

**Guide to Photo Interpretation of Land Cover/Land Use Classification in Ames**

**DEVELOPED**

*Incorporated*

- 111 - **Residential**
  - includes housing within the city limits of Ames
  - structures, single family and multi family units
  - drives, sidewalks, and yards associated with residences
  - trailer courts, residence halls of ISU
  - housing under construction (ground broken)
  
- 112 - **Commercial, Industrial**
  - development within the city limits of Ames
  - development under construction
  - includes sewage plant, land fill, DOT maintenance and concrete mixing plant
  
- 113 - **Institutional**
  - includes the following within city limits: state nursery buildings, schools, churches, hospital, reactor, cemetery, DOT office, ISU, National Animal Disease Center buildings
  
- 114 - **Recreation**
  - includes the following within city limits: ball fields, tennis courts, golf courses, swimming pools and open park space regardless of ownership (city, university or private)
  - for tree cover within a park code woodland, for open space in the park code recreation
  
- 115 - **Mining**
  - includes the following within city limits: gravel pits, sand pits, quarries (disturbed land). Unmined land within mining property should be coded for its land cover, i.e. pasture, cultivated, scattered trees, water, etc.
  
- 116 - **Transportation**
  - includes roads, streets, highways, airports, railroads, their right-of-ways and associated structures within city limits.

*Unincorporated*

- 121 - **Residential**
  - same as incorporated residential but is found outside city limits of Ames
  - usually found as single buildings or a few small buildings, sometimes found in clusters with several drives or streets connecting them

- 122 - **Commercial, Industrial**
  - same as incorporated commercial, industrial but is found outside city limits of Ames
  - also includes radio towers
- 123 - **Institutional**
  - same as incorporated institutional but is found outside city limits of Ames
- 124 - **Recreation**
  - same as incorporated recreation but is found outside city limits of Ames
- 125 - **Mining**
  - same as incorporated mining but is found outside city limits of Ames
- 126 - **Transportation**
  - same as incorporated transportation but is found outside city limits of Ames
  - open space, ditch, or interchange in highway right-of-way also coded as transportation

#### **AGRICULTURAL**

Note: code land cover--not ownership. For example, institutionally owned land (i.e. ISU, Disease Center) used for pasture or crops should be coded as pasture or cultivated respectively.

- 211 - **Farm buildings and yards**
  - typically clustered buildings with drive, yard and often a windbreak
  - can be within city limits
  - includes National Animal Disease Center structures that house animals
- 212 - **Cultivated**
  - typically regular shaped fields, usually of the same texture but color and tone can vary within a field
  - usually large in size (in comparison to other land cover types)
- 213 - **Pasture**
  - usually found following old river terraces, along steep banks, between floodplain and upper terrace, on rough mottled land
  - sometimes has scattered trees or individual trees within (which should be coded as scattered trees)
  - sometimes contains water drainageway, creek, or river
  - usually found near farm buildings
- 215 - **Tree Planting**
  - includes nurseries or research work inside and outside city limits
  - for commercial nurseries, code plants as tree plantings and buildings as commercial

- 216 - **Old Field**  
- land formerly pastured or cultivated but is now idle, found inside or outside city limits of Ames

**FOREST**

Note: Code land cover type, not ownership (ownership might be institutional but woodland cover types should be coded woodland)

- 311 - **Woodland**  
- greater than 25% crown cover density (the distance between crowns is less than crown diameter)  
- usually found along river channels on steep slopes  
- includes park land with heavy tree cover
- 312 - **Scattered Trees**  
- includes fence rows, pastures with trees at 5-25% crown cover density  
- typically found where woodland or river channel tree cover thins into cultivated fields or pasture

**GRASSLAND**

- 411 - **Prairie Remnant**  
- either prairie remnant left in original state or a reestablished, seeded prairie  
- includes xeric (upland dry) prairie, mesic (lowland) prairie, hydric (wet) prairie, and pothole prairie.
- 412 - **Marsh**  
- if emergent vegetation is dominant over water, code as marsh  
- if water is dominant over emergent vegetation, then code as pond/lake

**WATER**

Note: appears as irregular often dark tones on photographs

- 511 - **Stream**  
- includes, river, creek and drainage ditch
- 512 - **Pond/Lake**  
- includes farm ponds, ponds and lakes  
- stable pool level
- 513 - **Reservoir**  
- includes reservoirs and man-made water storage such as mining pit water, sewage treatment lagoons and settling ponds.  
- managed or fluctuating pool level