

City of Lacey Equity Index

User Guide

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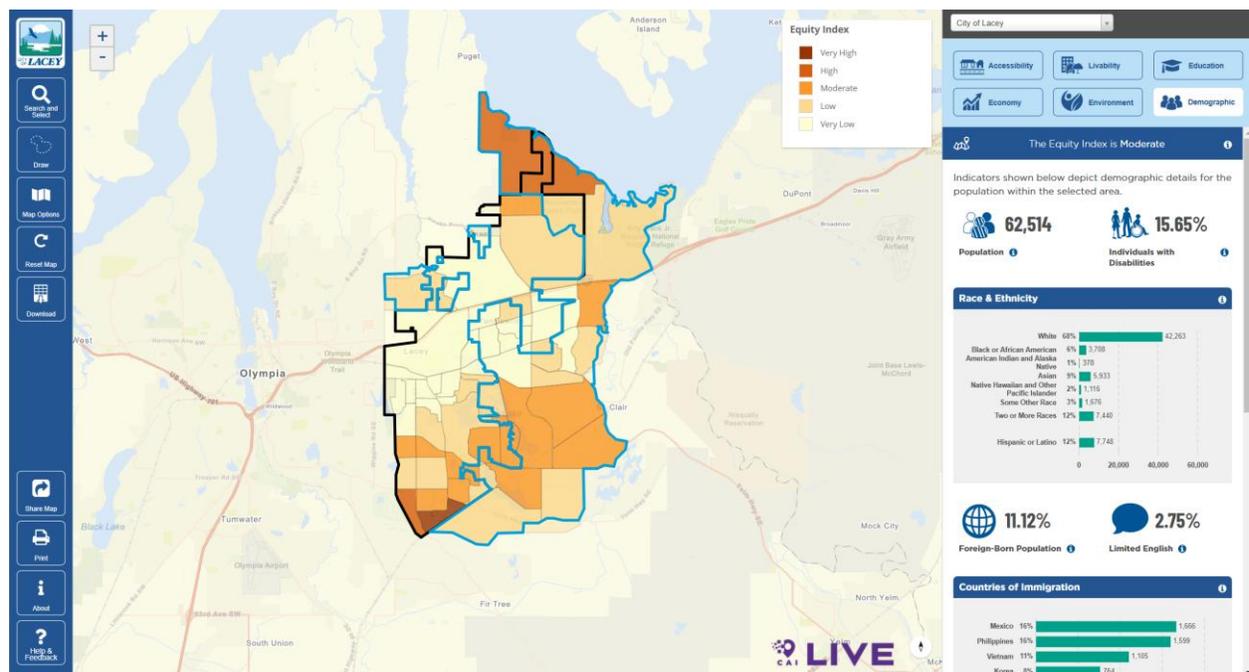
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User Guide

Overview

The City of Lacey Equity Index, developed by Community Attributes Inc. and customized for the **City of Lacey**, is an interactive mapping platform that displays a set of community indicators within the City of Lacey and the Lacey Urban Growth Area boundaries. A group of partners and advisors collaborated to select and categorize the indicators. The index calculation methodology is derived from work by the Kirwan Institute on Race and Social Justice. This resource is free to the public and designed to share information about factors that contribute to equity and access to opportunity throughout the City. The information displayed in the Equity Index does not represent an exhaustive list of community characteristics associated with equity. Instead, the map is designed as one tool of many that can be utilized to inform decision making, strategic intervention, calls to action, and partner engagement to promote greater equity and access to opportunity across the City.



The Equity Index allows you to specify a location within the City of Lacey and the Lacey Urban Growth Area boundaries by selecting a zip code, searching by address, or drawing boundaries on the map using your mouse. Once an area is selected, the map zooms to the specified area and displays community indicator data for that given area. The community indicators include information on people, access to resources, facilities, jobs and opportunity within the selected area, you can also add color-shaded layers to highlight indices such race, livability, accessibility, and education.

The following walkthrough highlights the different aspects and functionality of the Equity Index. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found on the City of Lacey website.



We hope you find the City of Lacey Equity Index to be a useful resource for you and your community.

For additional information or to provide feedback, please email [need contact](mailto:needcontact@cityoflacey.com).

Organization of this Guide

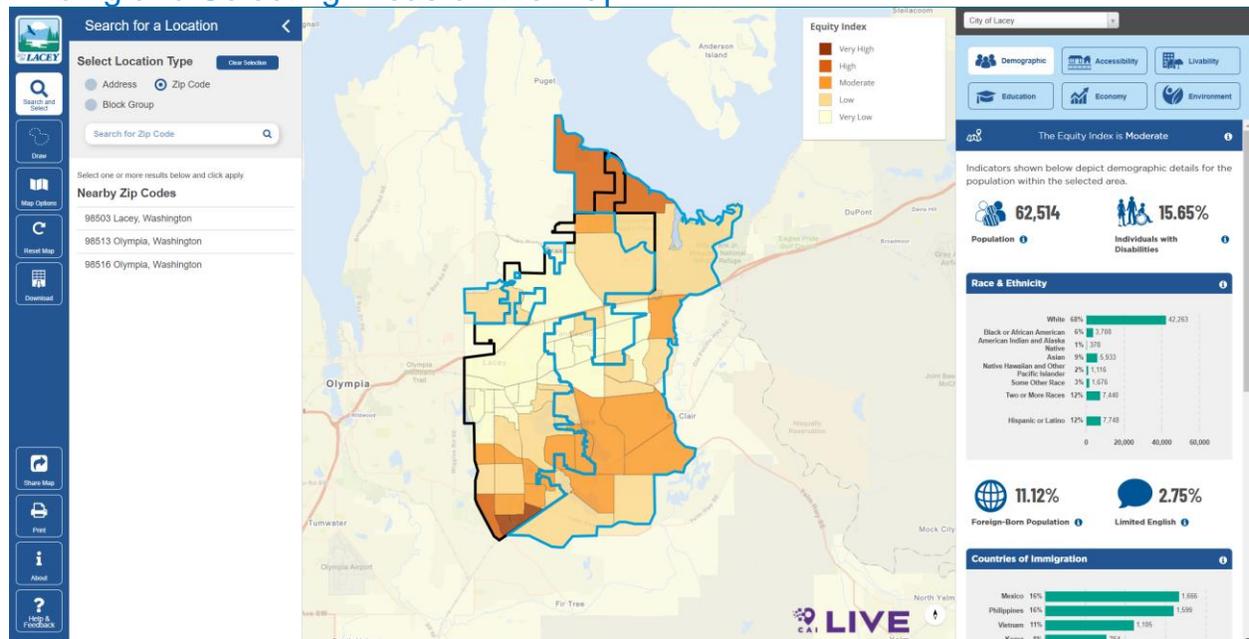
This guide is designed as a tour of the online mapping tool, starting with the top left corner, and showing the features on the left-side tool panel, which allows you to navigate, select, and reset the map, followed by the right-side data panel, which helps you understand and interpret the information on the map.

Map Basics: Zooming In/Out, Moving the Map Area, and Collapsing Menus

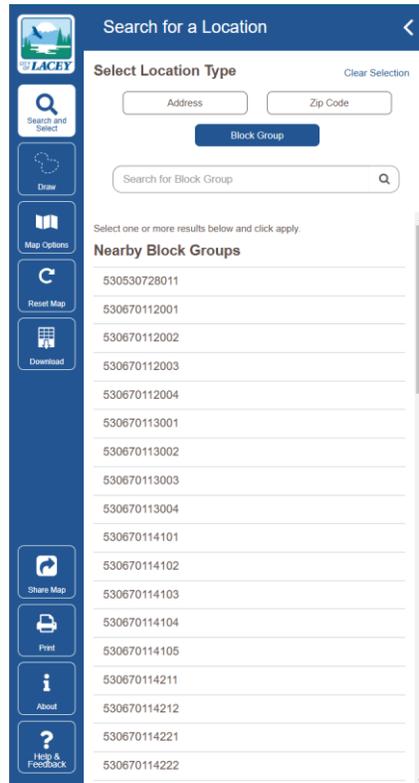
In order to zoom in and out of the map to see the entire boundary of the geography selected, to view the surrounding area, or to select a different area, you can either click the **+** or **-** buttons in the top left corner of the map area, or use the scroll wheel on your mouse while the pointer is hovering over a map area.

You can move the map area in view by hovering the pointer over any area on the map and clicking and holding the mouse button down while you drag the underlying map to a new area.

Finding and Selecting Areas on the Map



You have several options for selecting an area to investigate. You can search by street address, a defined area (e.g., ZIP Code, or Block Group), or you can draw your own boundaries. These options are described below:



Search for a Defined Area or Address

Click on the **search** icon in *Tool Panel* on the left side of the map to open the *Search Tools* menu.

You can collapse the *Search Tools* menu by using your mouse to click on < in the upper right corner of the tool menu.

Search by Address: Type a City of Lacey address directly into the Search bar. As you begin to type, the search bar will generate a list of locations that match your search criteria. (Note: Generally, four or more letters must be typed into the search bar to narrow your search to a manageable list of locations.)

When the search function yields a list of locations, you can scroll through the options until you find the geographic area that you want. Once you click on a location from the options presented, the Map will zoom to that location, showing the enclosed or adjacent *census block group(s)*, and show community indicators for that area in the panel on the right. If the area you selected does not fully appear on your screen, try

zooming out a little bit using the +/- buttons in the upper left of the map.

If you decide to look at a separate location, just re-click the **Search icon** and the search panel will reopen.

Search by defined area (ZIP Code, or Block Group): You can also select one of the defined location areas listed. The sub-options for that area will appear below on the panel, and then when you click apply selected, the map will jump to that area and list the equity characteristics of that area on the right panel.



Select a Custom Area



To select a custom area, click the **Custom Area Select icon** on the tool panel, and choose circle, rectangle, or freeform shape around any area of the map, and the Equity Index will display community indicator estimates for the area you have selected or, if you have selected a geographic area that is smaller than a census block group, the map will redraw the boundaries of the area you selected within the nearest block group. Similarly, if you freeform draw an area on the map that crosses census boundaries, the Equity Index Tool will redraw your freeform boundaries to the nearest block group boundaries.

To draw a circle, rectangle or freeform shape using your mouse, click and hold the mouse button while you draw the desired boundaries. For a circle, where you first click will represent the *center* of the circular area you specify, with the diameter expanding or contracting as you move the mouse. For a rectangle, where you click the mouse will become one *corner* of the rectangular area you specify, with the shape of the rectangle changing depending on where you drag the mouse. Note that the corner of the rectangle created by your initial mouse click will differ depending on the direction in which you move the mouse. Lastly, to draw a freeform area, you can move the mouse in any direction while you hold down the mouse button; it is simplest to draw a freeform shape (from start to finish) around your desired geographic area, though it is possible to drag your mouse over a boundary you have already created. Again, the map will adjust to areas designated by the census block group for which measures of the community indicators can be estimated.

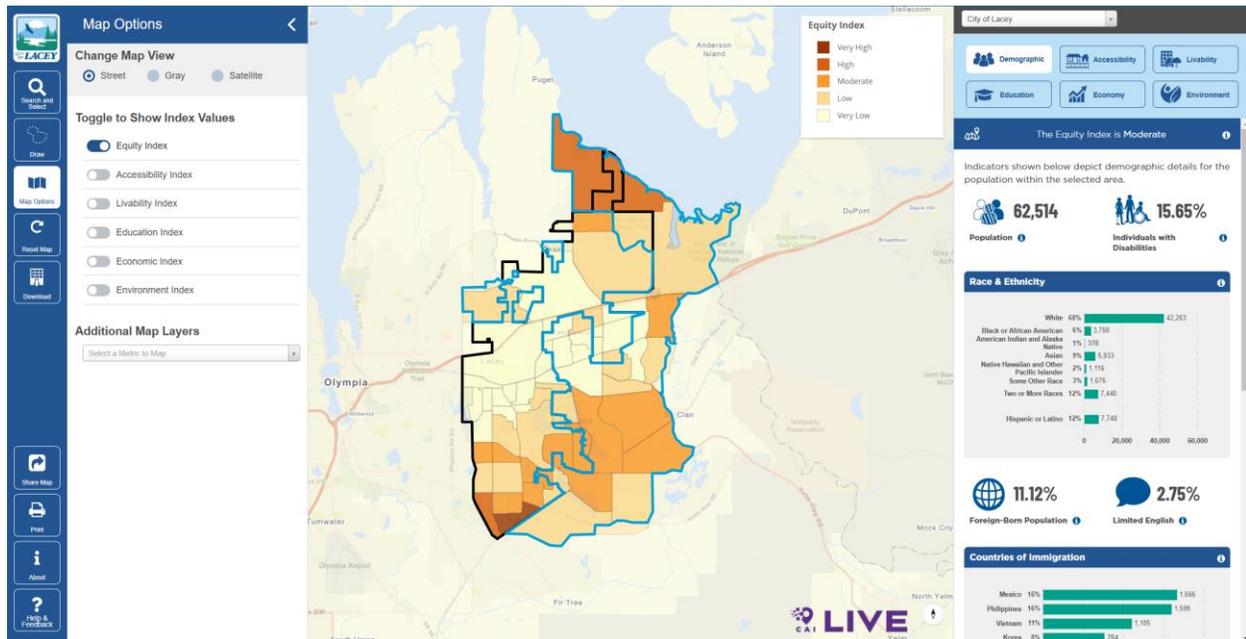
If you cannot locate an area using the search menu, or you aren't sure how a location name is spelled, you can navigate using your mouse and the zoom features to find your desired location.

Regardless of whether you have entered search criteria into the search bar, or if you have moved the map using your mouse and zooming in/out, you can also select nearby ZIP codes. If the area you are searching for does not appear in the list generated by your map view, try zooming out or moving the map to a different area using your mouse so that the district is within the map window. Once you select the ZIP code of interest, the map will zoom to that area and provide you with the community indicators and indices in the data panel.



Change the Map View

Click on the **Map Options** icon to change the base map views and select the base map layer indicator sets or other map layers. Like the **Search Tools** menu, you can collapse the **Map Options** menu by clicking the < at right of the text “Change Map View”.



Add an Indicator Layer and Switching Street/Satellite View

You can toggle on/off the indicator layers on the Equity Index. When the layers are turned on every census block group is color-shaded in proportion to the scale of the indicator selected. For example, when the layer *Livability Index* is turned on, every census block group in the map view is shaded at one of the five levels of “livability” shown on the legend, from “very high” to “very low”.

You also can select the base map layer as a Street Map, a Satellite Map, or a Gray base map.

Clear Selection and Reset the Map

Directly beneath the Map Options icon, is the **Clear Selected** button that clears the current selection, and the reset map button which will bring you back to the opening screen, with the entire City selected.

Access the Map Info and FAQ

The **About** button (the i with a circle around it) will bring up the latest version of the User Guide and Data Dictionary.



Provide Feedback on the Equity Map

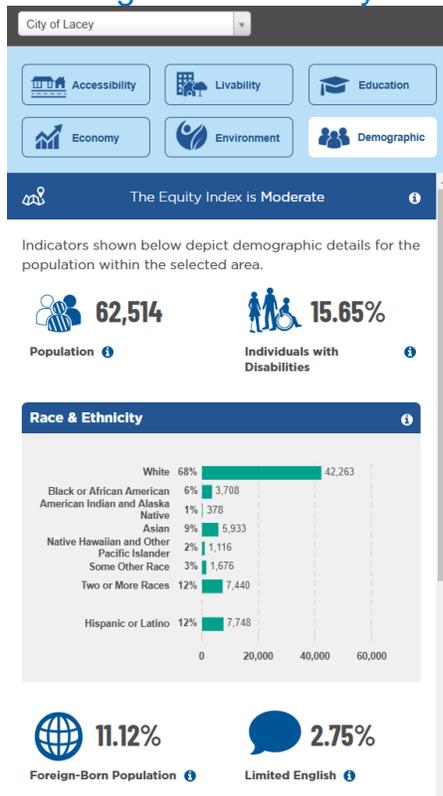
Directly beneath the **About** button, is the **Help & Feedback** button with a question mark icon. Clicking this will open a dialog box. If you select **Help** and click "Let us know!" a new message will open in your email program to email cailive@communityattribute.com.

If you select **Contact** and click "contact us here" a new message will open in your email program to email [needcontact](mailto:needcontact@communityattribute.com).

Your feedback on the map is invaluable to both the City of Lacey and the creators of this map. Whether it's helping to make the map easier to use, identifying issues with the data, or you find that the indicators simply don't reflect your neighborhood, we welcome your insights.



Reading the Community Indicators Dashboard



The right side of the Equity Index Dashboard displays a dashboard with the community indicators that make up the Equity Index. At the top of the dashboard, you will see the name of the area (City, "custom area," etc.), which the data and statistics in the dashboard reflect. Within the dashboard, community indicators are organized by subdomain: Accessibility, Livability, Education, Economy, Environment and Demographics. To learn more about the community indicators and demographic measures, including how and why the indicators were selected, please contact the please email [<need contact>](#)

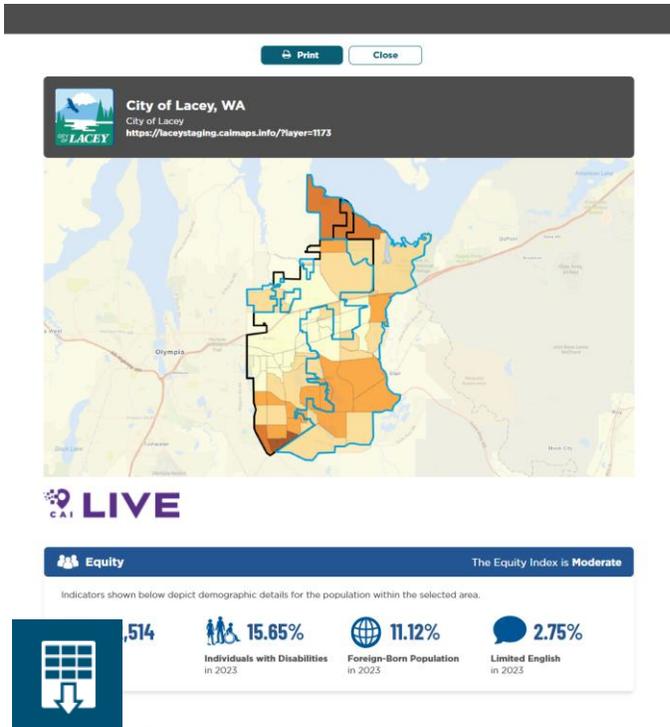
Each indicator on the dashboard has several features. An icon and the name of the indicator are shown to inform you what each estimate represents. *Note:* Not every indicator is measured the same way (e.g., percentages, counts, ratios). Pay close attention to what each indicator measures, how it is measured, what the data means in context, and how supplementary data could inform the estimates displayed on the dashboard.

Display metadata about the indicator by selecting the small **(i)** with the circle around it. This will open a box with information including definition of the indicator, data year, scope, why the metric is important, source, and source link.

Additionally, the histogram chart represents the distribution of indicator values across the entire study area (City of Lacey and the Lacey Urban Growth Area boundaries). The data is divided into five equal intervals, showing how many block groups fall within each range, while the histogram applies a quintile classification, where block groups are evenly distributed into five categories. This visualization provides insight into both the absolute range of indicator values and their relative distribution, helping to compare how specific areas align within the broader dataset.

Printing and Saving to PDF





Click the Printer Icon towards the bottom of the Tool Panel to format the map and data panel for printing and saving a scenario for use in reports or to compare selected areas.

Once the print view has loaded, to Print or Save as a PDF, click the Print Icon at the top of the screen and follow the instructions given by your browser.

If the map area does not print properly, click on the Print Setting button at the top of the window to optimize your printer settings.

Download Data

Click the Table icon in the middle of the Tool Panel to download the data in spreadsheet format. The downloaded

file includes an introduction page explaining the structure of each worksheet. The second sheet, *Summary*, provides an overview of each indicator for the selected area, including details such as the indicator name, value, scope, description, and source. The next sheet contains indicators with available disaggregated values, while the subsequent sheets present indicator data by geographic ID, including tract and block group levels.

Share

Click the Share icon towards the bottom of the Tool Panel to generate a link that can be shared to provide access to the Equity Index Application.



Data Dictionary

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Demographics	Population	Total population within a geographic area.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Neutral
Demographics	Individuals with Disabilities	Percentage of non-institutionalized population within the block group with disability.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Neutral
Demographics	Race	Percent of block group population that identifies as a certain race or ethnicity.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Neutral
Demographics	Ethnicity	Percent of block group population that identifies as Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Neutral
Demographics	Foreign-Born Population	Percent of population that is foreign born.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Neutral
Demographics	Limited English	Percent of population with limited English proficiency.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Lower is better
Demographics	Countries of Immigration	The top five countries of immigration for the foreign-born population residing in the United States.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Neutral



Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Demographics	Male by Age	Total male population within a geographic area.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Neutral
Demographics	Female by Age	Total female population within a geographic area.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Neutral
Economy	Quality Jobs Index	The Quality Jobs Index comes directly from the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program, operated by the U.S. Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies. The index counts jobs in an area and weights them based on place of work among three wage categories: 1) Less than \$15,000, 2) \$15,000 - \$40,000, and 3) More than \$40,000.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better
Economy	Unemployment Rate	Unemployed percentage within a block group of the total eligible workforce over 16 years of age.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Lower is better
Economy	Median Household Income	The income level at which half of all households in a given area earn more, and half earn less.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better



Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Economy	Homeownership Rate	Percent of owner-occupied housing units.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better
Economy	Non-Auto Commuters	The percentage of workers 16 years and over who commute to work by public transportation (bus, subways, light rail, streetcar, trolley, long-distance train or commuter rail or ferryboat), walking, taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better
Economy	Poverty Rate	Percent of the population within the block group earning less than the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty threshold, which varies based on family size and composition.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Lower is better
Education	Educational Attainment	Weighted average index of educational attainment in population 25+ with: 1* (associates degree) + 1.2* (bachelor's degree) + 1.5* (master's + PhD degree).	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better
Education	Four-Year High School Graduation Rate	The 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate for those starting together in 9th grade and adjusting for those students that may have moved in or out of the	State of Washington Access Washington, National Center for Education Statistics Education	Higher is better



Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
		area during the measurement period. Data are for the 2023-24 school year.	Demographic and Geographic Estimates	
Education	Average Student Test Rate	Combined average of 3rd grade reading and 7th grade math scores. Data are for 2023-24 school year.	National Center for Education Statistics Education Demographic and Geographic Estimates, State of Washington Access Washington	Higher is better
Education	Average Student Mobility Rate	The percentage of students who enrolled at the beginning of the school year but did not stay enrolled at the same school throughout that school year (continuity rate). Data is for 2023-24 school year.	National Center for Education Statistics Education Demographic and Geographic Estimates, State of Washington Access Washington	Lower is better
Education	Kindergarten Readiness	Percent of students entering Kindergarten that achieve at least 5 out of 6 readiness measures. Data are for the 2024-25 school year.	State of Washington Access Washington, National Center for Education Statistics Education Demographic and Geographic Estimates	Higher is better
Livability	Median Home Value	Median home value in a block group of all owner occupied housing units.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better



Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Livability	Cost-Burdened Households	The total percentage of all owners and renters in a block group spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Lower is better
Livability	Self-Rated Health	Percent of block group CDC survey participants who responded that their health is "fair" or "poor".	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention PLACES: Local Data for Better Health	Lower is better
Livability	Health Uninsured Rate	Out of the total population, the percentage who do not have health insurance coverage.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Lower is better
Livability	Fatal/Serious Injury Crashes	Count of serious or fatal crashes in the past year involving bicyclists or pedestrians.	Washington Department of Transportation Crash Data Portal	Lower is better
Livability	Percent Low Life Expectancy	Percent of individuals expected to have a lower than average life expectancy.	Environmental Protection Agency EJScreen	Lower is better



Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Livability	Walkability Index	<p>The EPA's Walkability Index is a tool used to assess the walkability of neighborhoods and communities. It considers factors such as the availability of pedestrian infrastructure (sidewalks, crosswalks), proximity to amenities (parks, schools, shops), and street connectivity (ease of walking between destinations). The index quantifies these factors to provide a score that indicates how conducive an area is to walking as a mode of transportation.</p> <p>1 - 5.75: Least walkable 5.76 - 10.5: Below average walkable 10.51 - 15.25: Above average walkable 15.26 - 20: Most walkable</p>	Environmental Protection Agency Smart Location Database	Higher is better
Accessibility	Transit Accessibility	<p>Percentage of a block group's area within 1/4 mile of rail and bus service stops and within 3 miles of park and ride locations from Intercity Transit service divided by total block group area. Overlapping transit service areas yield higher totals, meaning</p>	Intercity Transit Intercity Transit Data Hub	Higher is better



Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
		greater transit options coverage per block group.		
Accessibility	Internet Access at Home	The percentage of households with access to home internet.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better
Accessibility	Access to Household Vehicle	Percentage of block group's households with access to a household vehicle.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better
Accessibility	Average Road Quality	Aggregates the average quality of roads in a block group. Lower scores indicate poorer road quality resulting in higher costs of repair to the local municipality.	City of Lacey GIS City of Lacey Street Conditions	Higher is better
Accessibility	Retail Service Jobs	Total number of employees by place of work within a block group in retail service categories.	ESRI ESRI Business Analyst	Higher is better
Accessibility	Four Year Average Voter Participation Rate	The percentage of voters who voted in the general election divided by the number of eligible voters in the block group averaged over four years. This evaluates voter participation and can be used to determine access to civic processes.	Washington Secretary of State Election Results and Voters' Pamphlets, U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better



Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Accessibility	Library Access	Percent of a block group's area within 1/2 mile of a library in urban areas and 10 miles of a library in rural areas.	Washington Geoservices Washington Geospatial Open Data Portal	Higher is better
Accessibility	Food Access	The CDC's mRFEI (modified Retail Food Environment Index) percentage assesses the proportion of healthy food outlets within an area, with a percentage of zero indicating a food desert lacking access to affordable nutritious options. In areas with mREI percentages above zero, lower percentage signify food swamps, characterized by an abundance of energy-dense snacks overwhelming healthier food choices.	ESRI ESRI Business Analyst	Higher is better



Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Accessibility	Pedestrian and Bike Trails	Measures the density of off-street existing sidewalks and bikeways, excluding trails, within each block group. It quantifies the total length of sidewalks and bikeways (in miles) per square mile of the block group area, with higher values indicating greater infrastructure coverage.	City of Lacey GIS City of Lacey Sidewalks, City of Lacey GIS City of Lacey UGA Bike Routes	Higher is better
Accessibility	Parks Access	The percentage of the population residing within a half-mile walking distance from a park.	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, City of Lacey GIS City of Lacey Parks	Higher is better
Environment	Heavy Traffic Roadways	The distance-weighted average annual daily traffic (AADT) index for each block group is determined by calculating traffic volume on major roadways from the block group's centroid, assigning greater weight to closer traffic using inverse distance weighting.	Environmental Protection Agency EJScreen	Lower is better
Environment	Urban Tree Canopy	The percentage of a block group that is covered by urban tree canopy.	Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics (MRLC) Consortium NLCD Tree Canopy Cover (CONUS)	Higher is better



Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Environment	Nox-Diesel Emissions	Annual diesel and Nitric Oxide emissions average for the area (tons/km ²), estimated by EPA modeling. These emissions primarily originate from diesel-powered vehicles, industrial operations, construction equipment, and other combustion sources.	Environmental Protection Agency EJScreen	Lower is better
Environment	PM2.5 Concentration	Annual average concentration of fine particulate matter estimated based on air quality monitors and atmospheric circulation and dispersion models from the US EPA. Measured in micrograms per cubic meter.	Environmental Protection Agency EJScreen	Lower is better
Environment	Toxic Releases from Facilities	The toxicity-weighted concentrations, in micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m ³), of chemical releases to air from facility emissions and off-site incineration. Air releases from Risk Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) are modeled by the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) program.	Environmental Protection Agency EJScreen	Lower is better



Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Environment	Ozone Concentration	Annual averaged ground level ozone concentration (parts per billion), as estimated by EPA.	Environmental Protection Agency EJScreen	Lower is better

