



# NATURAL SOLUTIONS TOOL a watershed approach

**Help us realize equitable investments in watershed health and resiliency using this interactive mapping and data visualization tool**

The Natural Solutions Tool is a publicly available mapping website that emerged from the collaboration of the Greater Chicago Watershed Alliance, which promotes expanded investments in nature-based solutions. Tool development was led by The Trust for Public Land and Friends of the Chicago River with input from Watershed Alliance members and numerous other stakeholders.

To be directed to the Natural Solutions Tool website and the mapping portal, use this QR code or visit [web.tplgis.org/chicago\\_nst/](http://web.tplgis.org/chicago_nst/)



## Why the Tool was created

- The Greater Chicago Watershed Alliance partners identified a need for tools to prioritize investments to meet multiple goals, like connecting stormwater to public health.
- Challenges communities face due to the climate crisis require water, land, and other infrastructure agencies to work together on targeted solutions.
- The desire to make equity and environmental justice core values for all decision making for green infrastructure.

If you have questions or are interested in receiving training for the tool, please reach out to [naturalsolutionstool@chicagoriver.org](mailto:naturalsolutionstool@chicagoriver.org)





## The Tool is a sophisticated interactive map that spans...

- Nearly 1.5 million parcels
- 1,300 square miles
- 176 municipalities
- 42 subwatersheds
- 4 counties

## About the Watershed Alliance

In 2020, Friends of the Chicago River launched the Greater Chicago Watershed Alliance to create a collaborative watershed-based approach to manage stormwater using nature-based solutions across traditional jurisdictions.

## Greater Chicago Watershed Alliance Steering Committee Partners



## Tool Capabilities

Built upon five modeling objectives that drive us towards **healthy, equitable, biodiverse, protected, and connected** landscapes and communities, the Natural Solutions Tool allows users to explore opportunities to address complex environmental challenges by customizing and visualizing over 84 data sets. The Natural Solutions Tool can help you:

- Explore detailed analysis layers for each of the five modeling objectives at the regional, city, and parcel scales
- Compare geographic reference data such as political boundaries, existing natural areas, and tree canopy to the analysis results
- Export detailed data reports summarizing the demographics of the population impacted by projects
- Export parcel data reports that summarize analysis findings
- Search and filter parcels based on their characteristics such as ownership, land use, and level of investment need