

Neighborhood Tree Equity Score Summary
94 Moshassuck Street, Pawtucket RI 02860 (**Morley Field**)
Prepared by: Molly Henry, Director of Climate and Health, American Forests

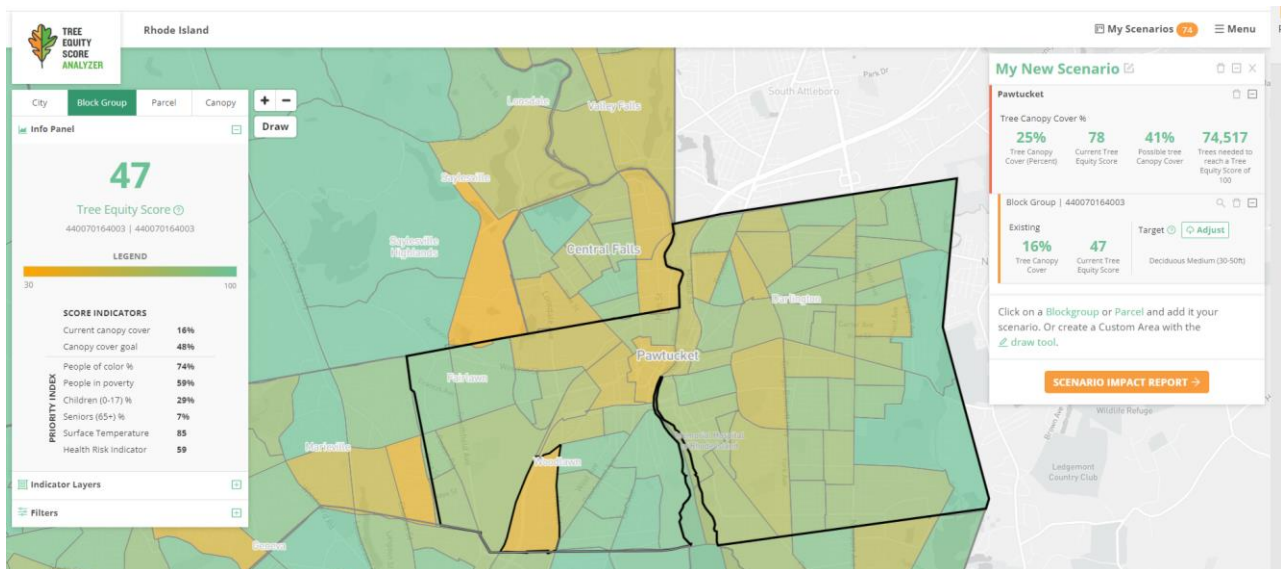
What is Tree Equity Score?

[American Forests](#), the oldest national nonprofit conservation organization in the U.S., developed Tree Equity Score in partnership with the state of Rhode Island and several municipalities and nonprofit organizations across the state to address Tree Equity. The term Tree Equity simply means making sure that there are enough trees in every neighborhood so that everyone can enjoy their many climate and health benefits. The reality is that across the country neighborhoods with higher percentages of people of color and poverty levels have less tree cover than whiter, wealthier neighborhoods. Tree Equity Score helps reveals the inequities in tree cover and identifies where resources should be prioritized to support healthier more equitable communities.

Rhode Island is home to the nation’s first Tree Equity Score Analyzer (TESA). TESA is a GIS-based decision-support that helps prioritize tree resources where they are most needed. The baseline data, [Tree Equity Score](#), incorporates existing tree canopy and combines it with socioeconomic data (income, employment, race and age), urban heat islands, and health to generate a score between 0-100. The score helps identify where resources should be prioritized - the lower the score, the higher the need.

Neighborhood Tree Equity Score & Demographics

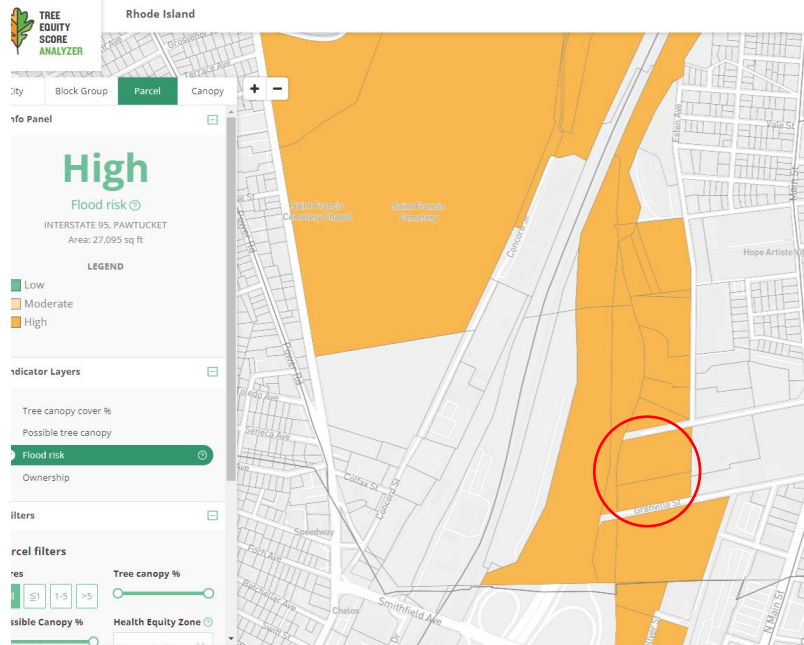
According to the Rhode Island Tree Equity Score Analyzer, Morely Field is situated in a neighborhood with a Tree Equity Score of 47/100. That is the **lowest-scoring neighborhood in Pawtucket** (meaning the highest priority for investment in green space and trees) and also one of the lowest scores in the entire state. The neighborhood is composed of majority people of color (74%) with a 59% poverty level and nearly 1/3 of the population representing children 17 years or younger.



MAP A, Data Source: See Priority Index in [Data Sources](#) page.

High Flood Risk

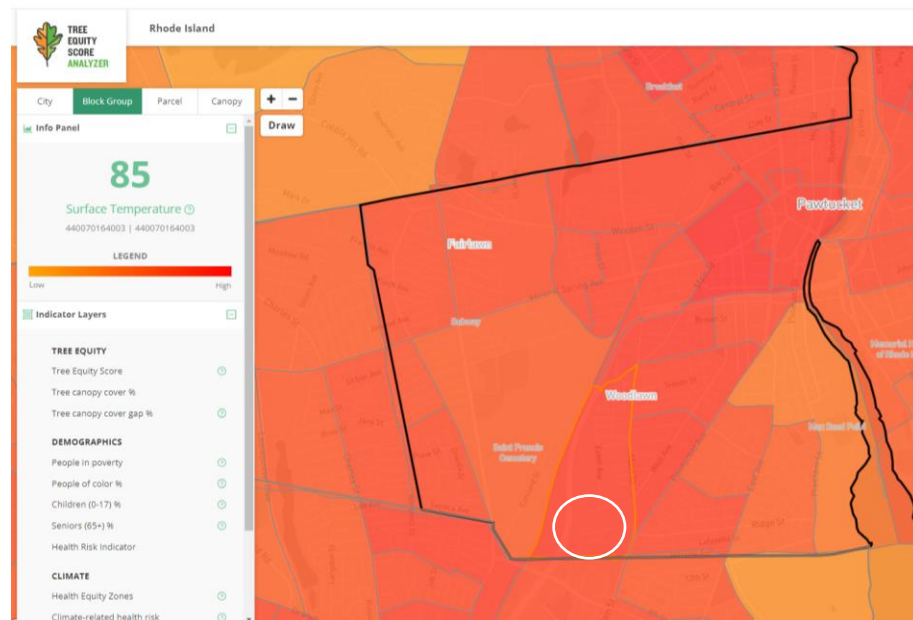
According to FEMA, the neighborhood also has a high flood risk.



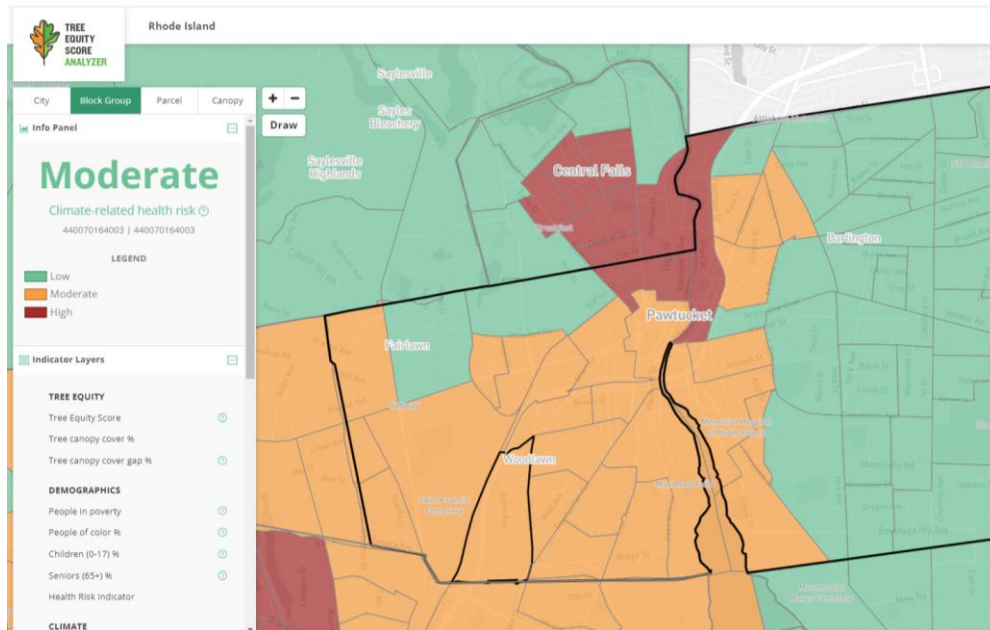
Map B, Data Source: Rhode Island Geographic Information System, FEMA Designated Flood Zones

Severe Heat Island and Health Vulnerability

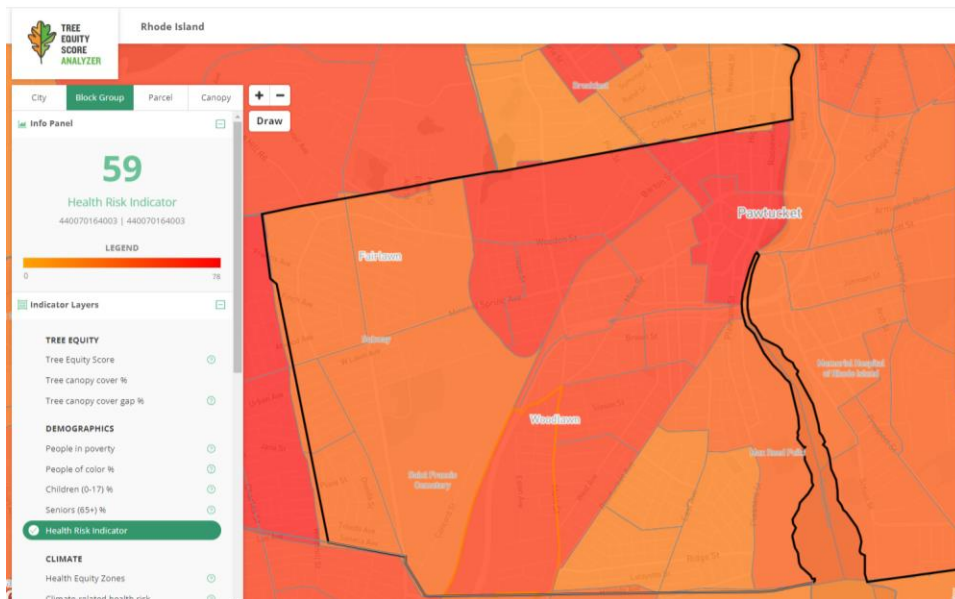
The neighborhood in and around Morley Field has a high surface temperature which puts residents at with underlying conditions such as diabetes, and respiratory illness at a higher risk, as illustrated maps D and E.



Map C, Data Source: USGS Earth Explorer, USGS Landsat 8 imagery, thermal bands



Map D, High, moderate and low numbers of hospitalizations and emergency room visits for conditions that are exacerbated by a changing climate. The conditions combined in this measure include diabetes, mental health, asthma and other respiratory issues, heart and kidney diseases. Data Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, 2018 zip-code hospitalizations and emergency room visits



Map E, Health Index is self-reported poor mental health, poor physical health, asthma and coronary heart disease. Data Source, Center for Disease Control CDC PLACES, Census Tract Estimates

Resources:

Rhode Island Tree Equity Score Analyzer - <https://rhode-island.treeequityscore.org/>

Data Sources - <https://treeequityscore.org/datasources/>