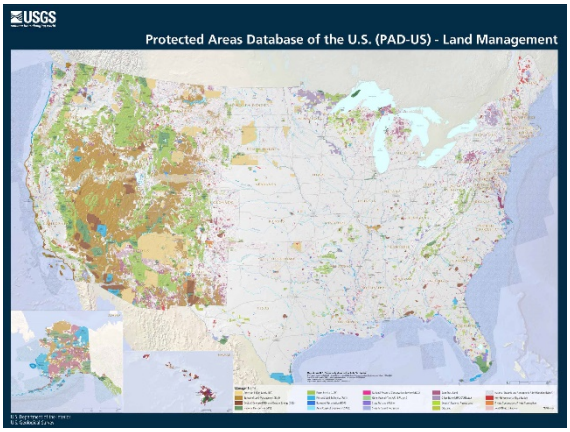
PADUS FACTSHEET SERIES

What PAD-US Means for Local Park and Open Space Agencies

PAD-US is the Protected Areas Database of the U.S. – the official national GIS inventory of federal, state and local public parks and other protected areas, published by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). PAD-US is developed by working with state stewards who assemble local, regional, and state data, USGS integrates data from all of these sources into PAD-US, which contains the boundaries of parks (trails, campgrounds, facility, and activity data can be linked to PAD-US park areas). Learn more about PAD-US from USGS, including data downloads and web services, and explore the Protectedlands.net companion site.



To learn about the completion status of PAD-US, see this summary map. Efforts are underway 2017-2020 to complete state and local parks data and further improve federal, tribal and easement data – learn more by downloading this recent report on PAD-US.

HOW PAD-US HELPS LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE AGENCIES

As a national inventory, PAD-US can support analysis and planning at all scales – national, state/regional, and metropolitan/local. While individual agencies may have more detailed tracking of their own parks, having an aggregated database of all parks in an area offers great advantages:

Grant and funding applications: Showing the context of one agency's lands in relation to all other public park and open space lands can be helpful in proposing funding initiatives.

Local plans: Countywide park plans that define how to meet an area's recreation and resource protection needs can be more easily prepared with PAD-US data that identifies existing public open space.

Park prescriptions: Increasingly, doctors and other medical practitioners are interested in writing prescriptions for park-based physical activity to address chronic disease and improve health - these depend on area-wide parks data like PAD-US in metropolitan areas, covering all types of locations.

Tourism: Regional and state tourism authorities and commercial recreation-focused businesses can make substantial use of data that has all parks and other open space lands in their area, both for analysis and marketing, and for providing guides to help people visit their area.

Benchmarks: A national inventory makes evaluating parks across multiple jurisdictions feasible, leading to more informed comparisons of how parks can be provided to people in need.

Park Advocacy: Determining which areas have parks and which don't is easier with a regional or broader database of parks, like PAD-US.

Data baseline: PAD-US provides a national baseline for organizing GIS data about parks and open space, informing best practices for all agencies.

Web park finder apps: Having a standardized national inventory allows more accurate geospatial data in commercial and other web applications that guide people to parks and recreation.

Multi-state assessments: A national inventory provides parks and open space data for assessing natural resource and recreation issues that cross state boundaries.

SCORPs: State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs), which states prepare to access federal LWCF funding that often supports local parks, benefit by being based on spatial analysis of where parks are and are not, in terms of meeting people's need for outdoor recreation.

Collaboration with public health: Public health departments do community needs assessments. Having a complete understanding of park locations assists in development of public health initiatives – in particular, it can inform efforts to define Safe Routes to Parks strategies.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

PAD-US depends on lead groups in each state to develop state/local parks data. These data stewards are key to the success of PAD-US. Here's what you can do to help them:

- **Support** your state data steward – learn more about PAD-US and stewards at www.Protectedlands.net/vision and www.ProtectedLands.net/partners, and encourage funding agencies to provide resources needed to keep these data sets up to date and accurate.
- **Contact** your state data steward to see if you can add your parks data to their inventory - see www.ProtectedLands.net/partners "Table View" for contact information.
- **Adapt** your GIS parks data to the core attributes used in the PAD-US national standard. Contact the PAD-US Coordinator for best available information.
- **Tell** the PAD-US team about good uses of these inventories, and about your interest and ideas – email them to the PAD-US Coordinator.

QUICK PAD-US FAQs

What is a "protected area"? **A:** It's any natural, recreational or cultural area owned by public agencies or managed by nonprofits for its park and open space values, ranging from neighborhood parks and playgrounds to national forests, parks and refuges.

What about TPL and NRPA? **A:** The Trust for Public Land is developing a national inventory of urban park boundaries (ParkServe) to support their advocacy of local parks – this data will be integrated into PAD-US in 2018. The National Recreation and Park Association has a long-time commitment to provide parks benchmarking data and other services to its members, and is working with TPL on local park advocacy and coordinating with PAD-US (NRPA's PROGRAGIS system no longer tracks park boundary data).

How does PAD-US connect to Recreation.gov? **A:** Recreation.gov is the national reservations site for parks, camping and park events, and it is currently developing plans to use PAD-US for its park boundary data.

Isn't this data in Google and other web maps? **A:** No – commercial mapping services often have good neighborhood park data, but generally have far less accurate and complete information about regional, state and national lands than exists in PAD-US.

Where can I browse PAD-US data? **A:** Use the USGS Map Viewer, and the Protectedlands.net mapper.

From top: Parks of all types are in PAD-US; PAD-US GIS data supports wide range of uses; recent report on future of PAD-US.

Learn more at www.ProtectedLands.net