

# Port of Seattle Equity Index

## User Guide

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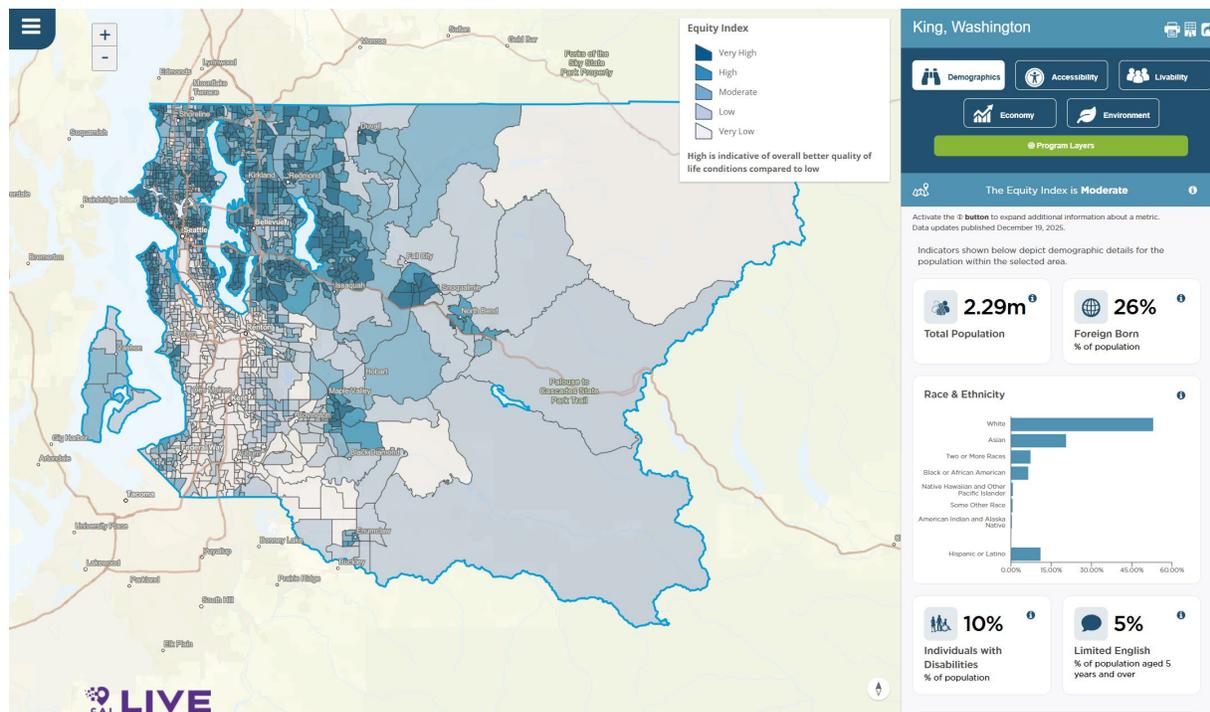
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# User Guide

## Overview

The Port of Seattle Equity Index, developed by Community Attributes Inc. in partnership with the Port of Seattle Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (OEDI), is an interactive mapping platform built to inform equity-related programming and decision making in the Port's service area. OEDI aims to mirror the diversity of its community, instill equity principles and practices within the Port's culture, and create fair and intentional opportunities to expand economic development and increase quality of life for all.

The Equity Index displays a set of community indicators within King County. These indicators in the context of the map illustrate social and economic conditions and showcase the impact of Port initiatives. Paired with this local data, the tool's interactivity supports deeper understanding and purposeful, targeted decision making about where and how to best direct the Port's resources to achieve its community goals.



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. The information displayed in the Equity Index does not represent an exhaustive list of community characteristics associated with equity. Instead, the map is one tool of many that can inform decision making, strategic intervention, calls to action, and partner engagement to promote greater equity and access to opportunity across the County.

The Equity Index allows you to specify a location within King County by selecting a city, 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 as race, livability, accessibility, and environment.

The following walkthrough highlights the different aspects and functionality of the Equity Index. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found on the [Port of Seattle website](#). We hope you find the Port of Seattle Equity Index to be a useful resource for you and your community.

For additional information or to provide feedback, please email Bookda Gheisar, Sr. Director Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, [Bookda.G@portseattle.org](mailto:Bookda.G@portseattle.org).

### 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.

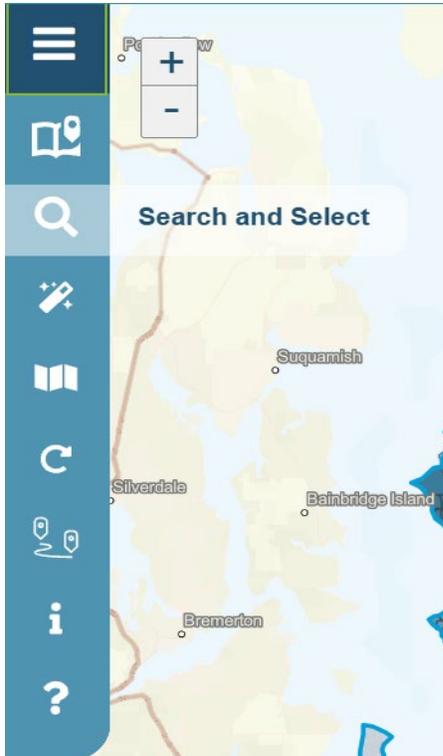
## Finding and Selecting Areas on the Map

The screenshot displays a web application interface for finding and selecting areas on a map. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Search for a Location:** A search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a "Search for City" input field.
- Select Location Type:** A list of location types with radio buttons: Address, Zip Code, City, School Districts, State Leg. Dist., and US Congressional Districts.
- Apply Selected / Clear Selection:** Two buttons at the bottom of the selection list.
- Nearby Cities:** A list of nearby cities: Mercer Island, Newcastle, North Bend, Burien, Tukwila, Auburn, Bellevue, Covington, Duvall, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Issaquah, Kenmore, and Redmond.
- Map:** A map of King County, Washington, showing various areas shaded in different colors representing the Equity Index. A legend on the right side of the map indicates the Equity Index levels: Very High (dark blue), High (medium blue), Moderate (light blue), Low (very light blue), and Very Low (white). A note states: "High is indicative of overall better quality of life conditions compared to low".
- King County, Washington Dashboard:** A sidebar on the right side of the map showing various metrics and data points:
  - Demographics:** Includes buttons for Demographics, Accessibility, Livability, Economy, and Environment.
  - The Equity Index is Moderate:** A header indicating the current area's index level.
  - Total Population:** 2.29m.
  - Foreign Born:** 26% of population.
  - Race & Ethnicity:** A horizontal bar chart showing the distribution of various racial and ethnic groups: White, Asian, Two or More Races, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Some Other Race, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Hispanic or Latino.
  - Individuals with Disabilities:** 10% of population.
  - Limited English:** 5% of population aged 5 years and over.

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

### Searching for a Defined Area or Address



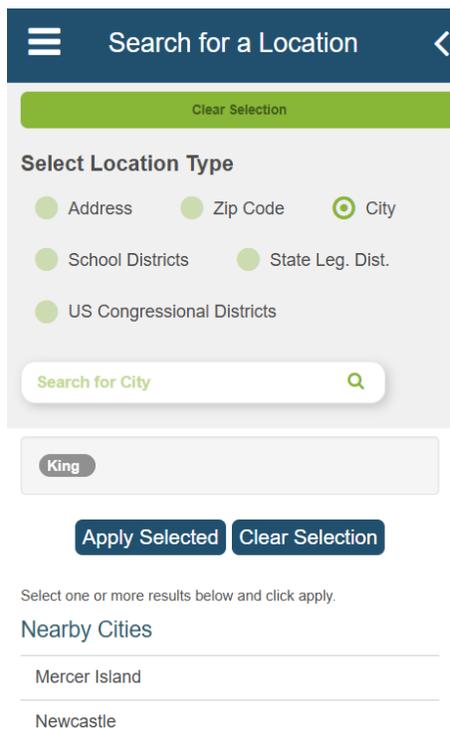
To open the *Tool Panel*, click on the dropdown menu in the top left of the application. Click on the **search** icon in *Tool Panel* on the left side of the map to open the *Search Tools* menu. You can collapse the *Search Tools* menu by using your mouse to click on < in the upper right corner of the tool menu.

**Search by Address:** Type a King County 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.)

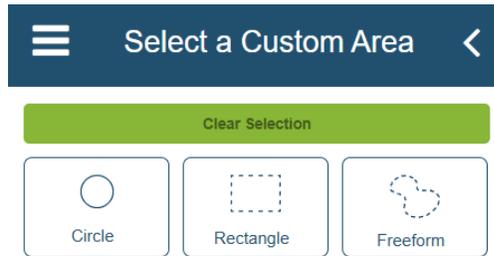
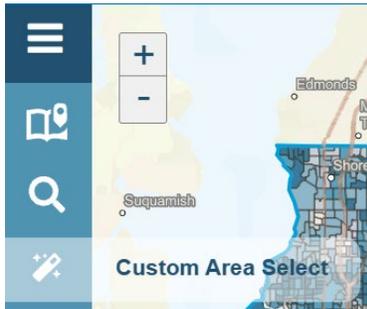
When the search function yields a list of locations, you can scroll through the options until you find the geographic area that you want. Once you click on a location from the options presented, the Map will zoom to that location, showing the enclosed or adjacent *census block group(s)*, and show community 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, City, Block Group, School Districts, State Legislative District or Congressional District):** You can also select one of the 6 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.



## Selecting 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. The Equity Index will display

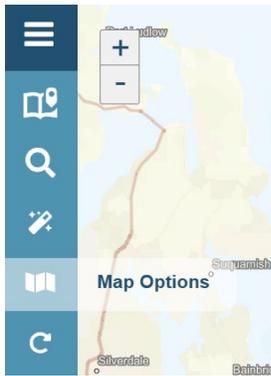
community indicator estimates for the area you have selected or, if you have selected a geographic area that is smaller than a census block group, the map will redraw the boundaries of the area you selected within the nearest block group. Similarly, if you freeform draw an area on the map that crosses 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 districts or ZIP codes. If the district 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 district or ZIP code of interest, the map will zoom to that area and provide you with the community indicators and indices in the data panel.

## Changing the Map View



Click on the **Map Options** icon to open the **Map Options** menu and 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”.

### Adding 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.

## Clearing Selection and Resetting the Map



Directly beneath the Map Options icon, is the **Reset Map** button which clears the current selection and will bring you back to the opening screen with the entire County selected.

## Take a Tour of the Map Features



Tour

Below the Reset Map button in the *Tool Panel* is the **Tour** button. This will bring up a highlighted feature that takes you on a tour of some of the available functionality in the Equity Map.

## Accessing the Map Info and FAQ



About

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

## Providing Feedback on the Equity Map



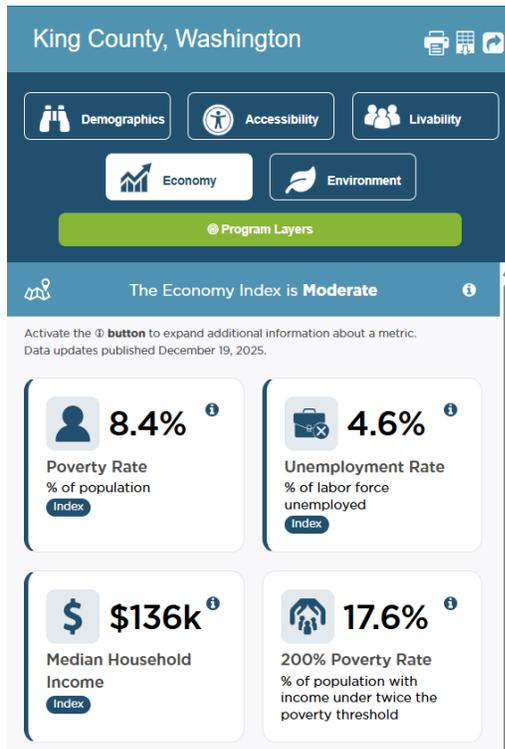
Help & Feedback

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@communityattributes.com](mailto:cailive@communityattributes.com).

If select **Contact** and click “contact us here” a new message will open in your email program to email Bookda Gheisar, Sr. Director Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, [Bookda.G@portseattle.org](mailto:Bookda.G@portseattle.org).

Your feedback on the map is invaluable to both the Port of Seattle 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 application displays a dashboard with the community indicators that make up the Equity Index. The top of the dashboard displays 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: Demographics, Accessibility, Livability, Economy and Environment.

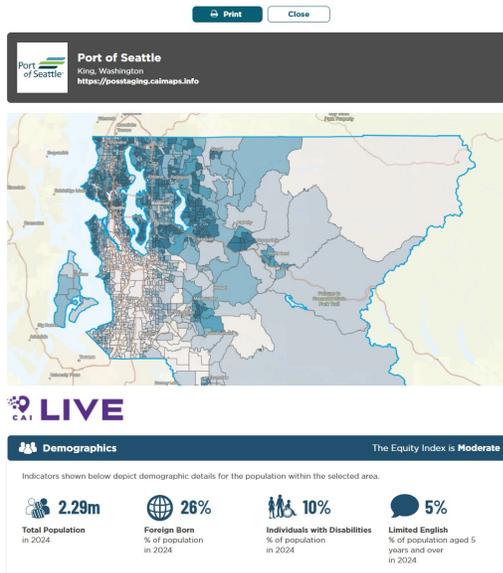
Each indicator on the dashboard has several features. An icon and the name of the indicator are shown to inform you what each estimate represents. An index badge is shown for indicators that are included in the index calculation. *Note:* Not every indicator is measured the same way; they may be percentages, counts, or ratios, for example. Take heed of 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 **(i)** with a 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 (King County). The data is divided into five equal intervals, showing how many block groups fall within each range.

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 Print Icon at the top-right of the Data Panel to format the map and data panel for printing and saving a scenario for use in reports or to compare selected areas. This opens a page containing the current map view, and contextual dashboard metrics. Click the print button at the top of the page to open the browser's print menu.

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.

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.

## Downloading Data



Click on the Table icon at the top of the Data Panel to download the data in spreadsheet format.

## Sharing the Index

Click the Share icon on the top of the Data Panel to generate a link that can be shared to provide access to the Equity Index.

## Data Dictionary

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Demographics	Total Population	Total count of population.	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 and Ethnicity	Percent and totals of block group population that identifies as White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Some Other Race, or Two or More Races.	U.S. Census Bureau   American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Neutral
Demographics	Foreign Born	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	Top 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	At Home Languages	Out of all households, the distribution of languages spoken at home.	U.S. Census Bureau   American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Neutral
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
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 median household income in a given area.	U.S. Census Bureau   American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better
Economy	200% Poverty Rate	Percent of individuals within a block group earning less than 200% of Federal Poverty Level.	U.S. Census Bureau   American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Lower is better
Economy	Educational Attainment: Masters or Above	Percent of the population 25 years and over with a master's degree, professional school degree, and doctorate degree.	U.S. Census Bureau   American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Economy	Educational Attainment: Baccalaureate or Above	Percent of the population 25 years and over with a bachelor's degree, master's degree, professional school degree, and doctorate degree.	U.S. Census Bureau   American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better
Economy	Educational Attainment: High School or Above	Percent of the population 25 years and over with a regular high school diploma and a GED or alternative credential.	U.S. Census Bureau   American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better
Economy	Estimated Jobs Total	Total number of employees by place of work within the county, by major industry sectors. The original employment data are reported at the census tract level. Sectors with few reporting firms or dominated by a single employer are suppressed. Suppressed values are estimated by subtracting the sum of reported sectors from the tract total and distributing the difference evenly across affected sectors. The adjusted tract-level totals are then distributed to the block groups within each tract based on each block group's share of jobs. This ensures that block groups with more jobs in the sector receive a proportionally larger share, providing an estimate	Puget Sound Regional Center   Puget Sound Regional Center Data Portal	Neutral

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
		of sector employment at the block-group level.		
Livability	Home Ownership Rate	Owner occupied home ownership rate by block group.	U.S. Census Bureau   American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better
Livability	Share of Households that are Cost-Burdened	Households spending more than 30% of their income on housing are more likely to be financially precarious and unable to afford their basic needs.	U.S. Census Bureau   American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Lower is better
Livability	Fair or Poor Health	This measure reflects the prevalence of fair or poor self-rated health among adults. It estimates how likely adults are to report their health as "fair" or "poor." The source data are reported at the census tract level. To estimate values for block groups, tract-level prevalence was distributed to each block group based on the number of adults in the block group. This means block groups with more adults receive a larger share of the tract's prevalence, reflecting the population distribution.	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention   PLACES: Local Data for Better Health	Lower is better

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Livability	High School Graduation Rate	The 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate. This is the number of students who completed high school in four years, divided by the number of students who are in their "cohort"; those that started 9th grade at the same time. "Adjusted" refers to the fact that some students may have moved in or out of the school, and the cohort size needs to be adjusted to accurately track those students. Data was calculated based on the percentage of a block group within a corresponding school attendance zone. Calculation included high school. No data was reported for Vashon High School.	State of Washington   Access Washington, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction   High School ESD121	Higher is better
Livability	Transit Access	Percentage of block group land area located within a quarter mile of rail, bus, or ferry stops, or within three miles of park-and-ride locations. The data does not overlap, meaning if one area of a block group intersects the radius from multiple transit stops and/or park and ride stops, the block group area is only counted once.	Sound Transit   Open Transit Data, King County   King County Open Data Portal	Higher is better

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Livability	Transit Commuters as % of Workforce	The percentage of workers 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 within a 30-minute travel time.	U.S. Census Bureau   American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better
Livability	Crime Risk	The rate of crimes defined in the personal and property categories, which includes murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.	ESRI   ESRI Business Analyst	Lower is better

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Livability	Asthma Rates	This measure reflects the prevalence of current asthma among adults. It estimates the probability that an adult has current asthma. The source data are reported at the census tract level. To estimate values for block groups, tract-level prevalence was distributed to each block group based on the number of adults in the block group. This means block groups with more adults receive a larger share of the tract's prevalence, reflecting the population distribution.	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention   PLACES: Local Data for Better Health	Lower is better
Accessibility	Pedestrian and Bike Facilities Access Score	Score of dedicated bike and pedestrian facilities of all minor and major arterial roadways and shared use paths within a block group. This metric generally ranges between 0 and 4, with 4 indicating complete facilities on each road segment over the total road length, and 0 indicating the absence of facilities on each road segment over the total road length.	Puget Sound Regional Center   Puget Sound Regional Center Data Portal	Higher is better

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Accessibility	Households with Internet	The percentage of households with access to home internet.	U.S. Census Bureau   American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Higher is better
Accessibility	Four Year Average Voter Participation Rate	Voting participation is calculated by aggregating the number of geocoded ballots at the census tract level and dividing that total by the tract's citizen voting-age population. The resulting tract-level voting participation rate is then applied to all block groups within the tract, as census tracts offer a more reliable representation of the eligible voting population than block groups. The final metric reflects the percent of voters who participated in the general election relative to the number of eligible voters, averaged over four years, providing an indicator of civic participation and 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	Healthy Food Availability	The 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
Accessibility	Transit to Jobs Index	The weighted number of jobs accessible within a 45-minute transit commute from the residence location, with closer jobs having a greater influence weight.	Environmental Protection Agency   Smart Location Database	Higher is better
Accessibility	Auto to Jobs Index	The weighted number of jobs accessible within a 45-minute drive from the residence location, with closer jobs having a greater influence weight.	Environmental Protection Agency   Smart Location Database	Neutral

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Accessibility	Walkability Index	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. 1 - 5.75: Least walkable 5.76 - 10.5: Below average walkable 10.51 - 15.25: Above average walkable 15.26 - 20: Most walkable	Environmental Protection Agency   Smart Location Database	Higher is better
Accessibility	Community Park Access	Percent of block group land area within 1 mile of community parks.	Puget Sound Regional Center   Puget Sound Regional Center Data Portal	Higher is better
Accessibility	Regional Park Access	Percent of block group land area within 10 miles of regional parks.	Puget Sound Regional Center   Puget Sound Regional Center Data Portal	Higher is better

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Accessibility	Neighborhood Park Access	Percent of block group land area within 1/2 mile of neighborhood parks.	Puget Sound Regional Center   Puget Sound Regional Center Data Portal	Higher is better
Environment	Diesel Emissions	Ambient diesel particulate matter concentrations in micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). The source data are reported at the census block level. Block-group estimates are generated by summing the values of the census blocks that fall within each block group.	Environmental Protection Agency   AirToxScreen	Lower is better
Environment	Toxic Releases from Facilities	The toxicity-weighted concentrations of chemical releases to air from facility emissions and off-site incineration in micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). Air releases from Risk Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) are modeled by the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) program at the block group level.	Environmental Protection Agency   Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) Model	Lower is better

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Environment	PM2.5 Particulates	Annual average concentration of fine particulate matter (PM2.5), measured in micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). Values are estimated at the census tract level from air quality monitor data using inverse distance weighting (IDW), which interpolates concentrations between monitors to produce a continuous surface. Estimating at the tract level first helps average out local variations and provides a more accurate picture of air quality across the area, particularly in areas with few monitors. These tract-level estimates are then assigned to all block groups within each tract.	Environmental Protection Agency   Air Data	Lower is better

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Environment	Proximity to Heavy Traffic Roadways	Index representing cumulative traffic exposure for major highways and interstates, adjusted for distance to highways and traffic volume. For each census block, nearby highway traffic points within 10 km were identified and assigned a proximity score using inverse distance weighting, with distances under 0.1 km capped to limit extreme influence. Scores were weighted by traffic volume and block population; blocks with no nearby highways or no population received a score of zero. Block-group estimates are generated by summing the values of the census blocks that fall within each block group, with higher values indicating greater potential traffic exposure.	Washington Department of Transportation   Traffic Counts	Lower is better
Environment	Urban Tree Canopy	Average percent tree canopy cover per block group. Pixel-level canopy percentages derived from multi-spectral satellite imagery were summarized to compute the block group's mean canopy cover.	Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics (MRLC) Consortium   NLCD Tree Canopy Cover (CONUS)	Higher is better

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Environment	Noise Pollution	Transportation-related noise pollution from roads, freight and passenger rail, and aviation, represented spatially at the block group level. The noise data is reclassified into five categories based on decibel thresholds, and a hotspot analysis identifies significant clusters of noise. Each block group is then ranked from 1 to 5, with 1 representing the lowest and 5 representing the highest level of noise pollution.	United States Department of Transportation   Bureau of Transportation Statistics	Lower is better
Environment	Flood Risk	Estimated proportion of a block group's population living within the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. The floodplain area within each block group is calculated as a percentage of total block group land area, then applied to the block group's total population to estimate the number of people in the floodplain. This estimate is expressed as a percentage of the block group population.	United States Department of Homeland Security   Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Census Bureau   American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates	Lower is better

Category	Name	Definition	Source of Data	Polarity
Environment	Heat and Temperature	The annual total of extremely hot days, defined as days when the maximum temperature surpasses the 95th percentile for that area, making them hotter than 95% of historical summer days. The source data are reported at the census tract level. Each block group within a tract is assigned that tract's value.	Washington State Department of Health   Washington Tracking Network	Lower is better