



UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

Land Fact Sheet

LAND AT A GLOBAL SCALE

Just 5% of Earth's land is unmodified by humans, and 52% is considered moderately modified. Cities, roads, agriculture, and industrial activities sculpt the Earth's landscape and have transformative impacts on ecosystems. Plants, animals, and natural resources can be preserved as protected lands. In fact, 14.7% of the world's land is in one of these protected areas. Climate change will alter landscapes and biodiversity around the globe as sea levels rise, extreme weather events like flooding and droughts become more common, and glaciers and ice caps melt.

26%

of Earth's ice-free land is used for livestock grazing

18.7 million

acres of forests are lost annually

11%

of the world's land is used for crop production

1

million

animal and plant species are currently threatened with extinction

LAND IN THE UNITED STATES

The United States is the third-largest country in the world and is home to a wide variety of ecological regions, including tundra, forests, deserts, and plains. Only around 4% of the country's land is taken up by urban areas, while agricultural activities dominate about 59% of America's landscape. The American lifestyle demands lots of resources, including water for homes and industry, fossil fuels for cars and electricity, and land to grow food and raise animals for meat. As America's population grows and the climate changes, the country's land and natural resources will be pressured to meet growing needs under increasingly demanding conditions.

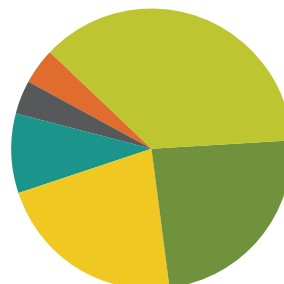
4.1

times more land would be needed if everyone lived like an American

14%

of America's land is in a protected area, like a national park or national forest

What is America's Land Used For?



- 37% Pasture & Range
- 24% Forest
- 22% Cropland
- 9% Special Use
- 4% Miscellaneous
- 4% Urban

LAND AT UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

University of Richmond is committed to managing its 350 acre campus in an effective and sustainable manner. An Arboricultural Plan was completed in November 2013 to assist in the management of 13 acres (144 trees) in the historic core of the campus. The University has also adopted an Integrated Pest Management Plan that establishes a sustainable approach to managing pests. There are four mapped trails on campus, three around Westhampton Lake and one that goes all the way to the James River. Two hives near the Chaplaincy house approximately 45,000 bees, and two pollinator gardens have been planted nearby in an effort to support the campus's pollinator population. Little Westham Creek underwent stream restoration during the creation of the new Gambles Mill Eco-Corridor, and the area also features a walking and biking path, outdoor learning areas, and an improved community garden.

24

goats came to campus to help with landscaping and invasive plant removal in spring 2019

97.8

acres are owned by UR in Goochland County that serve to preserve natural, scenic areas and promote the study of animal and plant life

9,000

native trees and shrubs are being planted as part of the construction of the new Eco-Corridor

LAND IN THE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The Sustainability Plan will guide University of Richmond's environmental stewardship efforts through 2025. Read the full plan online at richmond.edu/sustainabilityplan.



3.10.1 Develop a Sustainable Landscape Management Plan.



3.10.2 Generate biodiversity management and invasive species management plans.



3.10.3 Identify endangered or vulnerable species, and environmentally sensitive areas on University land.



3.10.4 Explore the development and use of outdoor spaces on campus and along the James River.

CARE FOR THE LAND & BE A GREEN SPIDER



Plant native species in your yard, especially flowers for pollinators.



Avoid using pesticides and herbicides, which can kill a wide range of insects and plants and impact your area's biodiversity.



Eat lower on the food chain. Fruits and vegetables require less land and water to produce than meat and dairy products.



Participate in a river cleanup with the James River Association.



Purchase food from local farms that use environmentally-friendly practices.



Avoid using fertilizers, which can introduce excess nutrients into your watershed.

Join in a park cleanup in your neighborhood.

Sources: BBC, Bloomberg, Environmental Protection Agency, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "Managing the middle: A shift in conservation priorities based on the global human modification gradient", National Climate Assessment, United Nations, World Atlas, World Bank, World Wildlife Fund