

# MAPC's 3A Analytical Toolbox: District Suitability

## Tool User Guide

Updated November 2023

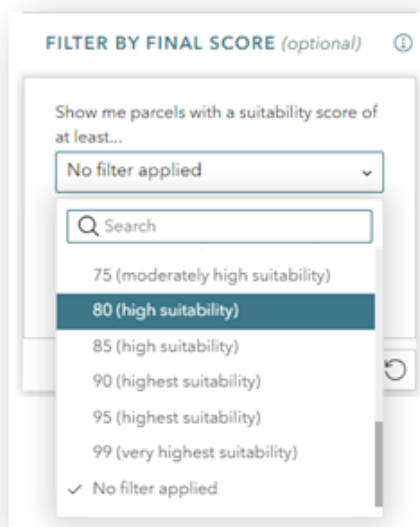
### Interpreting Results

The results of the 3A District Site Suitability Analysis have been published to an [online, interactive map](#). Under the Legend heading, "Suitability Layers," users can view Final Scores and Criteria Scores for each parcel in MBTA District. Parcels have been symbolized such that those in dark blue have been determined to be most suitable for inclusion in a 3A District, while those in light yellow have been determined to be least suitable for inclusion in a 3A district. Viewers may click on a parcel to see detailed information about the parcel's overall suitability, criteria scores, and sub-scores. Note that all scoring is done within a municipality, so results should not be compared across municipal boundaries.


Metadata for all fields is provided at the project's [GitHub repository](#). The outputs of the criteria scores and final suitability scores are discussed in greater detail below. Methodology for the suitability analysis is detailed in our [Explainer](#).

### Using the tool to define a 3A District



Clusters of parcels/sites with higher scores are potentially strong candidates for 3A zoning districts. Users can filter for parcels with the highest scores using the "Filter Parcels" widget (pictured below).

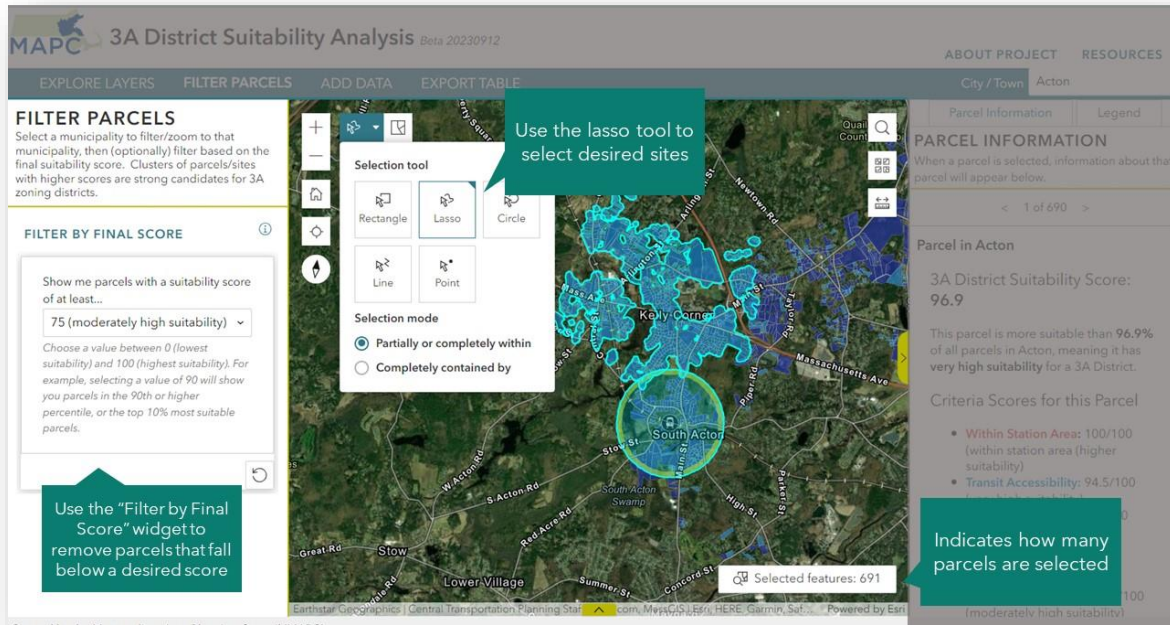


Through this widget, users can select a subset of parcels in their municipality based on their final suitability scores. For instance, applying a value of "0.8" will filter for sites -in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher, or sites with the "Highest Suitability."

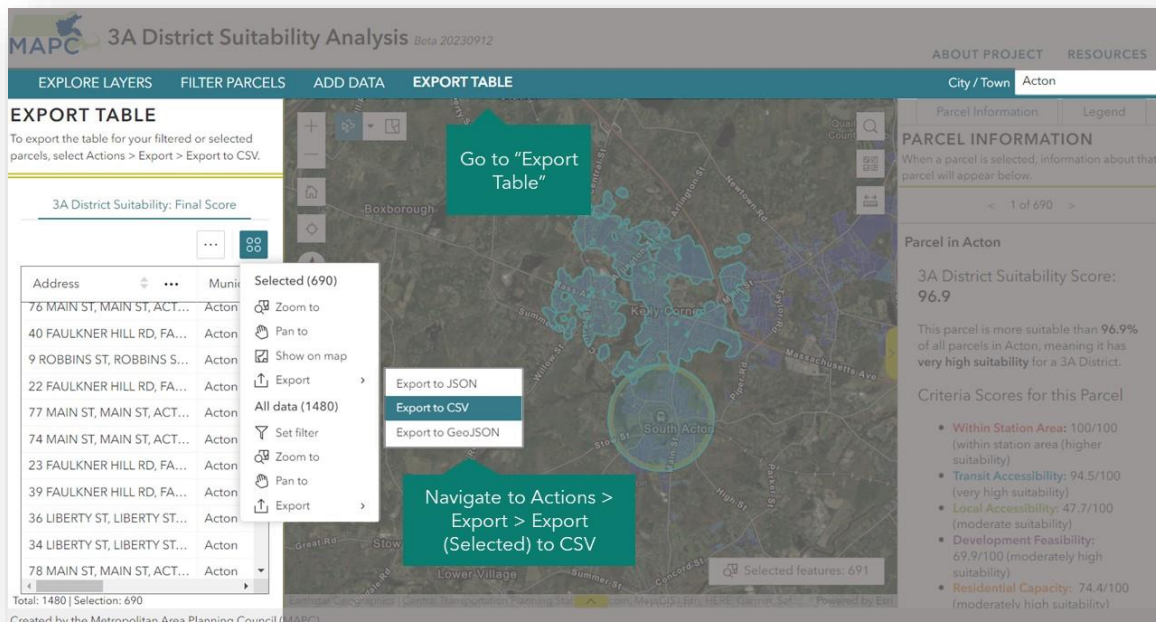
Once high-scoring parcels are mapped, potential districts may be identified by locating clusters of these parcels. The measure tool () found on the upper right of the map panel, can be used to quickly approximate the area of a potential district. More information about how to use the measure tool can be found [here](#).

## Select and Download Sites

Use the select tool (  ) to select parcels of interest. We recommend using the lasso tool to customize the shape of what you are selecting. You can press the “clear selection” button (  ) to deselect all features.



Once desired features are selected, they can be exported to a CSV. Select the “Export Table” widget in the tool bar and navigate to Actions > Export > Export to CSV. Make sure you are selecting “Export” from “Selected” features rather than “All Data.”



## **Limitations / Ground Truthing**

Due to the regional nature of the analysis, indicator datasets are all at the regional scale or broader (state or national data). This means that local knowledge and ground-truthing is necessary to identify the best locations for 3A districts. The output of this tool is intended to support that decision-making and highlight areas of potential suitability. It is not adequate on its own to identify 3A districts.