



Virginia Beach, VA

249.0 mi² | Pop: 452,745 | 41st Most Populous U.S. City | Est. 1952

Blocks of older, smaller, mixed-age buildings play a critical role in fostering robust local economies, inclusive neighborhoods, and sustainable cities. The Preservation Green Lab report, *Older, Smaller, Better*, leveraged the ideas of **Jane Jacobs** to show why preservation and building reuse matter for successful communities. The *Atlas of ReUrbanism* expands this research to 50 U.S. cities, demonstrating that **Character Counts**.

In **Virginia Beach**, compared to areas with large, new structures, character-rich **blocks of older, smaller, mixed-age buildings** contain...



78% greater population density



13% more jobs in small business



48% more women and minority-owned businesses

The building blocks for an inclusive, diverse, economically vibrant city, Virginia Beach's older, smaller buildings are irreplaceable assets. For more information about Virginia Beach's high-character areas, **please see reverse**.

■ The Atlas of ReUrbanism | *A Tool for Discovery*

Developed by the **Preservation Green Lab**, the Atlas of ReUrbanism is part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's **ReUrbanism** initiative. Explore the buildings and blocks of Virginia Beach and other American cities further by visiting:

www.atlasofreurbanism.com

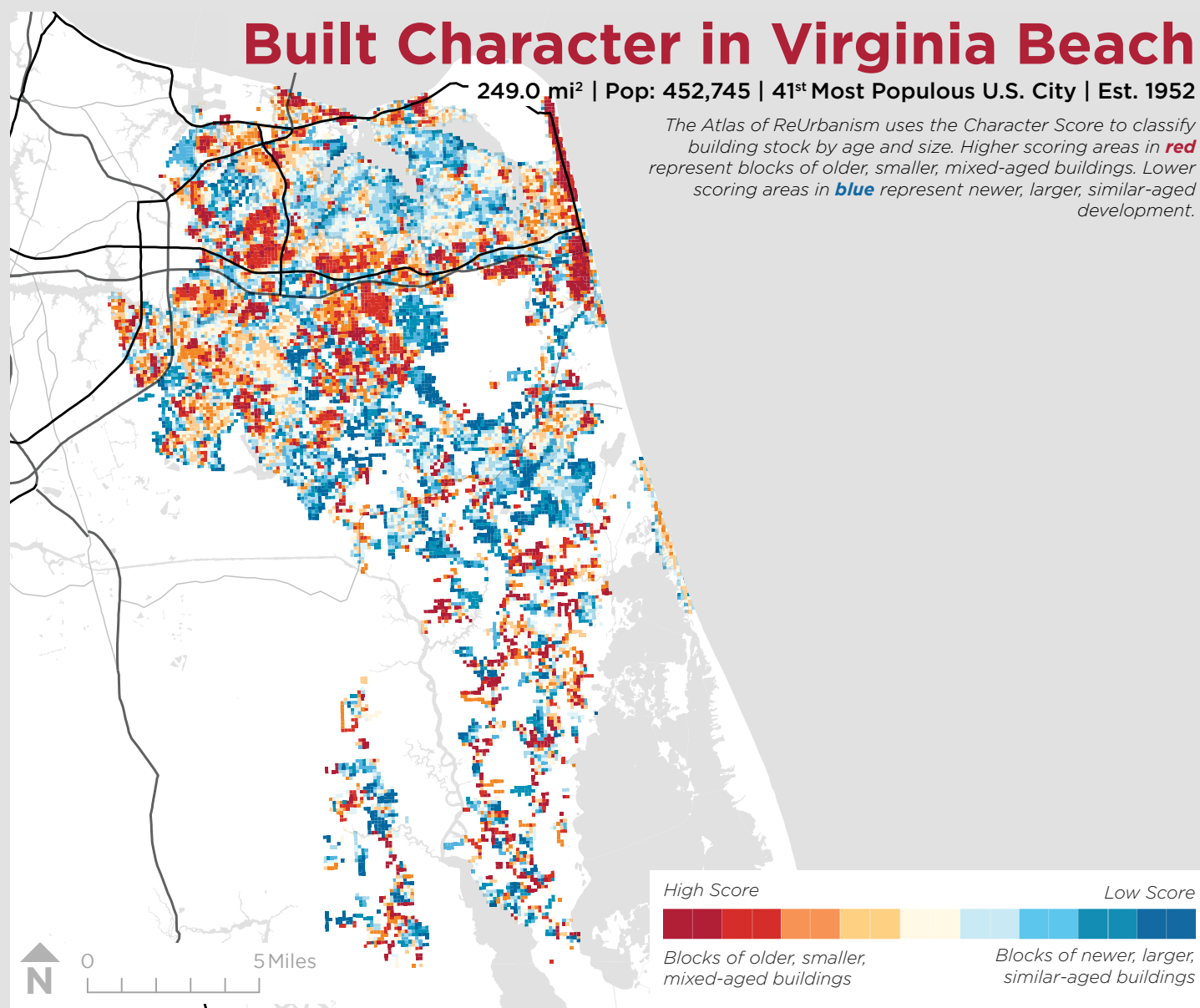


National Trust for Historic Preservation
Preservation Green Lab

Built Character in Virginia Beach

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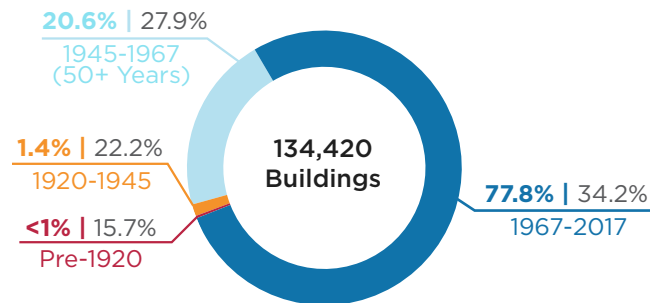
The Atlas of ReUrbanism uses the Character Score to classify building stock by age and size. Higher scoring areas in **red** represent blocks of older, smaller, mixed-aged buildings. Lower scoring areas in **blue** represent newer, larger, similar-aged development.



Building and Preservation Facts

Parcels/Buildings	Virginia Beach	50-City Average
Total	134,420	204,038
Per Square Mile	549	1,436
Median Year Built	1980	1952
On Nat'l Register of Historic Places	Data Unavailable	6.8%
Locally Designated	Data Unavailable	4.3%
Historic Tax Credit Projects	0	27.5

Year Built By Period, Virginia Beach | 50-City Average



High v. Low Character Score

Use the table below to compare high- and low-character score areas in terms of their density and diversity, inclusiveness, and economic vitality.

High Character Score Areas (Red square icon)

Low Character Score Areas (Blue square icon)

Density & Diversity

	High Character Score Areas	Low Character Score Areas
Avg. Population/Grid Square [†]	36.6	20.6
Median Age (Years) [†]	40.3	40.7
Avg. Between Age 18-34 [†]	20.8%	19.9%
Avg. Foreign Born ^{††}	8.3%	8.3%
Avg. New to County ^{††}	6.8%	6.5%
Avg. People of Color [†]	28.0%	27.8%
Avg. Housing Units/Grid Square [†]	14.7	8.7
Avg. Vacant Homes [†]	6.3%	5.3%
Avg. Owned Homes [†]	77.0%	73.2%

Inclusiveness

	High Character Score Areas	Low Character Score Areas
Total Women and Minority-Owned Businesses ^{†††}	1,605	1,086
Avg. Affordable Rental Housing Units [†]	84.6%	87.6%

Economic Vitality

	High Character Score Areas	Low Character Score Areas
Total Jobs in Small Businesses ^{††††}	12,619	15,635
Total Jobs in New Businesses ^{††††}	1,505	2,390
Total Jobs in Creative Industries ^{††††}	5,496	13,289

[†]Data from the 2010 Census

^{††}Data from the 2010-2014 5-Year Estimates of the American Community Survey

^{†††}Data from Dun & Bradstreet, 2016.

^{††††}Data from LEHD LODES, 2014