

# Geographical Criteria in Greenway Analysis

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## Introduction and Background

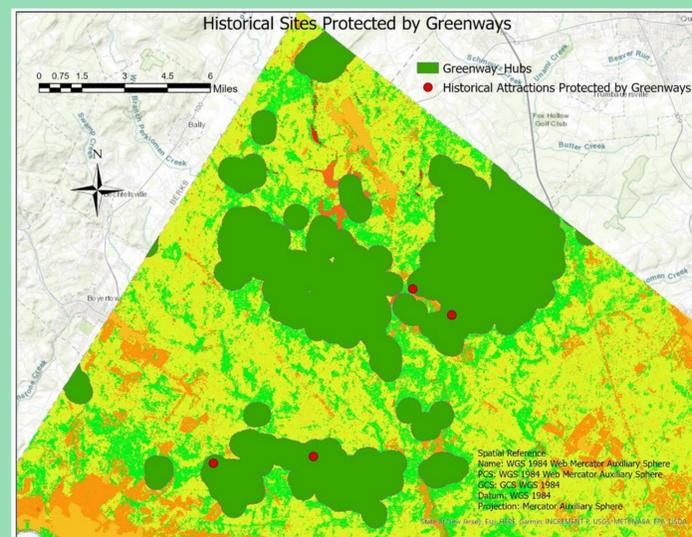
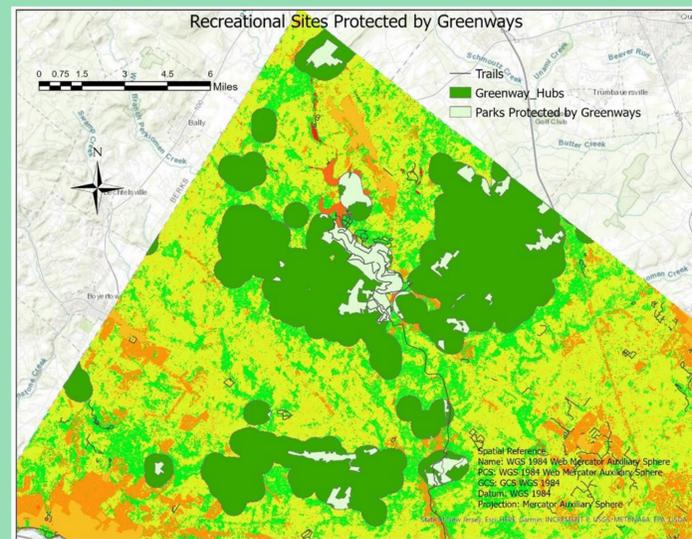
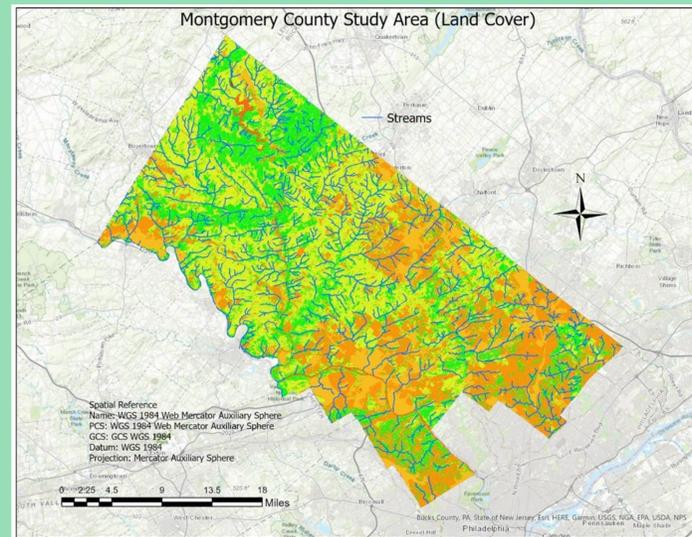
Greenways are large segments of undeveloped land near urban areas for environmental protection and to preserve recreational, historical, and cultural uses. Greenway planning concerns public participation including various stakeholders such as residents and officials to select which undeveloped locations to remain as such for protection from too much urban development. A society without greenways can have potential negative effects including lack of natural and cultural resources, public access to certain activities, and historical and environmental education.

## Research Question

Is the Greenway planning commission in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania serving their purpose for recreational, historical, and environmental uses? In other words, the process is more of a check to ensure the greenway planning in Montgomery County is doing an exceptional job that helps preserve the needs for various recreational and historical sites along with ensuring there is extra open space that will preserve natural resources and wildlife habitat.

## Methodology and Data

To answer the question, data was collected from the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA) site and inputted into ArcGIS Pro software where the analysis was done. Recreational sites and historical sites data layers will be placed on top the greenway data layers in Montgomery County to check that the greenways protect those type of sites. If there is extra open space in the greenway hubs, then those areas must protect natural resources and wildlife habitat.



## Study Area

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania is well populated with a lot of urban and residential development. As shown in the figure, the orange sections are more developed lands, and the green sections are less developed which include grass and forest cover.

## Analysis & Discussion

The greenways are in the upper part of Montgomery County where there is less development. The second map shows that Montgomery did a good job at protecting recreational activity through the locations of their greenways. The third map shows that Montgomery also did a good job at protecting certain historical attractions. There also happens to be extra green space within the greenway hubs that will serve to protect natural resources and wildlife habitat. This will also serve to provide environmental education for the public.

## Conclusion & Future Direction

Montgomery County does an exceptional job with locating where to set their greenways and how much area to occupy to ensure all the elements of greenways are protected.

## Source

“American Trails.” Greenway Planning, Criteria, and Strategies for Implementation - American Trails, [www.americantrails.org/resources/greenway-planning-criteria-and-strategies-for-implementation](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/greenway-planning-criteria-and-strategies-for-implementation).