

Land use refers to man's activities that relate directly to the land. Land cover describes the land surface—vegetation, water, naturally-occurring soil and rock, and artificial construction.

In showing land use and land cover in the Culpeper Basin, this map features a consistent level of detail and standardization of categories. The use of the 1:125,000 compilation scale is appropriate, because this type of data is used frequently for different purposes by people representing several disciplines—land use planners, land managers, resource management planners, and others. For example, maps and data similar to this publication have been used for river basin planning, for analysis of land use and land cover changes relative to recreation, for river quality assessments, for preparation of environmental impact statements, and for studies on urbanization. These efforts have been made at the multicounty regional, State, and Federal levels.

The land-use distributions shown on this map are not sufficiently detailed for direct application to local planning. Designations such as "residential" or "transitional" include a range of more precise categories that require site assessment if one is considering a specific local application. One could assess a site by making ground checks and by using larger-scale topographic maps, up-to-date low-altitude aerial photographs, and zoning and parcel maps.

REFERENCES

Anderson, J. R., Hardy, E. E., Roach, J. T., and Witmer, R. E., 1976, A land use and land cover classification system for use with remote sensor data: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 964, 28 p.  
Spangle, William, and Associates, Leighton, F. B., and Associates, and Baxter, McDonald and Company, 1976, Earth-science information in land-use planning—guidelines for earth scientists and planners: U.S. Geological Survey Circular 721, 29 p.

EXPLANATION

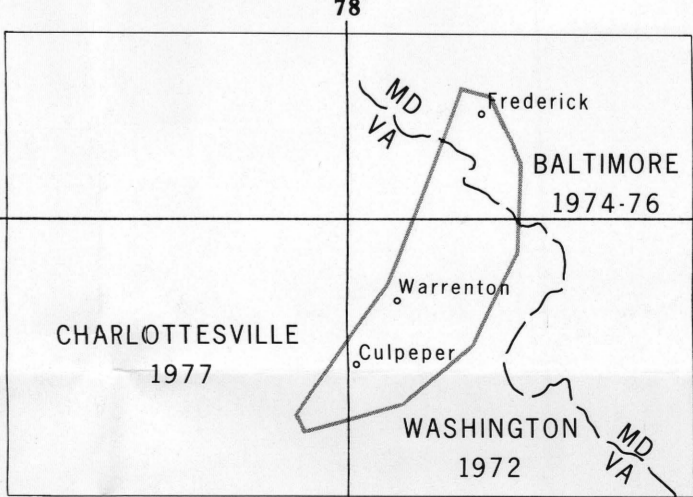
The headings in the boxes below (for example, 1 Urban or Built-up Land) are Level I classification categories; the entries in smaller type (for example, 13 Industrial) are Level II categories. For a thorough explanation of the multilevel land use and land cover classification system see Anderson and others (1976).

Landsat (formerly ERTS) type of data is employed to classify land use at the Level I degree of detail. Classifying land use in the greater detail of Level II requires high-altitude aerial photography from 12,400 m (40,000 ft) or above; this data is best portrayed at a scale smaller than 1:80,000.

In this publication the minimum mapping units are 4 hectares (10 acres) for Level II categories 11-17, 23-24, 51-54, 75, and urban occurrences of 76; and 16 hectares (40 acres) for all other Level II categories.

Approximate limit of the Culpeper Basin

1 URBAN OR BUILT-UP LAND	
11	Residential
12	Commercial and Services
13	Industrial
14	Transportation, Communications and Utilities
15	Industrial and Commercial Complexes
16	Mixed Urban or Built-up Land
17	Other Urban or Built-up Land
2 AGRICULTURAL LAND	
21	Cropland and Pasture
22	Orchards, Groves, Vineyards, Nurseries, and Ornamental Horticultural Areas
23	Confined Feeding Operations
24	Other Agricultural Land
3 RANGELAND	
32	Shrub and Brush Rangeland
4 FOREST LAND	
41	Deciduous Forest Land
42	Evergreen Forest Land
43	Mixed Forest Land
5 WATER	
51	Streams and Canals
52	Lakes
53	Reservoirs
6 WETLAND	
61	Forested Wetland
62	Nonforested Wetland
7 BARREN LAND	
75	Strip Mines, Quarries, and Gravel Pits
76	Transitional Areas



LAND USE AND LAND COVER, 1972-77  
CULPEPER BASIN, VIRGINIA-MARYLAND

By  
U.S. Geological Survey  
1980

This map was enlarged from U.S. Geological Survey 1:250,000 scale topographic maps Charlottesville (NJ 17-5), Baltimore (NJ 18-1), and Washington (NJ 18-4), as shown on the location diagram. Land-use and land-cover information were compiled from source materials dated as indicated on the diagram.

