.

Pasture/Hay – contains areas of grasses, legumes, or grass-legume mixtures planted for livestock grazing or the production of seed or hay crops, typically on a perennial cycle and not tilled. Pasture/hay vegetation accounts for greater than 20 percent of total vegetation.

Grassland

Grassland/Herbaceous – contains areas dominated by grammanoid or herbaceous vegetation, generally greater than 80 percent of total vegetation. These areas are not subject to intensive management such as tilling but can be utilized for grazing.