United States Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. EPA NATIONAL STORMWATER CALCULATOR

JASON BERNAGROS (BERNER)
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

EPA TOOLS AND RESOURCES WEBINAR SERIES

Aug. 2017

Outline

U.S. EPA National Stormwater Calculator

- **Stormwater Calculator Background Information**
- **Using the Calculator:** Manatee County, FL (May 2017 Application)
- **Potential Applications**
- **Example Application:**
  - U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit
- **Development of Mobile Web Application**
- **Discussion & Questions**

About The Presenter

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental Topics | Laws & Regulations | About EPA | Search EPA.gov

Related Topics: Science Matters

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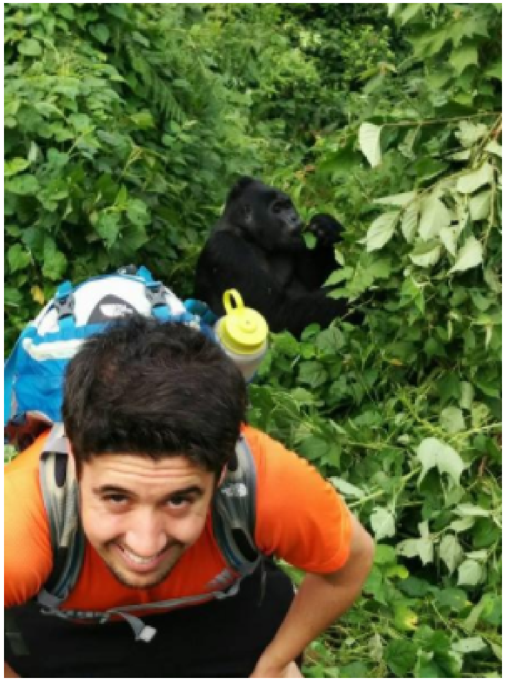
Meet EPA Scientist Jason Berner

Jason Berner likes that his science makes a difference on a local level by helping communities use green infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff.



Tell us about your background.

I have a BS in natural resources and environmental science, and a MLA (masters of landscape architecture) with a focus on ecological design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I started at EPA in 2007 working on wetlands protection in Region 2. I worked on watershed management in the New York City drinking watershed, based in the Catskills Mountains. From there, I started doing work on urban stormwater management and planning tools that communities and water utilities could use- such as the National Stormwater Calculator.

When did you first know you wanted to be a scientist?

I first knew sometime during the middle of undergraduate studies. I took a course on environmental science that was focused on how the University of Illinois campus could be more environmentally sustainable and how ecological restoration could be done on campus. It really helped me get a better understanding of how scientists could make an impact locally.

How does your science matter?

Green infrastructure looks at how urban environments can be designed and planned to mitigate and adapt to some of the impacts of climate change, such as increased flooding. My research helps communities implement green infrastructure practices and looks at how the

https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/meet-epa-scientist-jason-berner

Typical Urban Stormwater Impacts

- **Water Quality:** nutrient and insecticide runoff, fecal coliform bacteria, leading to impaired waters and beach closures
- **Hydrologic, Geomorphic, and Biological:** flooding, stream bank erosion, impaired aquatic habitat, and sewer overflows
- **Flooding:** transportation infrastructure and private property damages

National Stormwater Calculator Website

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

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Related Topics: Water Research

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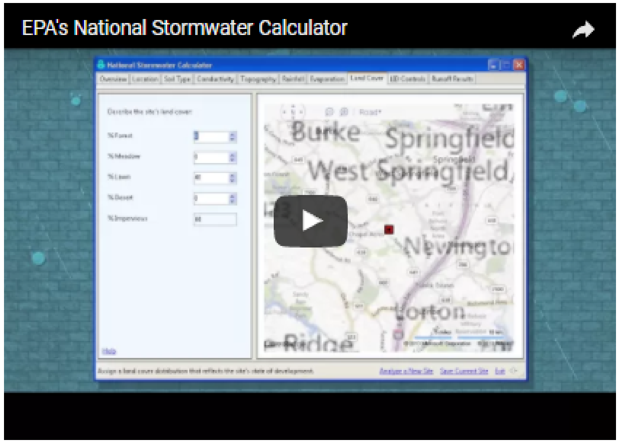
National Stormwater Calculator

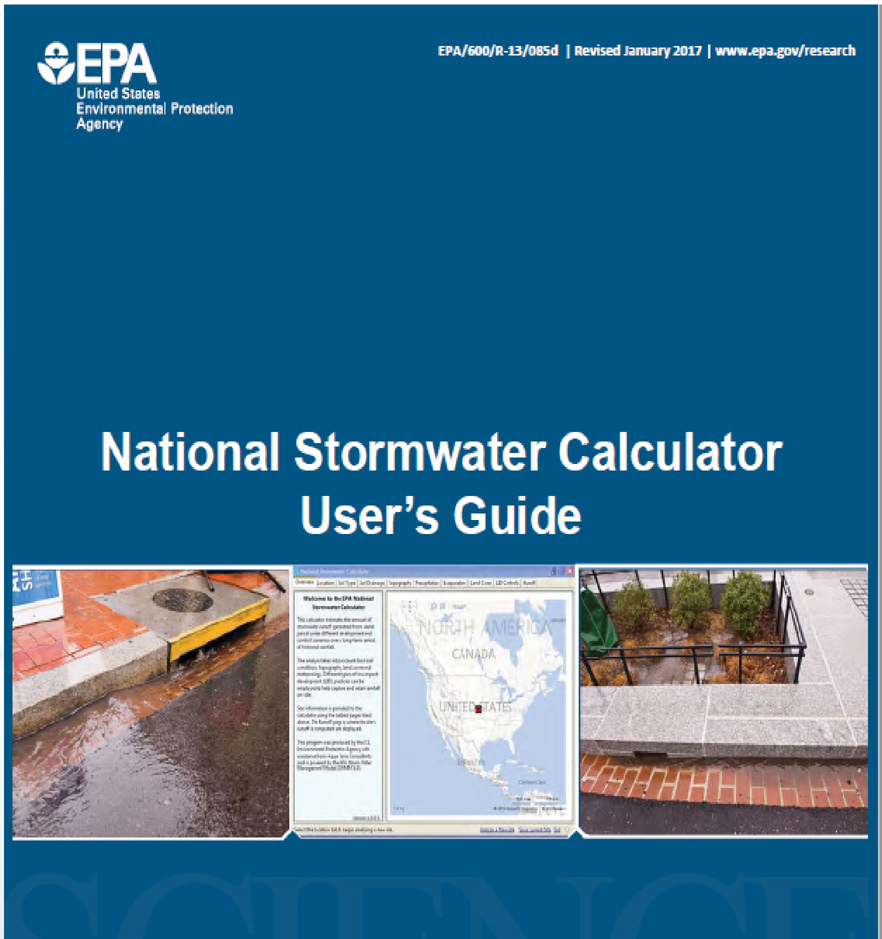
EPA's National Stormwater Calculator (SWC) is a desktop application that estimates the annual amount of rainwater and frequency of runoff from a specific site anywhere in the United States (including Puerto Rico). Estimates are based on local soil conditions, land cover, and historic rainfall records.



It is designed to be used by anyone interested in reducing runoff from a property, including

http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/national-stormwater-calculator

Training and Outreach Materials: User's Guide & Fact Sheet



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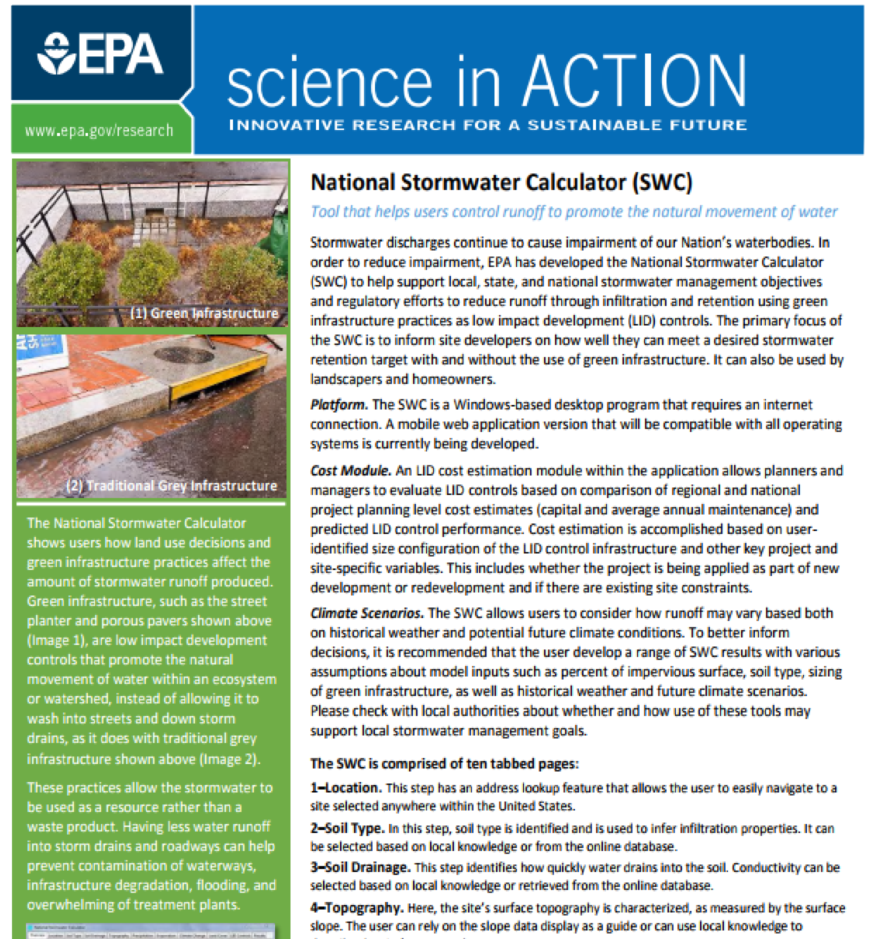
EPA/600/R-13/085d | Revised January 2017 | www.epa.gov/research

National Stormwater Calculator User's Guide



EPA

www.epa.gov/research

science in ACTION

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

(1) Green Infrastructure

(2) Traditional Grey Infrastructure

The National Stormwater Calculator shows users how land use decisions and green infrastructure practices affect the amount of stormwater runoff produced. Green infrastructure, such as the street planter and porous pavers shown above (Image 1), are low impact development controls that promote the natural movement of water within an ecosystem or watershed, instead of allowing it to wash into streets and down storm drains, as it does with traditional grey infrastructure shown above (Image 2).

These practices allow the stormwater to be used as a resource rather than a waste product. Having less water runoff into storm drains and roadways can help prevent contamination of waterways, infrastructure degradation, flooding, and overwhelming of treatment plants.

National Stormwater Calculator (SWC)

Tool that helps users control runoff to promote the natural movement of water

Stormwater discharges continue to cause impairment of our Nation's waterbodies. In order to reduce impairment, EPA has developed the National Stormwater Calculator (SWC) to help support local, state, and national stormwater management objectives and regulatory efforts to reduce runoff through infiltration and retention using green infrastructure practices as low impact development (LID) controls. The primary focus of the SWC is to inform site developers on how well they can meet a desired stormwater retention target with and without the use of green infrastructure. It can also be used by landscapers and homeowners.

Platform. The SWC is a Windows-based desktop program that requires an internet connection. A mobile web application version that will be compatible with all operating systems is currently being developed.

Cost Module. An LID cost estimation module within the application allows planners and managers to evaluate LID controls based on comparison of regional and national project planning level cost estimates (capital and average annual maintenance) and predicted LID control performance. Cost estimation is accomplished based on user-identified size configuration of the LID control infrastructure and other key project and site-specific variables. This includes whether the project is being applied as part of new development or redevelopment and if there are existing site constraints.

Climate Scenarios. The SWC allows users to consider how runoff may vary based both on historical weather and potential future climate conditions. To better inform decisions, it is recommended that the user develop a range of SWC results with various assumptions about model inputs such as percent of impervious surface, soil type, sizing of green infrastructure, as well as historical weather and future climate scenarios. Please check with local authorities about whether and how use of these tools may support local stormwater management goals.

The SWC is comprised of ten tabbed pages:

1–Location. This step has an address lookup feature that allows the user to easily navigate to a site selected anywhere within the United States.

2–Soil Type. In this step, soil type is identified and is used to infer infiltration properties. It can be selected based on local knowledge or from the online database.

3–Soil Drainage. This step identifies how quickly water drains into the soil. Conductivity can be selected based on local knowledge or retrieved from the online database.

4–Topography. Here, the site's surface topography is characterized, as measured by the surface slope. The user can rely on the slope data display as a guide or can use local knowledge to describe the site's topography.

What Have We Created and Why?

- **Stormwater Management (Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development (LID)) Design and Planning Tool**
  - —Model post-construction urban stormwater runoff discharges
  - —Allow for screening-level analysis of various green infrastructure practices, including planning level costs (green roofs, rain gardens, cisterns, etc.) throughout the U.S.
  - —Allow non-technical professionals to conduct screening level stormwater runoff for small to medium sized (less than 1 - 12 acres) sites

Who We Created the Calculator for…

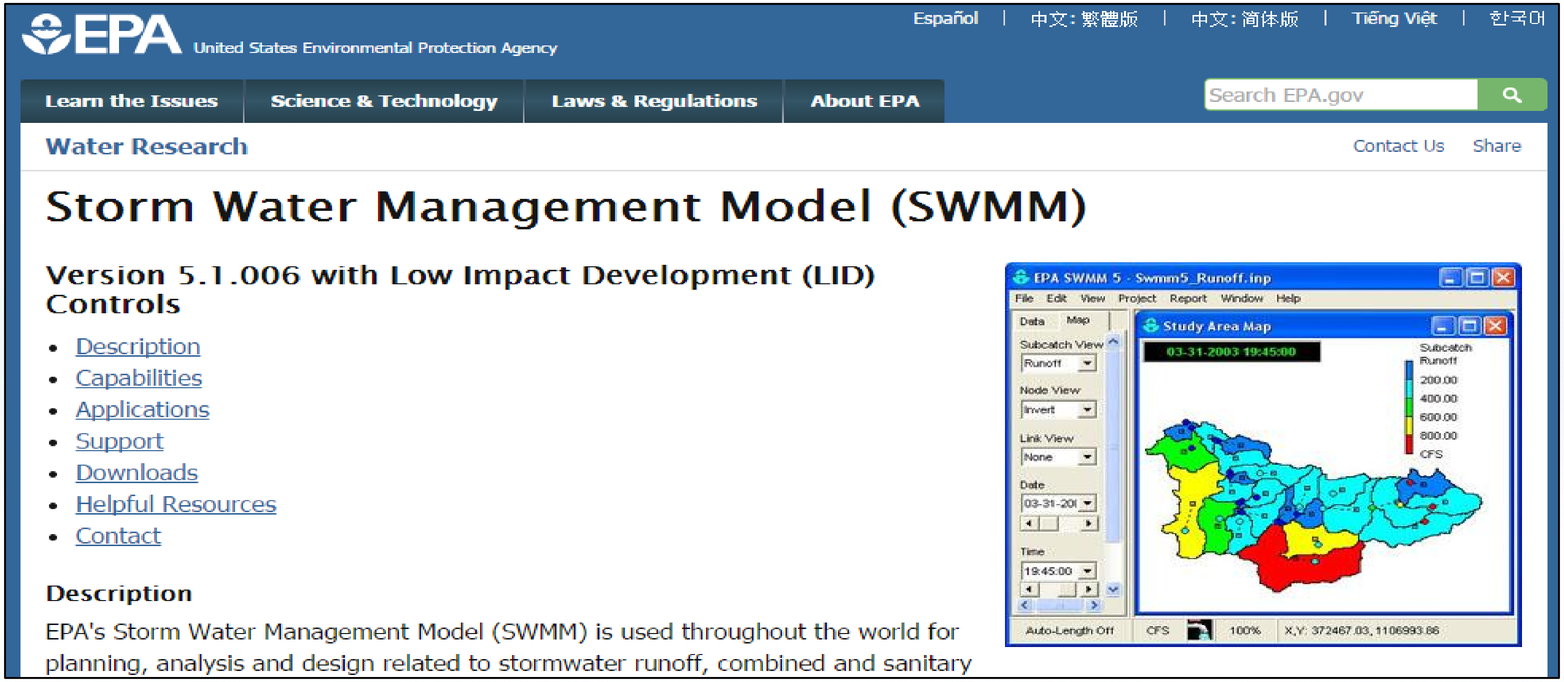
- Local planners
- Land developers
- Landscape architects
- Homeowners, etc.

…to assist meeting stormwater design and planning goals or requirements

Potential Applications

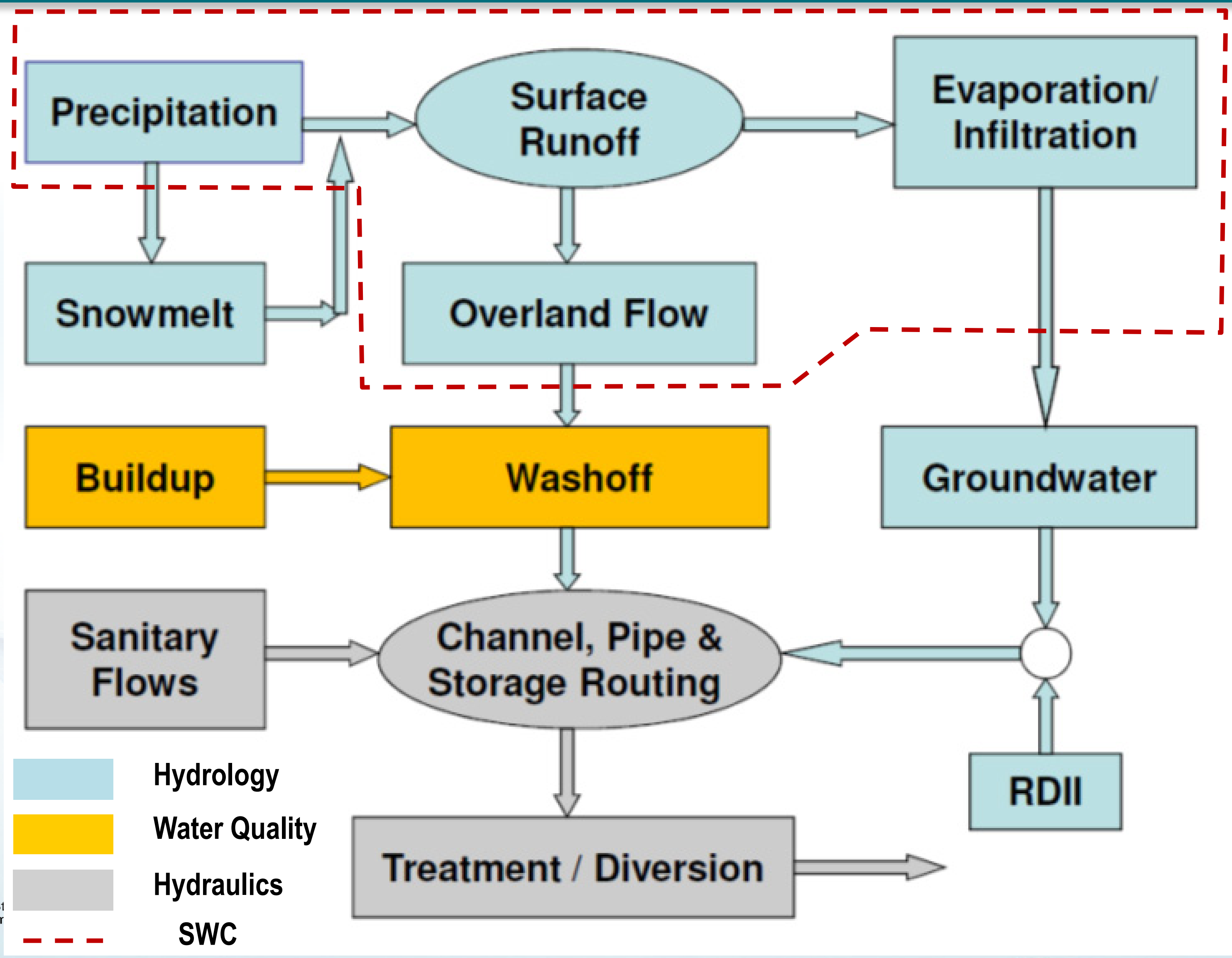
- State or MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Post Construction Stormwater Design Standards
- Voluntary Stormwater Retrofits for private property owners
- Voluntary Programs: LEED (US Green Building Council) and Sustainable Sites Initiative stormwater credits
- Climate Resiliency Planning: Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities
- LID/Green Infrastructure Design Competitions: Campus RainWorks Challenge, DC Water Green Infrastructure Challenge, etc.

Storm Water Management Model (SWMM)



- Calculator is based on SWMM: dynamic rainfall-runoff simulation model for long-term simulation of runoff quantity
- SWMM produces stormwater runoff estimates in the background of the Stormwater Calculator

Runoff Modeling:
SWMM-National Stormwater Calculator (SWC) Relationship



SWC:
Site Parameters and Embedded GIS Data-sets

- **Location:** Bing Maps
- **Soils:** NRCS SSURGO
- **Slope:** NRCS SSURGO
- **Hydraulic Conductivity:** NRCS SSURGO
- **Precipitation and Temperature:** National Climate Center (NCDC)-NOAA from EPA's BASINS Model
- **Evaporation:** calculation based on meteorological data
- **Climate Change Future Scenarios:** precipitation & evaporation
- **Land-Cover/Use:** user provided
- **LID Practices (*new costing module available*):** user provided

National Stormwater Calculator (SWC) Desktop Application

National Stormwater Calculator

Overview | Location | Soil Type | Soil Drainage | Topography | Precipitation | Evaporation | Climate Change | Land Cover | LID Controls | Results

Welcome to the EPA National Stormwater Calculator

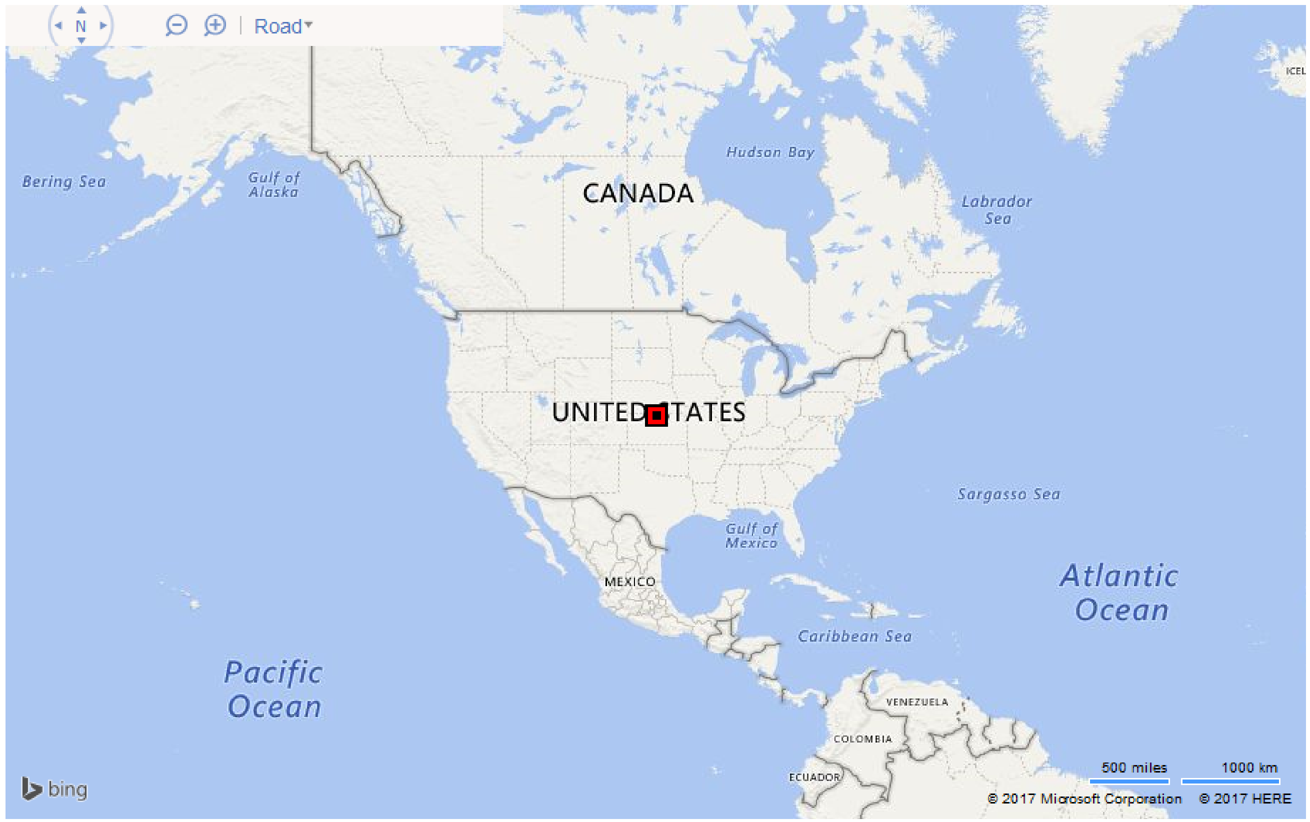
This calculator estimates the amount of stormwater runoff generated from a land parcel under different development and control scenarios over a long-term period of historical rainfall.

The analysis takes into account local soil conditions, topography, land cover and meteorology. Different types of low impact development (LID) practices can be employed to help capture and retain rainfall on-site. Localized climate change scenarios can also be analyzed.

Site information is provided to the calculator using the tabbed pages listed above. The Results page is where the site's runoff is computed and displayed.

This program was produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and was subject to both internal and external technical review. Please check with local authorities about whether and how it can be used to support local stormwater management goals and requirements.

Release 1.2.0.0

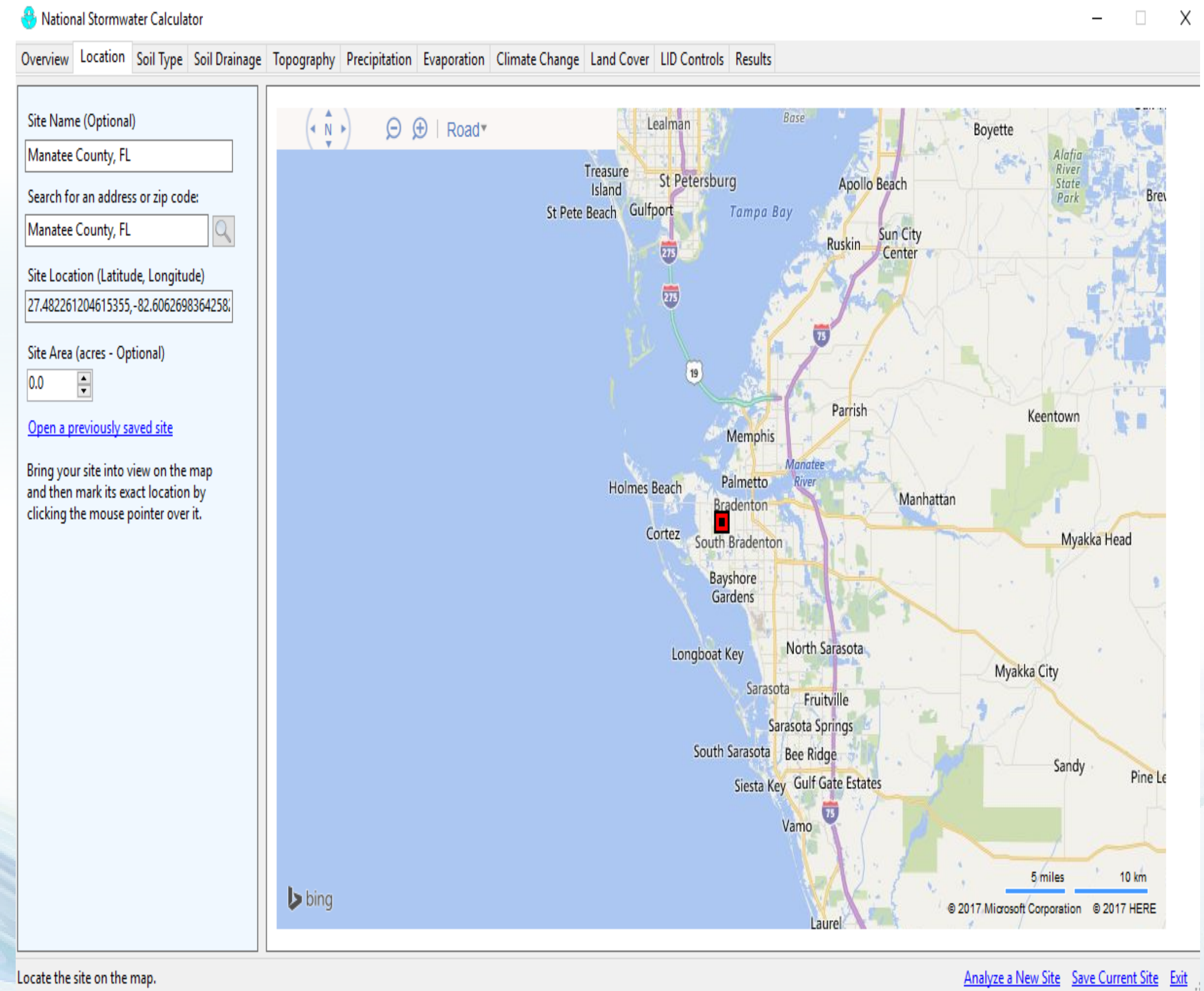


Select the Location tab to begin analyzing a new site.

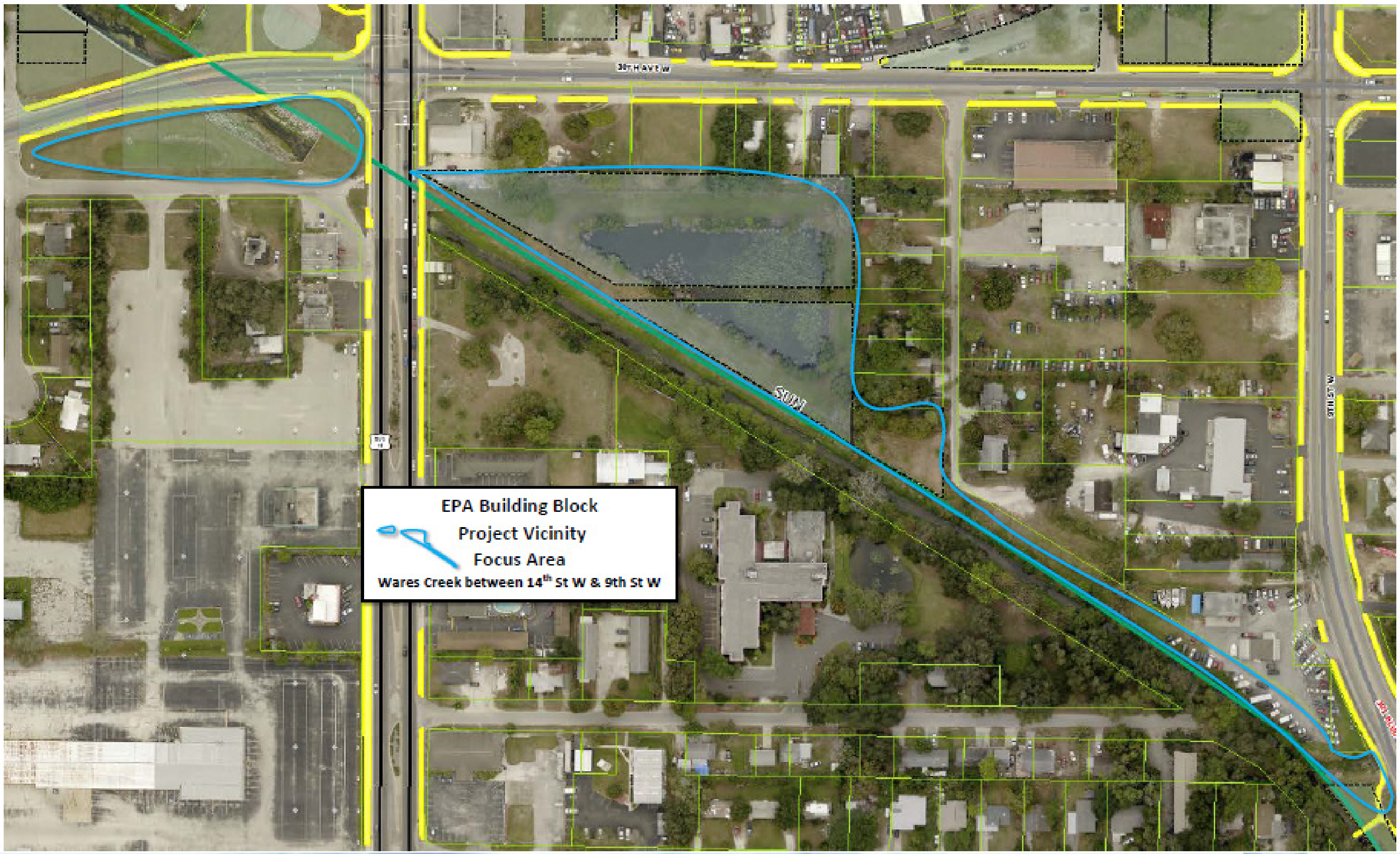
Analyze a New Site Save Current Site Exit

SWC Application: Manatee County, FL Building Blocks: Green & Complete Streets (May 2017)

- **Assessment goals:**
  - —Cost estimates for transportation-based stormwater projects
  - —Stormwater runoff reduction estimates
  - —Flood reduction benefits
- **Community training goal:**
  - —Increase knowledge about stormwater project planning

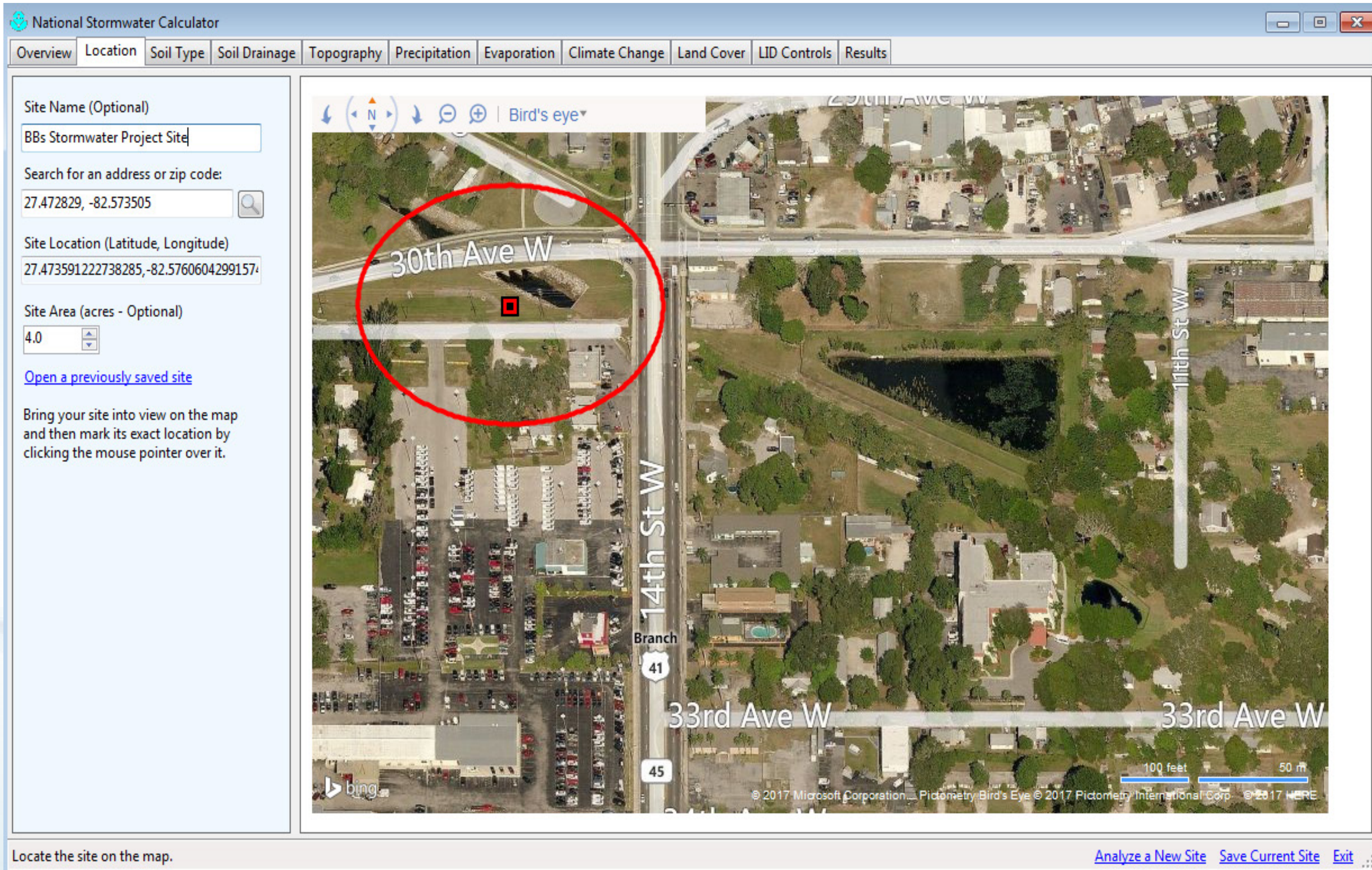


SWC Analysis for Manatee County, FL:
Potential Stormwater Management Areas (Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.)



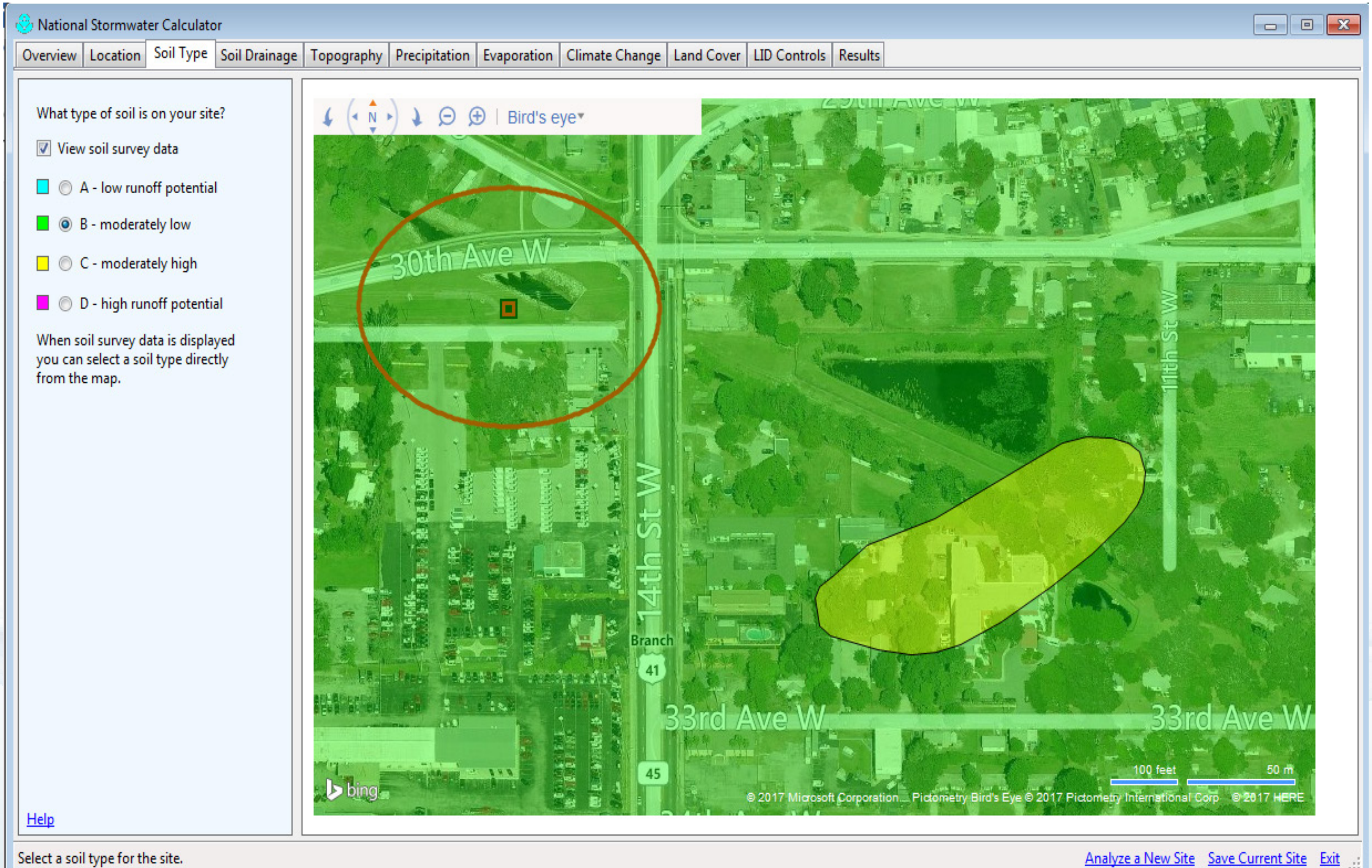
SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Project Location



SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Soil Rainfall Runoff Potential



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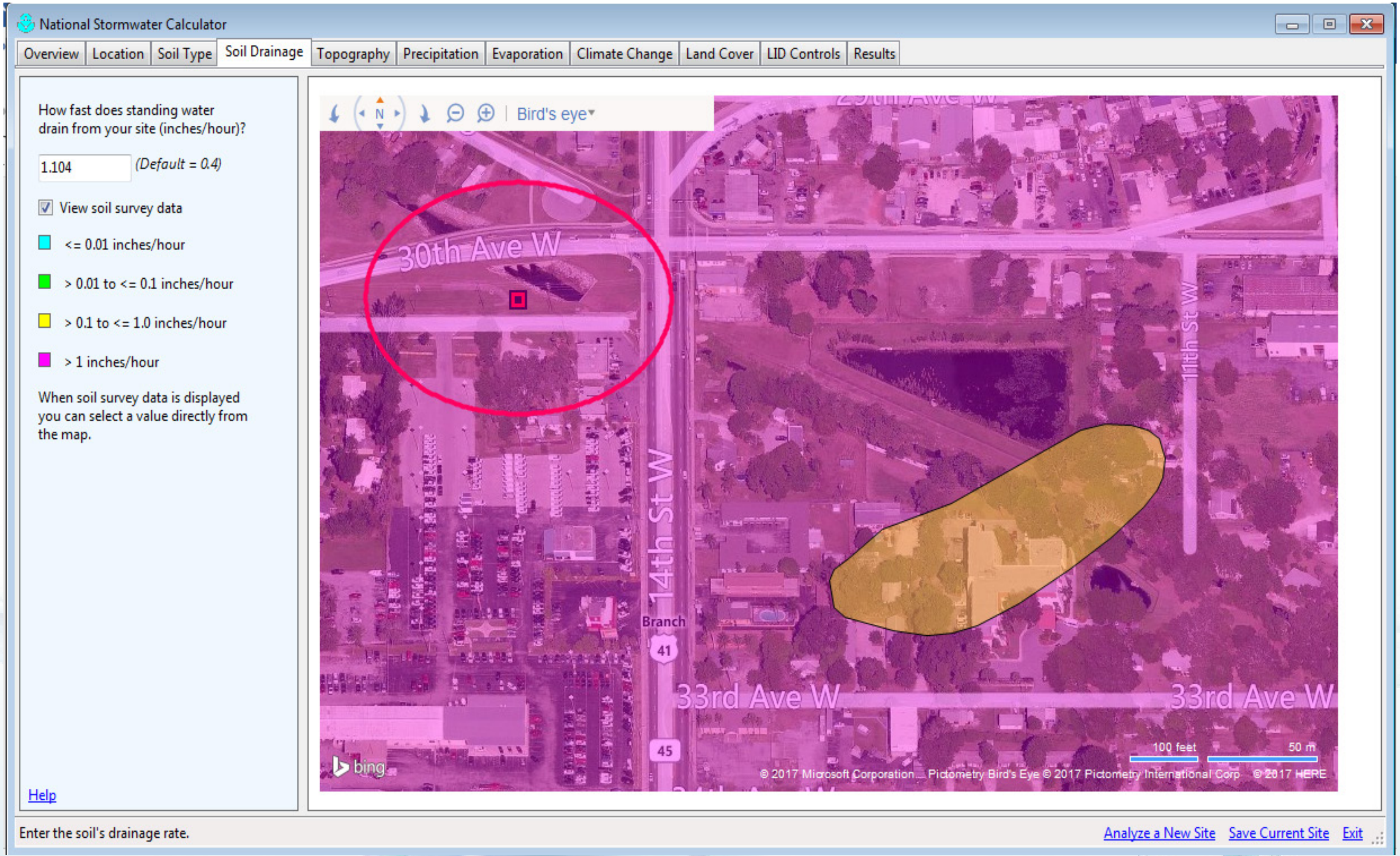
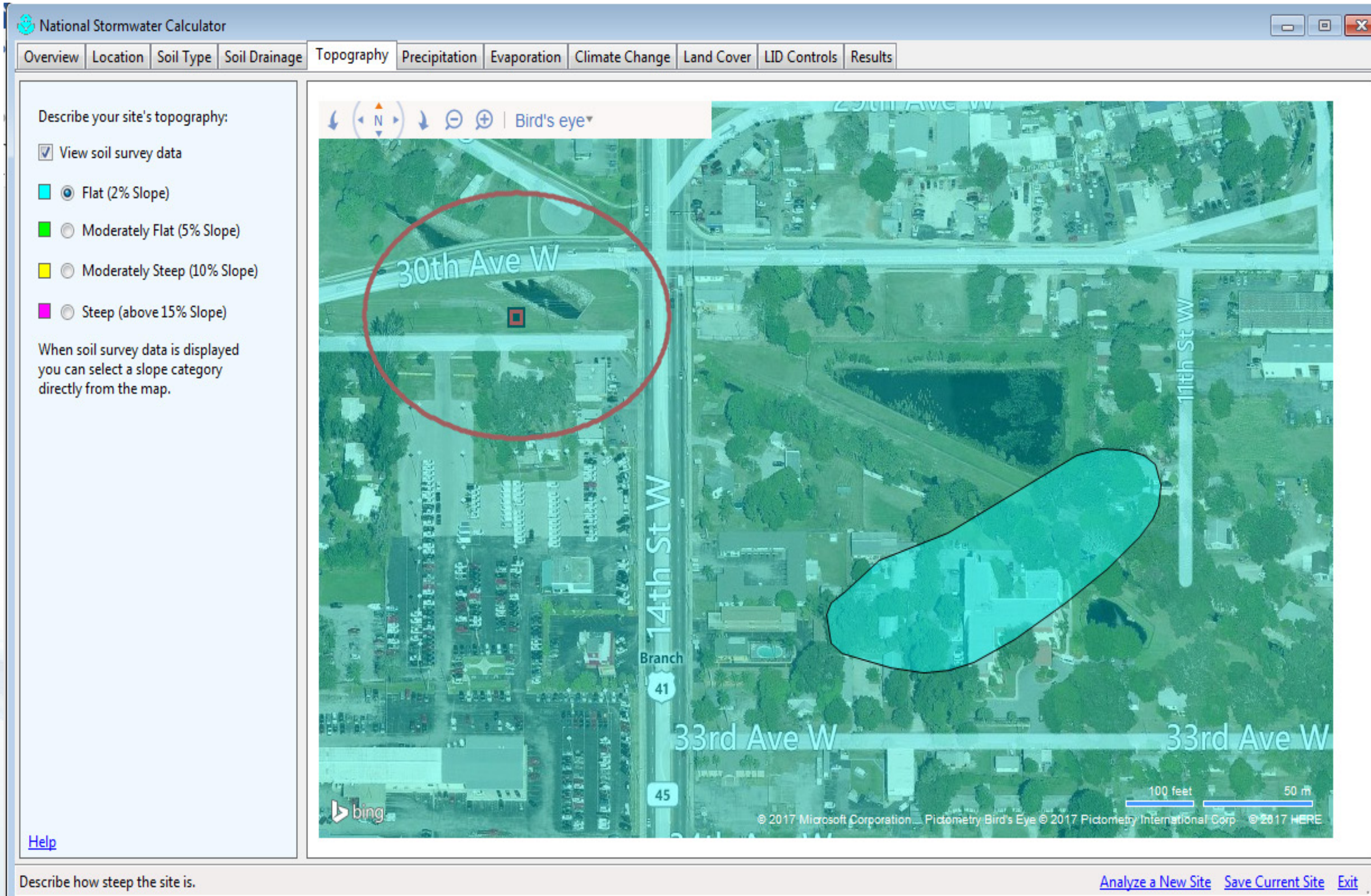
SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Soil Drainage



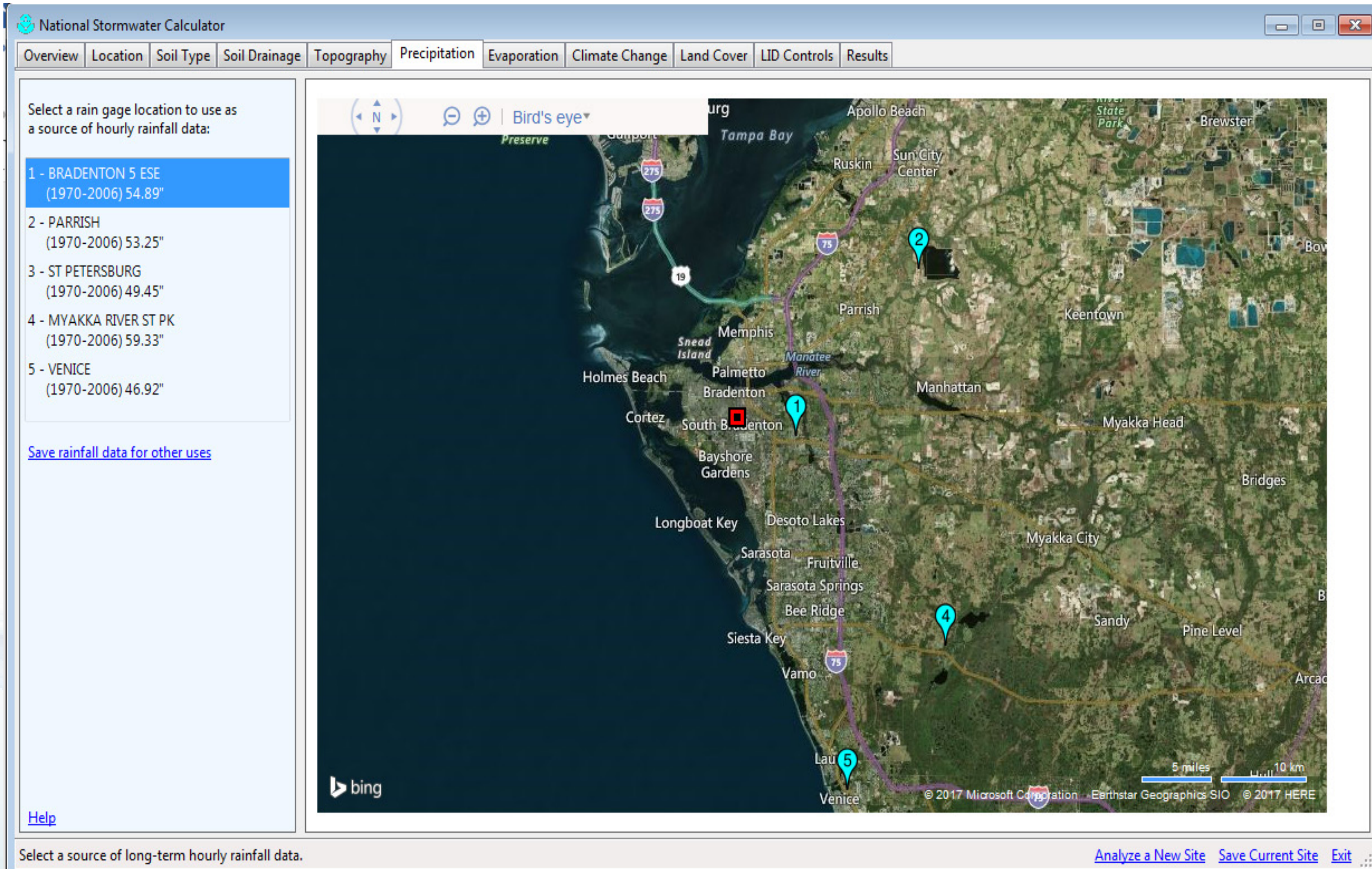
SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Topography



SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Historical Precipitation



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SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Historical Evaporation

National Stormwater Calculator

Overview | Location | Soil Type | Soil Drainage | Topography | Precipitation | Evaporation | Climate Change | Land Cover | LID Controls | Results

Select a weather station to use as a source for evaporation rates:

1 - BRADENTON 5 ESE (1970-2006) 0.22 inches/day

2 - PARRISH (1970-2006) 0.22 inches/day

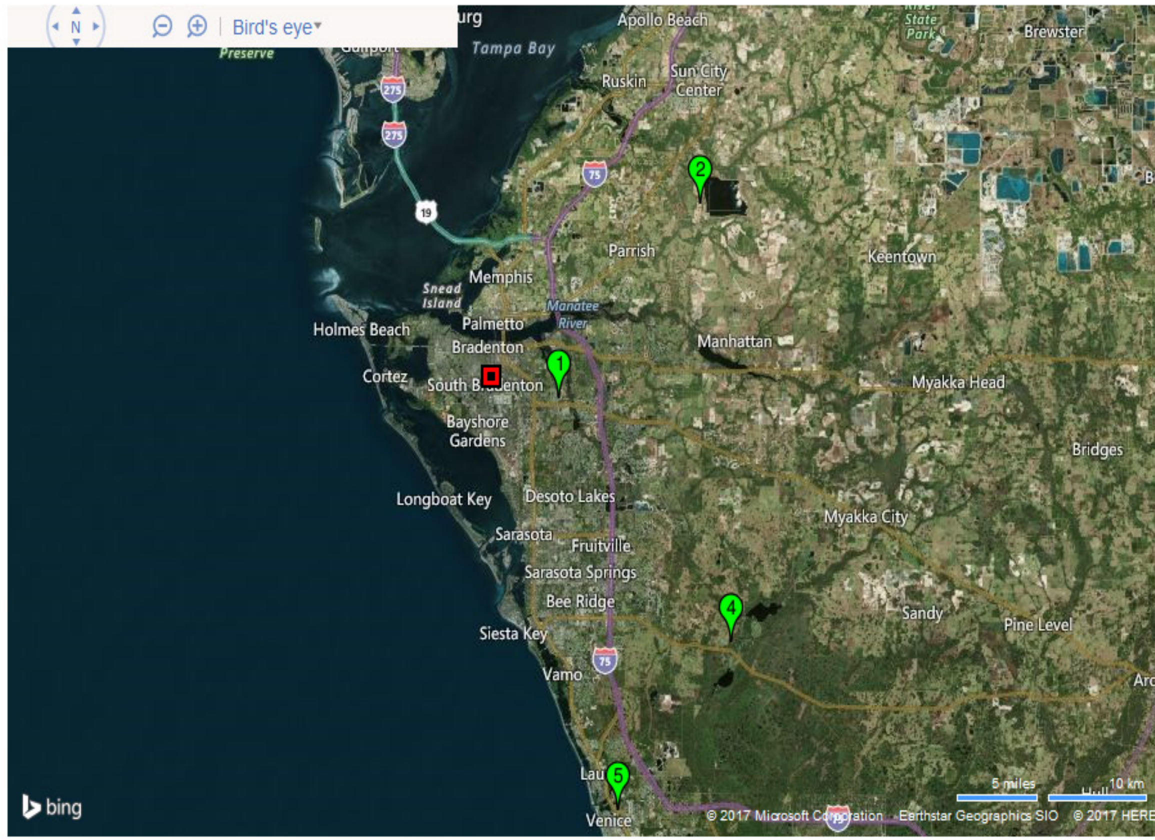
3 - ST PETERSBURG (1970-2005) 0.23 inches/day

4 - MYAKKA RIVER ST PK (1970-2006) 0.22 inches/day

5 - VENICE (1970-2006) 0.23 inches/day

Save evaporation data for other uses

Help



Select a source of monthly average evaporation rates.

Analyze a New Site | Save Current Site | Exit

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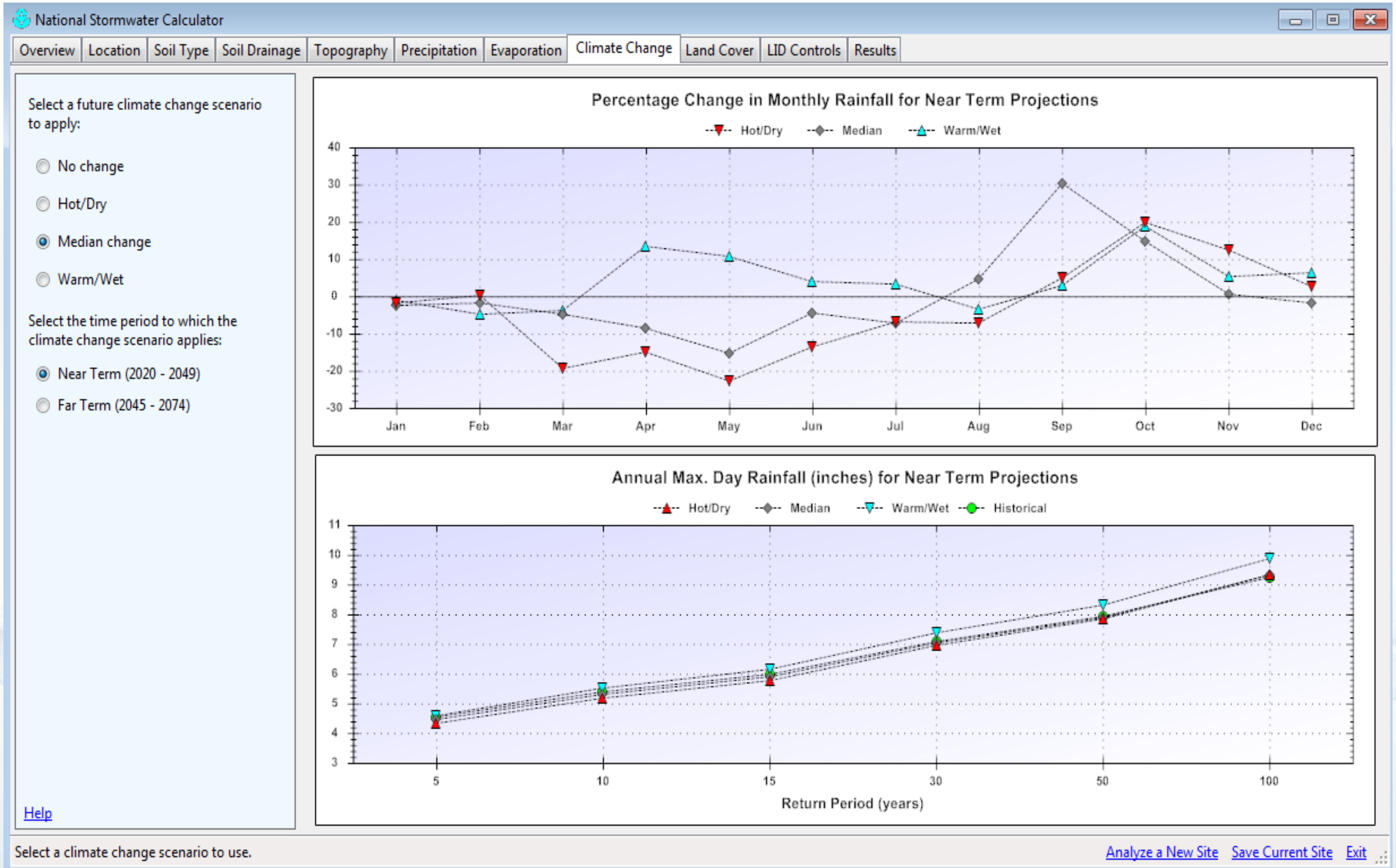
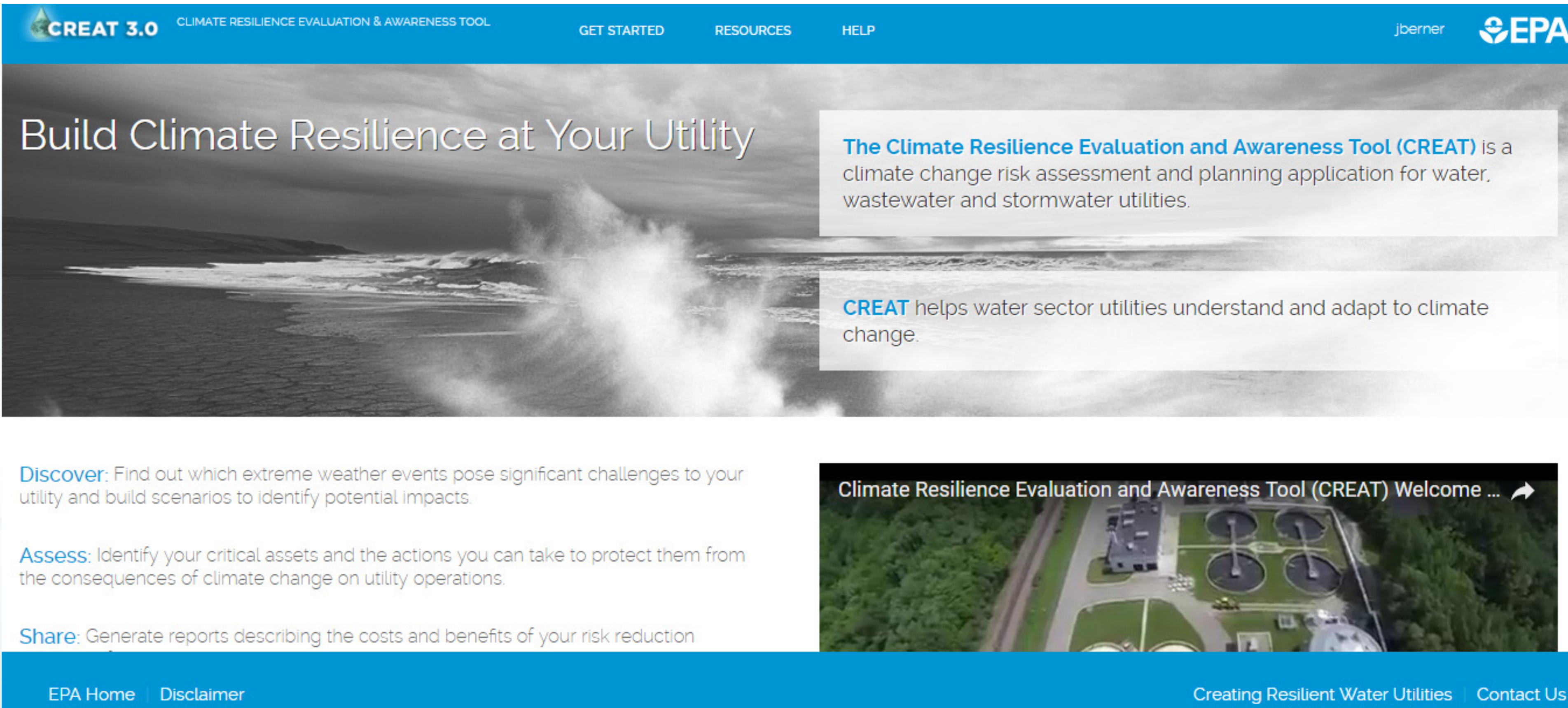
SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Climate Change Scenarios



Climate Change Scenario Data: EPA's CREAT 2.0



https://creat.epa.gov/creat/

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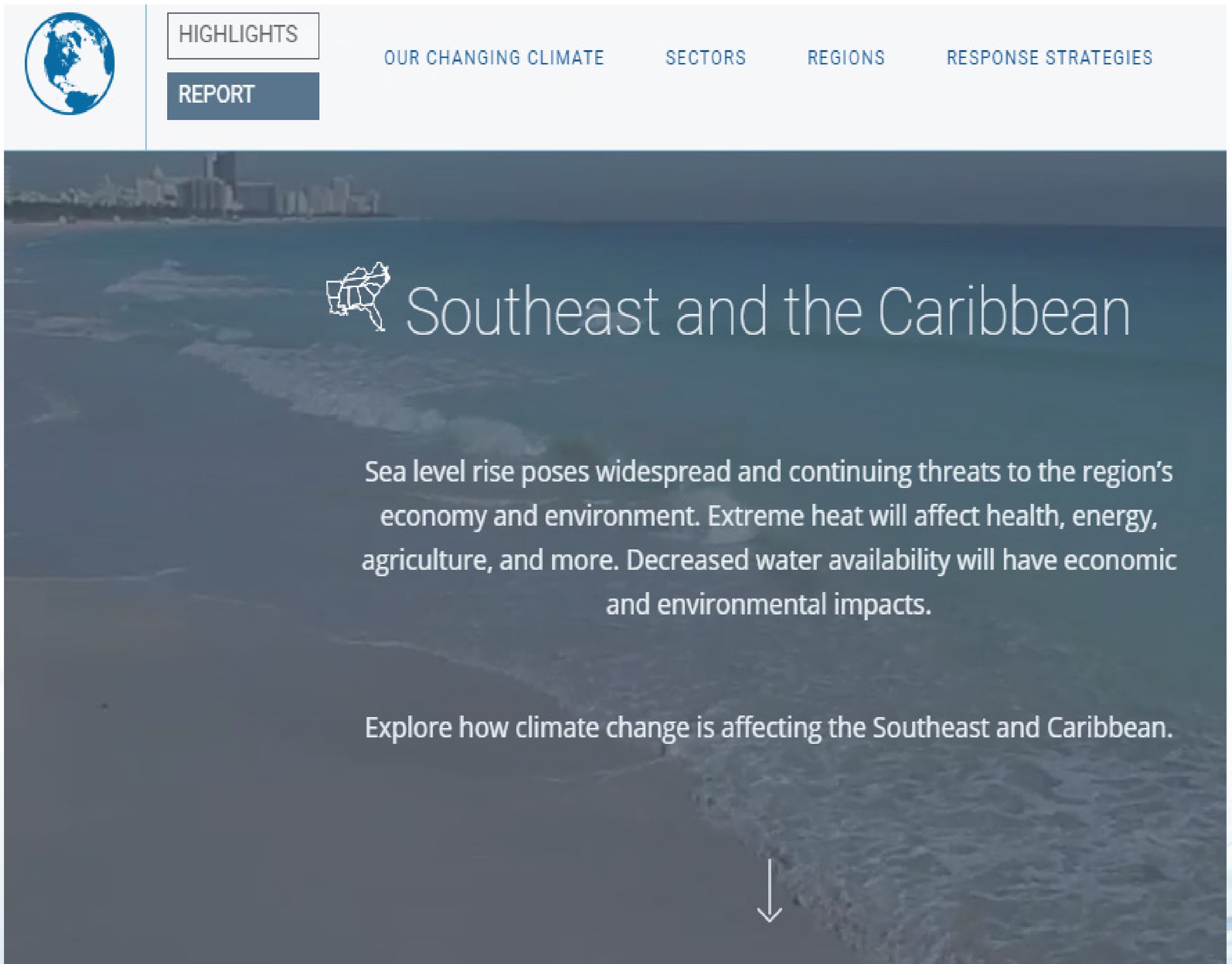
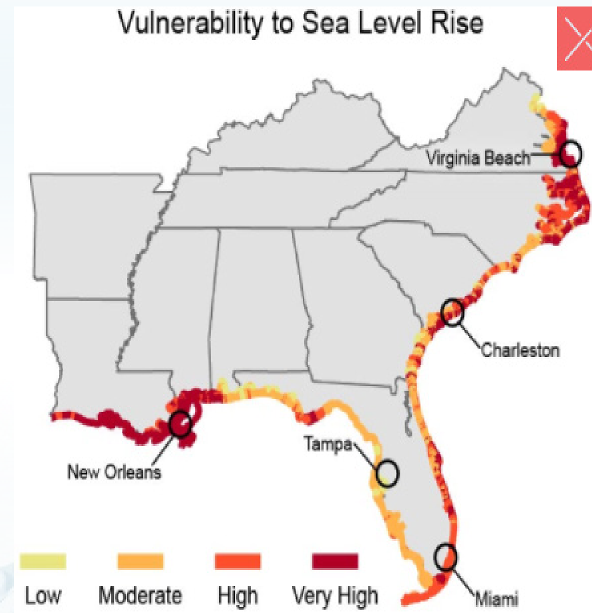
SWC Cost Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Climate Change Impacts for the Southeast

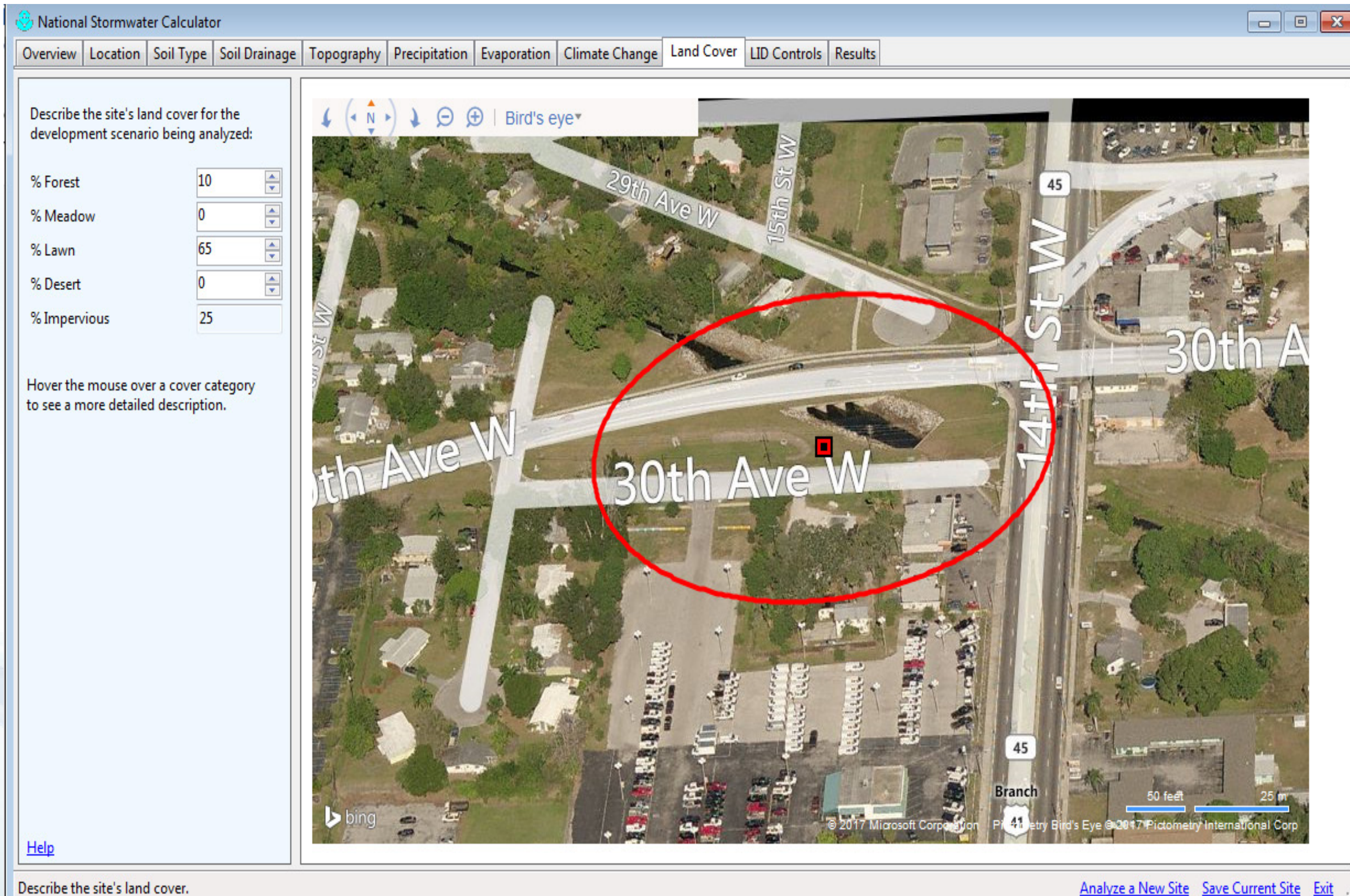




http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/regions/southeast

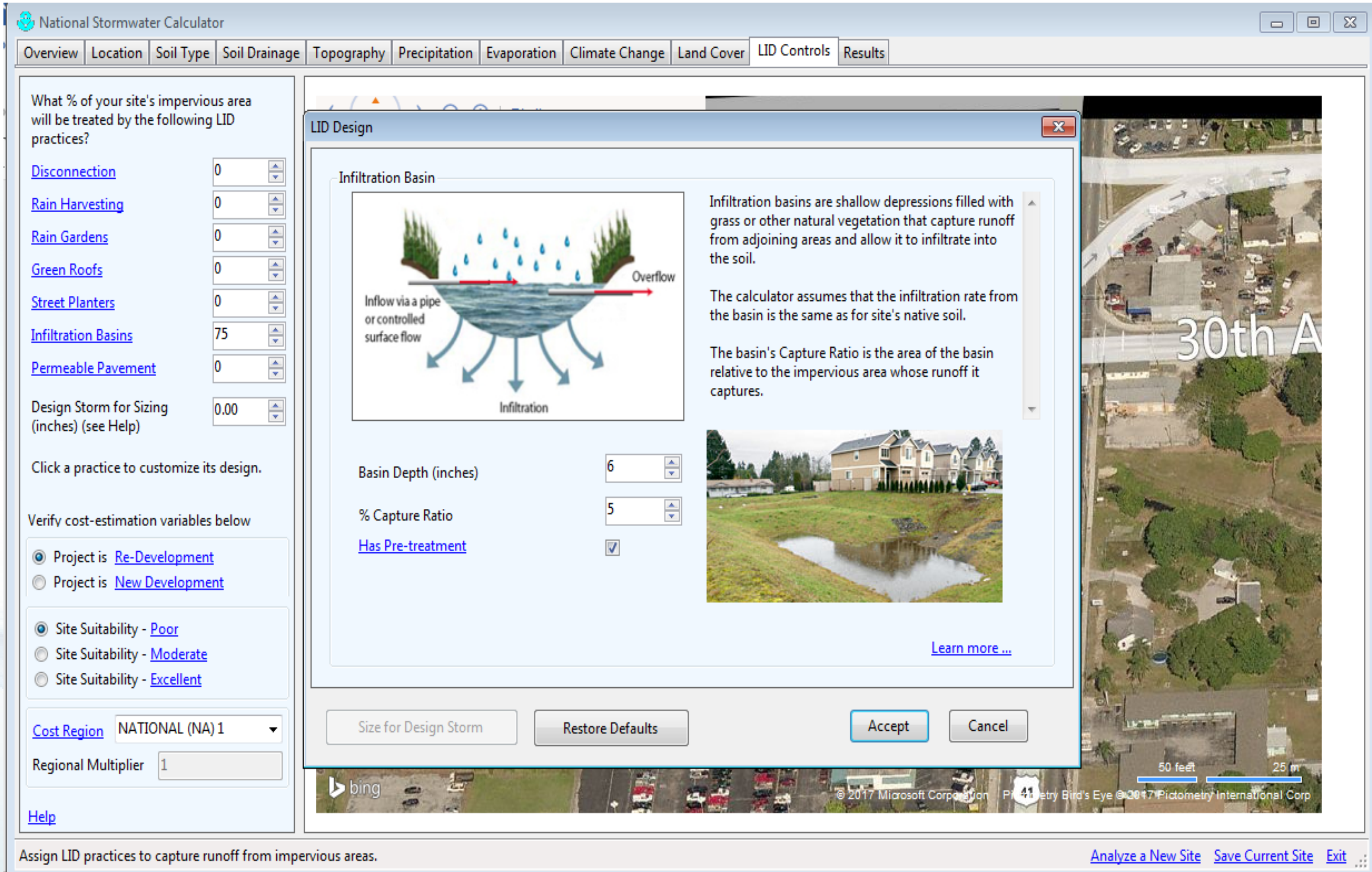
SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Existing Land Cover



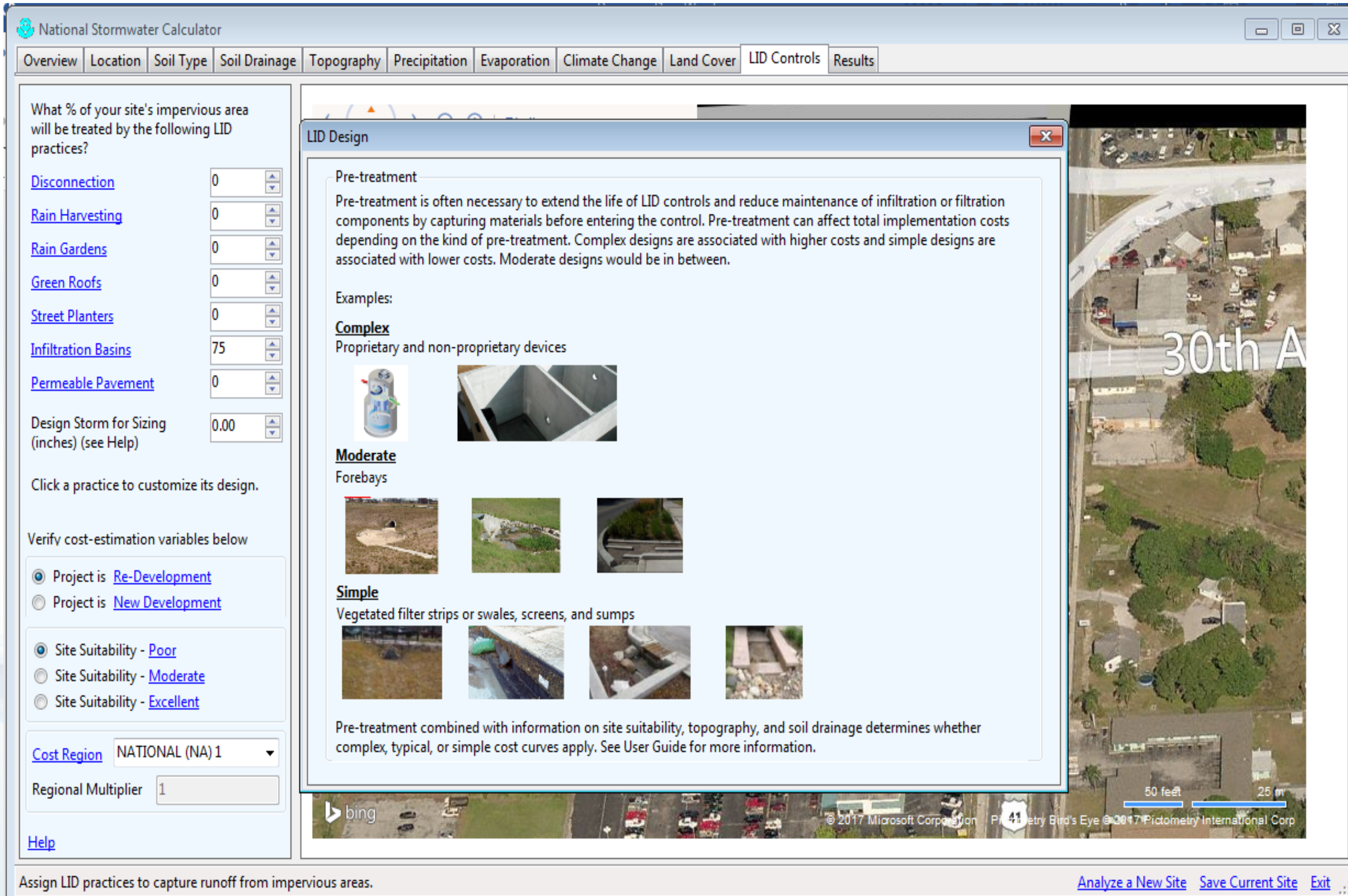
SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Low Impact Development Controls (LID), Infiltration Basin



SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14 St. W. – 9 St. W.

Low Impact Development Controls (LID): Pre-treatment



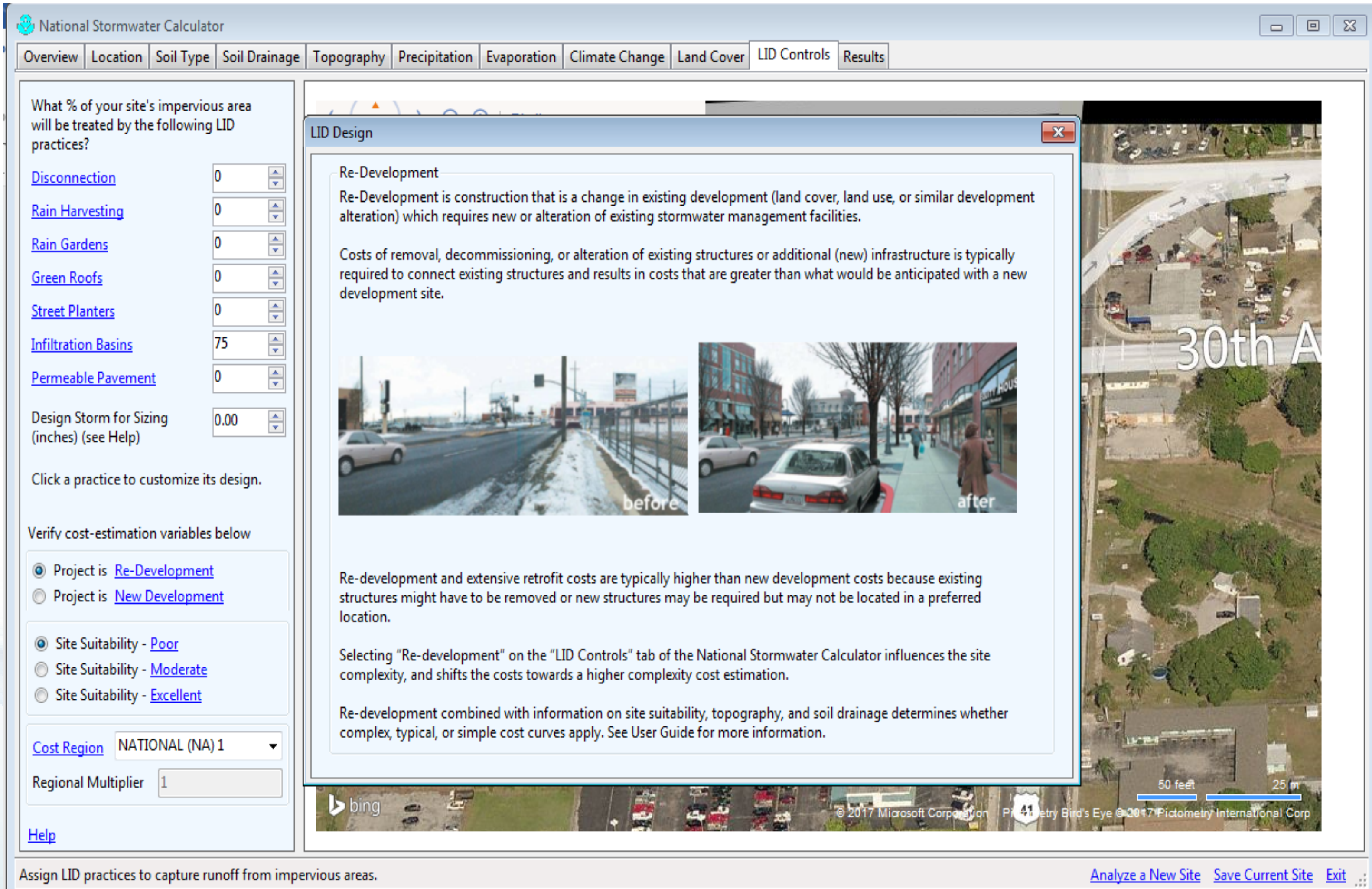
SWC: Cost Estimation Module

- Intended Uses:
  - —Planning level cost estimates (magnitude of costs between planning scenarios)
- Limitations:
  - —Not final construction costs
  - —Not lifecycle costs (gives annual O & M costs, not replacement costs)

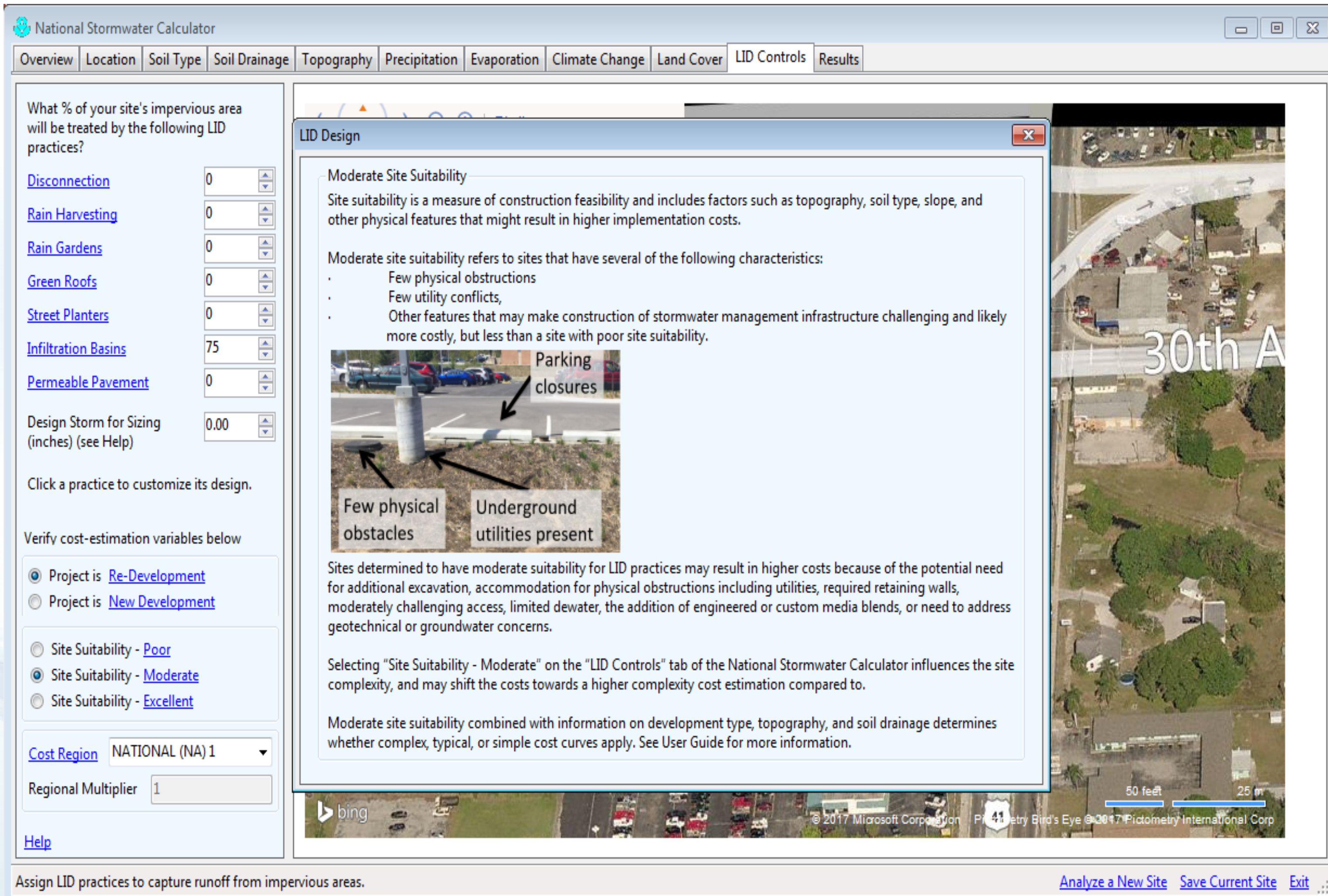
Development of Regionalized Low Impact Development/Green Infrastructure Costs

- **Utilization of Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Data for regional costs**
  - Outputs of service, construction, utilities, and other goods producing entities
    - Examples include: concrete storm sewer pipe, construction sand and gravel, etc.
  - Regional/city data (23 major US cities)
    - Examples include: fuels and utilities, energy, and diesel fuel

SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.
LID: Redevelopment Project



SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.
LID: Site Suitability (Moderate)



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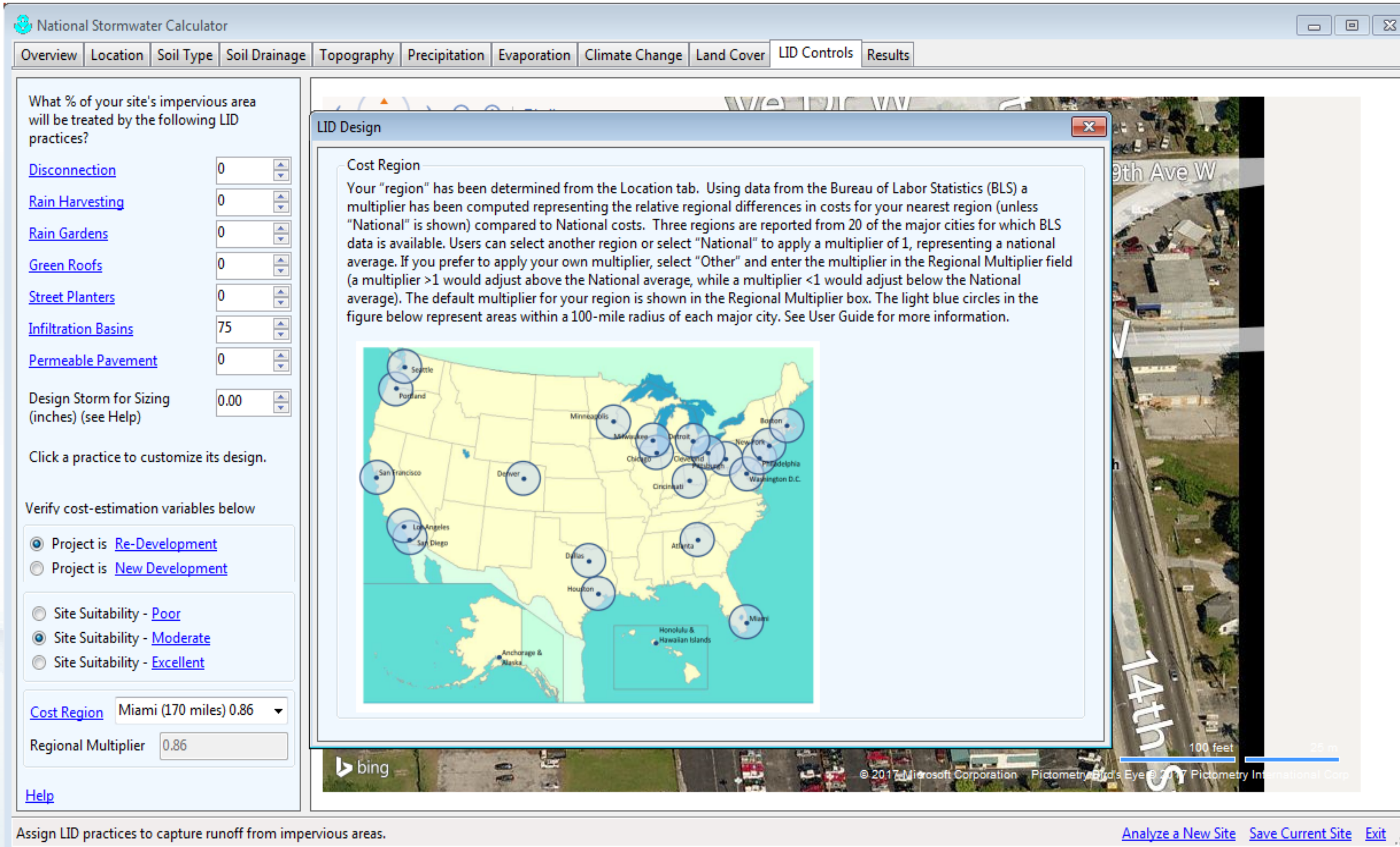
SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

LID: US Bureau of Labor Stastics Regional Cost Centers



SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Runoff Reduction Results

National Stormwater Calculator

Overview | Location | Soil Type | Soil Drainage | Topography | Precipitation | Evaporation | Climate Change | Land Cover | LID Controls | Results

Options

Years to Analyze: 20

Event Threshold (inches): 0.10

Ignore Consecutive Days

Actions

Refresh Results

Use as Baseline Scenario

Remove Baseline Scenario

Print Results to PDF File

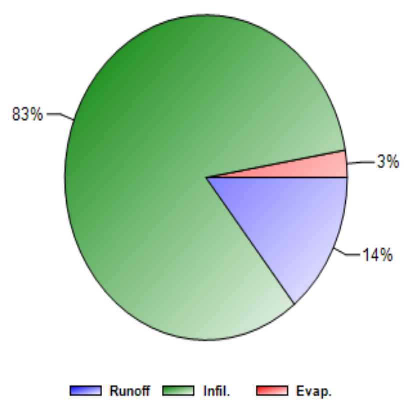
Reports

- Site Description
- Summary Results
- Rainfall / Runoff Events
- Rainfall / Runoff Frequency
- Rainfall Retention Frequency
- Runoff By Rainfall Percentile
- Extreme Event Rainfall / Runoff
- Cost Summary

Help

Current Scenario

Annual Rainfall = 58.63 inches



Statistic	*Current Scenario*	*Baseline Scenario*
Average Annual Rainfall (inches)	58.63	
Average Annual Runoff (inches)	8.38	
Days per Year With Rainfall	75.15	
Days per Year with Runoff	21.84	
Percent of Wet Days Retained	70.94	
Smallest Rainfall w/ Runoff (inches)	0.41	
Largest Rainfall w/o Runoff (inches)	1.37	
Max. Rainfall Retained (inches)	9.14	

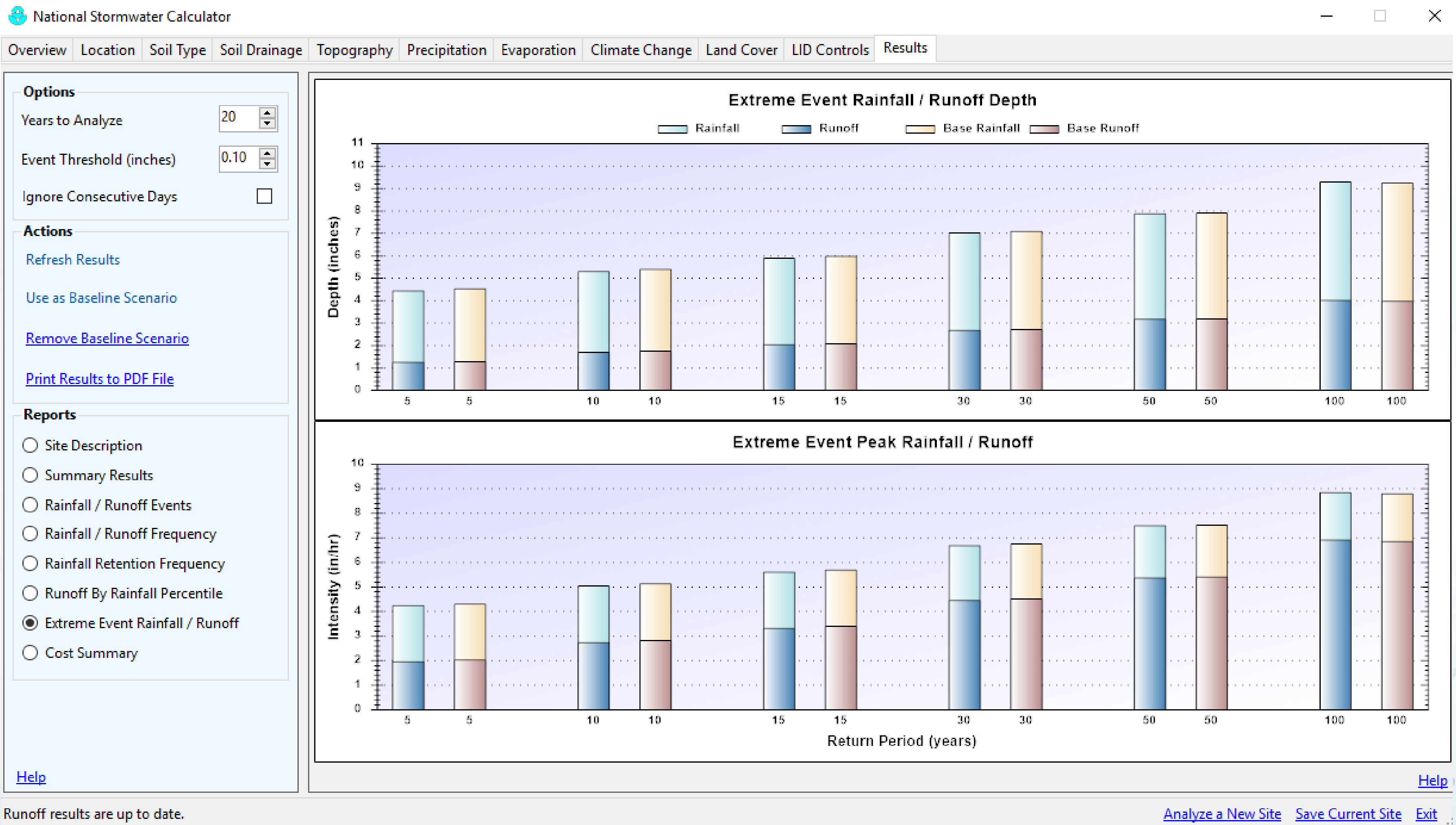
Help

Runoff results are up to date.

Analyze a New Site | Save Current Site | Exit

SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Runoff Results: Extreme Storm Events



United States Environmental Protection Agency

SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Capital Costs Summary

National Stormwater Calculator

Overview | Location | Soil Type | Soil Drainage | Topography | Precipitation | Evaporation | Climate Change | Land Cover | LID Controls | Results

Options

Years to Analyze: 20

Event Threshold (inches): 0.10

Ignore Consecutive Days

Actions

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Use as Baseline Scenario

Remove Baseline Scenario

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Reports

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- Cost Summary

Help

Estimate of Probable Capital Costs (estimates in 2016 US.$)

Maintenance Costs | Graphical View

	Drainage Area %	Has Pre-trt?	Current Scenario (C) Area Treated 4.00 ac		Baseline Scenario (B) Area Treated ac		Difference (C - B) Area Treated 4.00 ac	
Cost By LID Control Type	Current / Baseline	Current / Baseline	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
Disconnection	NA / NA	No / NA	$0	$0	-	-	-	-
Rainwater Harvesting	NA / NA	No / NA	$0	$0	-	-	-	-
Rain Gardens	NA / NA	No / NA	$0	$0	-	-	-	-
Green Roofs	NA / NA	No / NA	$0	$0	-	-	-	-
Street Planters	NA / NA	No / NA	$0	$0	-	-	-	-
Infiltration Basins	75 / NA	No / NA	$7,761	$19,390	-	-	-	-
Permeable Pavement	NA / NA	No / NA	$0	$0	-	-	-	-
Total	**75 / NA**	**Varies**	**$7,761**	**$19,390**	-	-	-	-

Note: site complexity variables that affect cost shown below:

	Current Scenario	Baseline Scenario
Dev. Type	Re-development	-
Site Suitability	Moderate	-
Topography	Flat (2% Slope)	-
Soil Type	B	-
Cost Region	Miami (170 miles) 0.86	-

Cost Range: $7,761 -$19,390

Help

Runoff results are up to date.

Analyze a New Site | Save Current Site | Exit

SWC Analysis: Wares Creek, 14th St. W. – 9th St. W.

Annual Maintenance Costs Summary

O&M Costs of Existing Stormwater Ponds For Project Area:
$300 – $3,084.9

National Stormwater Calculator

Overview | Location | Soil Type | Soil Drainage | Topography | Precipitation | Evaporation | Climate Change | Land Cover | LID Controls | Results

Options

Years to Analyze: 20

Event Threshold (inches): 0.10

Ignore Consecutive Days

Actions

Refresh Results

Use as Baseline Scenario

Remove Baseline Scenario

Print Results to PDF File

Reports

- Site Description
- Summary Results
- Rainfall / Runoff Events
- Rainfall / Runoff Frequency
- Rainfall Retention Frequency
- Runoff By Rainfall Percentile
- Extreme Event Rainfall / Runoff
- Cost Summary

Help

Estimate of Probable Maintenance Costs (estimates in 2016 US.$)

Capital Costs| Graphical View

	Current Scenario (C)		Baseline Scenario (B)		Difference (C - B)	
Cost By LID Control Type	**Low**	**High**	**Low**	**High**	**Low**	**High**
Disconnection	$0	$0	-	-	-	-
Rainwater Harvesting	$0	$0	-	-	-	-
Rain Gardens	$0	$0	-	-	-	-
Green Roofs	$0	$0	-	-	-	-
Street Planters	$0	$0	-	-	-	-
Infiltration Basins	$263	$9,542	-	-	-	-
Permeable Pavement	$0	$0	-	-	-	-
Total	**$263**	**$9,542**	-	-	-	-

Note: site complexity variables that affect cost shown below:

	Current Scenario	Baseline Scenario
Dev. Type	Re-development	-
Site Suitability	Moderate	-
Topography	Flat (2% Slope)	-
Soil Type	B	-
Cost Region	Miami (170 miles) 0.86	-

Help

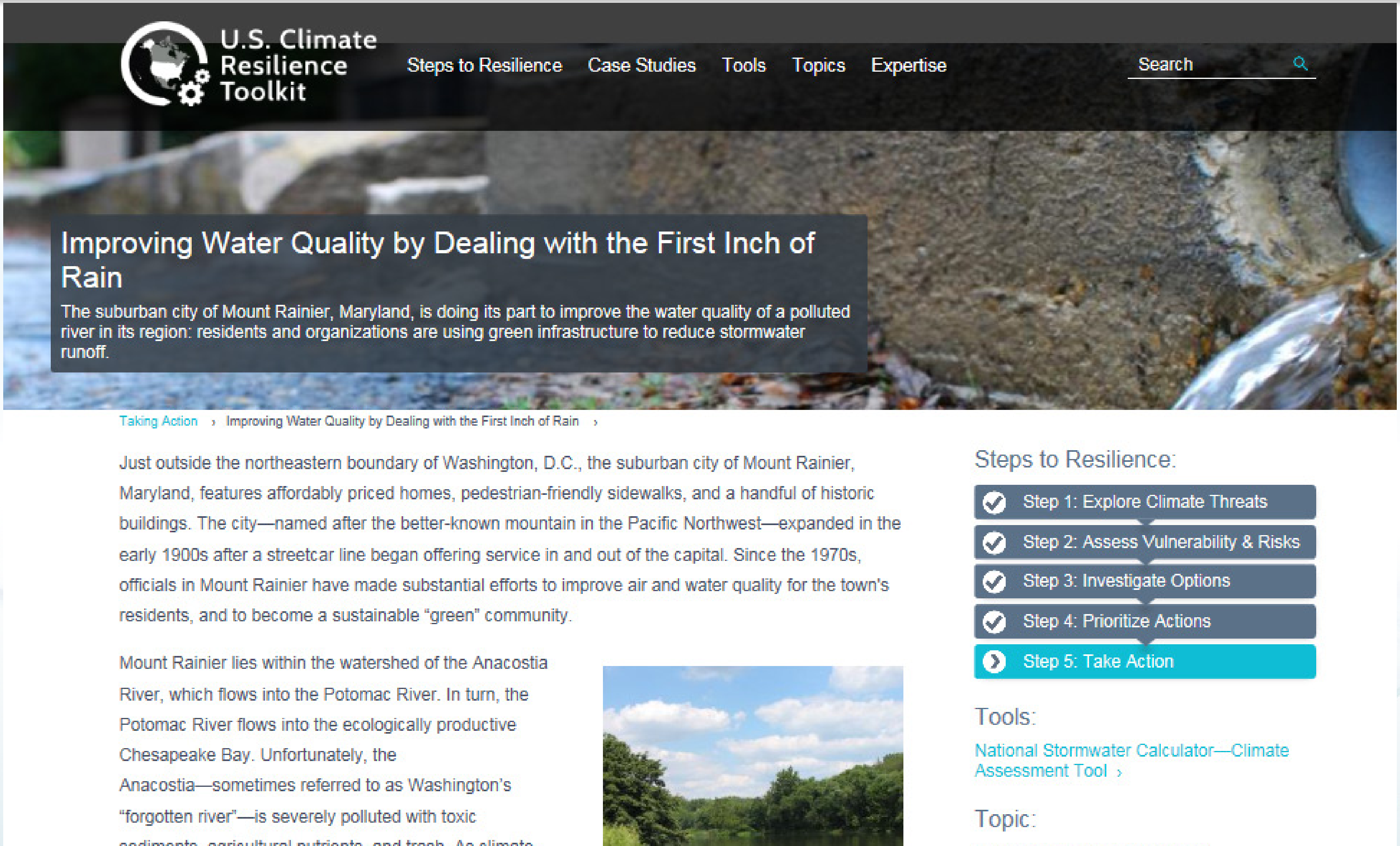
Runoff results are up to date.

Analyze a New Site | Save Current Site | Exit

Interpreting the Results

- Informing next steps for finalizing costs of stormwater projects and construction plans/designs
- Comparing the relative magnitude of planning level costs for different stormwater management solutions.
- Comparisons may be made between national and regional cost estimates:
  - —Using local knowledge in selection of regional BLS cost multipliers
    - Other nearby cities: Atlanta, Houston, etc.

Climate Resiliency Planning Application



U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit

Steps to Resilience | Case Studies | Tools | Topics | Expertise | Search

Improving Water Quality by Dealing with the First Inch of Rain

The suburban city of Mount Rainier, Maryland, is doing its part to improve the water quality of a polluted river in its region: residents and organizations are using green infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff.

Taking Action › Improving Water Quality by Dealing with the First Inch of Rain ›

Just outside the northeastern boundary of Washington, D.C., the suburban city of Mount Rainier, Maryland, features affordably priced homes, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, and a handful of historic buildings. The city—named after the better-known mountain in the Pacific Northwest—expanded in the early 1900s after a streetcar line began offering service in and out of the capital. Since the 1970s, officials in Mount Rainier have made substantial efforts to improve air and water quality for the town's residents, and to become a sustainable "green" community.

Mount Rainier lies within the watershed of the Anacostia River, which flows into the Potomac River. In turn, the Potomac River flows into the ecologically productive Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, the Anacostia—sometimes referred to as Washington's "forgotten river"—is severely polluted with toxic sediments, agricultural nutrients, and trash. As climate

Steps to Resilience:

- Step 1: Explore Climate Threats
- Step 2: Assess Vulnerability & Risks
- Step 3: Investigate Options
- Step 4: Prioritize Actions
- Step 5: Take Action

Tools:

National Stormwater Calculator—Climate Assessment Tool ›

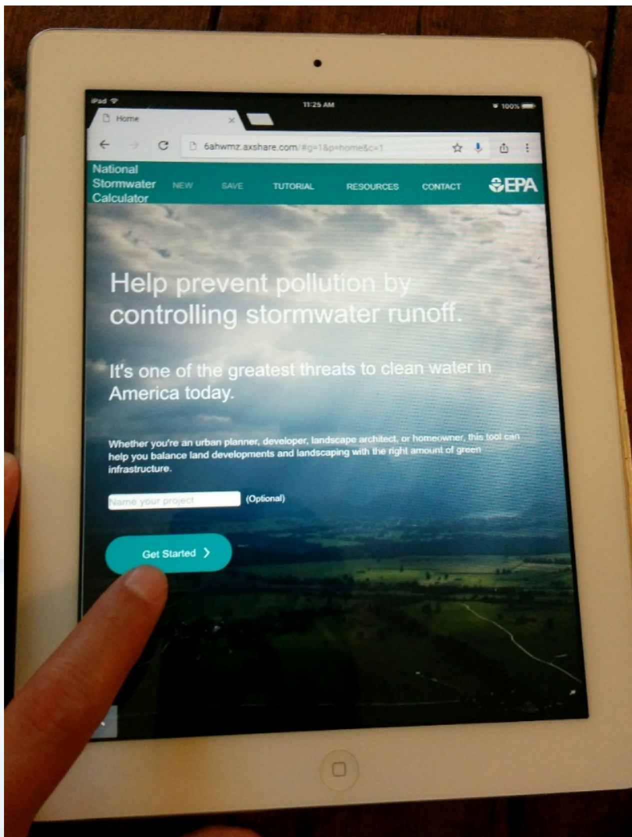
Topic:

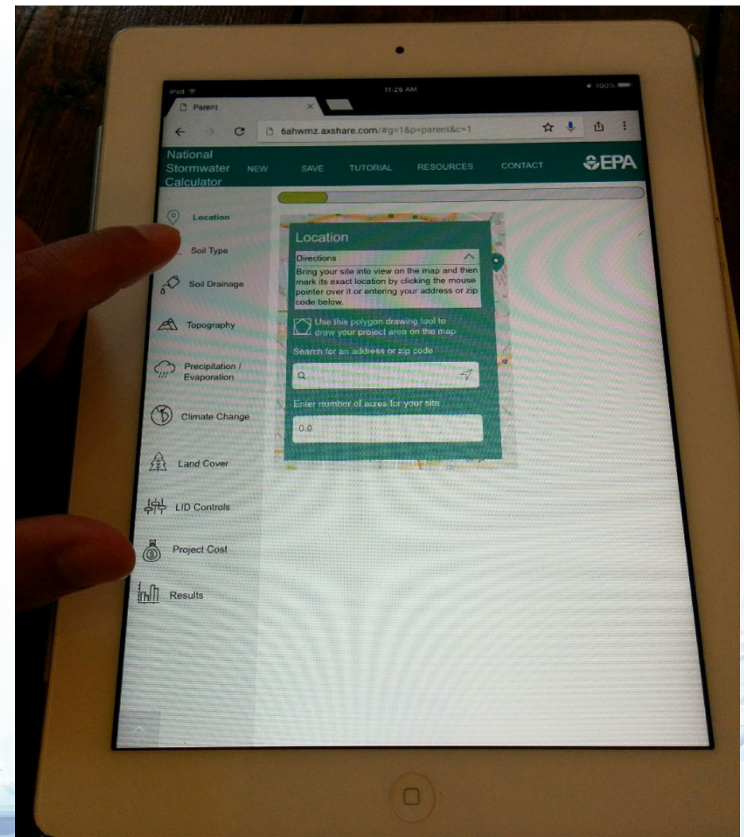
Built Environment › Water and

http://toolkit.climate.gov/case-studies/improving-water-quality-dealing-first-inch-rain

Mobile Web App Development: Public Release Expected in Fall 2017

Live demonstrations at WEFTEC 2017 Stormwater Pavilion, Oct. 2 - 3 (Chicago, IL)





Discussion and Questions

Thank You!

Jason Bernagros (Berner)
Landscape Architect
Office of Research and Development (ORD)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460
berner.jason@epa.gov
(202) 566-1671

National Stormwater Calculator Website:

https://www.epa.gov/water-research/national-stormwater-calculator

Contact: SWC@epa.gov