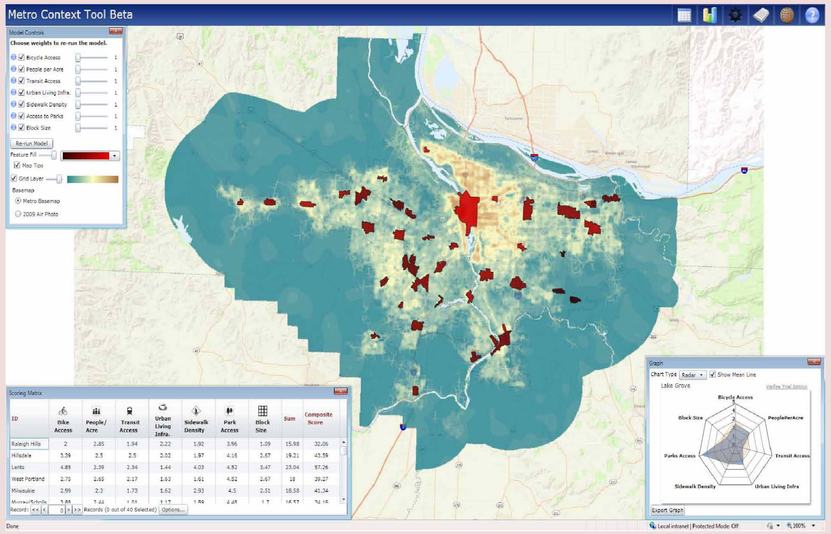
Data Resource Center

Metro's Context Tool and its Role in Regional Modeling

Overview

The Context Tool is a web-based visualization tool that maps various physical characteristics to describe the built environment that, in combination with each other, can illustrate the character of a place.

This simple but innovative tool can be used to provide a sense of scale for how an area performs compared to a goal or expected outcome; provide a foundation or baseline to evaluate change over time; and to diagnose current conditions.



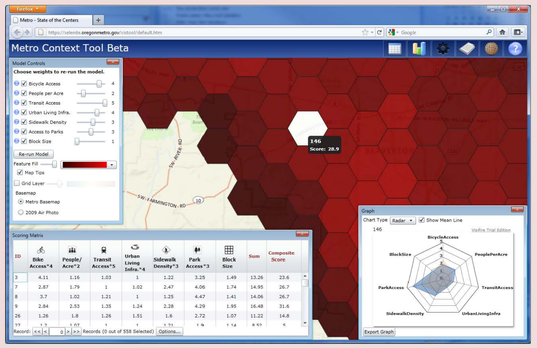
Composite Score

How it's used

The Context Tool is an adaptive evaluation tool with numerous applications, such as identifying high performing or underserved areas and evaluating the effectiveness of various design and investment strategies relative to the user's objectives.

Sample indicators include:

- People per acre
- Transit access
- Bicycle access
- Urban living infrastructure
- Access to parks
- Sidewalk density
- Block size



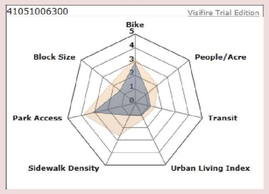
Who's using it

Planners, designers, public service agencies, researchers, developers, non-profits, and the general public will all find useful information the Context tool.

Currently, the Context Tool is only available to Metro staff within Metro's computer network. Work is currently underway to make this tool available to outside agencies and the public through a partnership with the Coalition for a Livable Future.

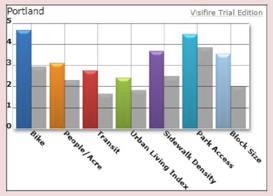
Example indicators

Low-Performing Area



High-Performing Area

Performance Relative to Region



The Context Tool offers a variety of chart types so you can choose the most effective display of how your geography compares to the regional average.

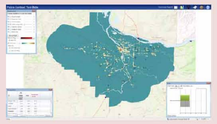
Access to Parks

People Per Acre

Sidewalk Density

Transit Access

Urban Living Infrastructure



Bicycle Access

Block Size

For more information, contact:

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