

MARYLAND LAND USE\LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

The land use/land cover classification scheme described below has been used to identify the predominant usage of land that could be interpreted from high altitude aerial photography and satellite imagery. The LU_CODE field, in each county land use shape file, contains the 2 or 3 digit integer numbers identified below.

In general, only land uses greater than 10 acres in size have been identified. Transportation features such as roads, highways, rail lines and utility lines have not been included in this GIS database. Transportation features are better represented by the point and line files available from the Maryland State Highway Administration.

10 Urban Built-Up

- 11 Low-density residential - Detached single-family/duplex dwelling units, yards and associated areas. Areas of more than 90 percent single-family/duplex dwelling units, with lot sizes of less than five acres but at least one-half acre (.2 dwelling units/acre to 2 dwelling units/acre).
- 12 Medium-density residential - Detached single-family/duplex, attached single-unit row housing, yards, and associated areas. Areas of more than 90 percent single-family/duplex units and attached single-unit row housing, with lot sizes of less than one-half acre but at least one-eighth acre (2 dwelling units/acre to 8 dwelling units/acre).
- 13 High-density residential - Attached single-unit row housing, garden apartments, high-rise apartments/condominiums, mobile home and trailer parks. Areas of more than 90 percent high-density residential units, with more than 8 dwelling units per acre.
- 14 Commercial - Retail and wholesale services. Areas used primarily for the sale of products and services, including associated yards and parking areas.
- 15 Industrial - Manufacturing and industrial parks, including associated warehouses, storage yards, research laboratories, and parking areas.
- 16 Institutional - Elementary and secondary schools, middle schools, junior and senior high schools, public and private colleges and universities, military installations (built-up areas only, including buildings and storage, training, and similar areas), churches, medical and health facilities, correctional facilities, and government offices and facilities that are clearly separable from the surrounding land cover.
- 17 Extractive - Surface mining operations, including sand and gravel pits, quarries, coal surface mines, and deep coal mines. Status of activity (active vs. abandoned) is not distinguished.
- 18 Open urban land - Urban areas whose use does not require structures, or urban areas where non-conforming uses characterized by open land have become isolated. Included are golf courses, parks, recreation areas (except areas associated with schools or other