

# How Do We Measure Up?

## Exploring Climate Resilience in Our Communities

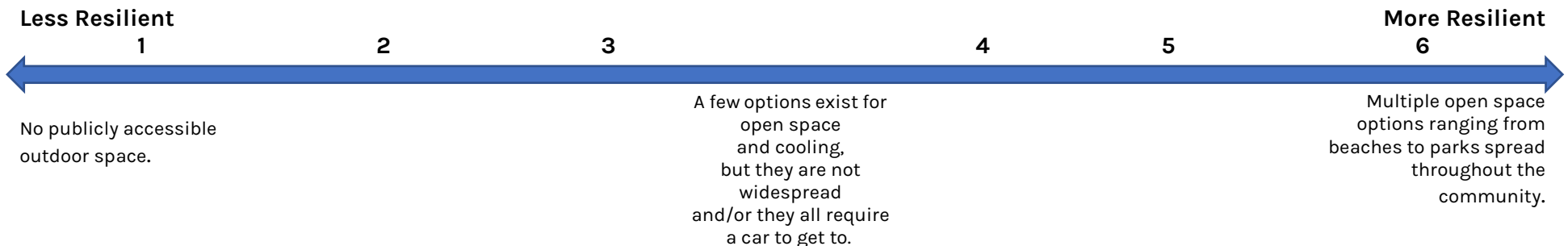
Your group will use resources such as maps, community profiles, and your own experiences to explore your own community with a focus on **environmental** risks to climate change impacts. For each category, use the tool provided (or your own observations) in order to determine where your community falls on the line below for each category. Circle your answer and use the information you gather, as well as what you learn from the other groups, to answer the questions below.

The majority of the information below can be found using this [Climate Change Map Tool](#). Before you begin, take a few minutes to explore the five topics (Heat, Flooding, Water Resources, Development, and People) and how climate change impacts each. When you're ready, click on "Full Map" and zoom in to your community.

### Access to public green space and beaches

Use your observations and where green is on the map to explore this.

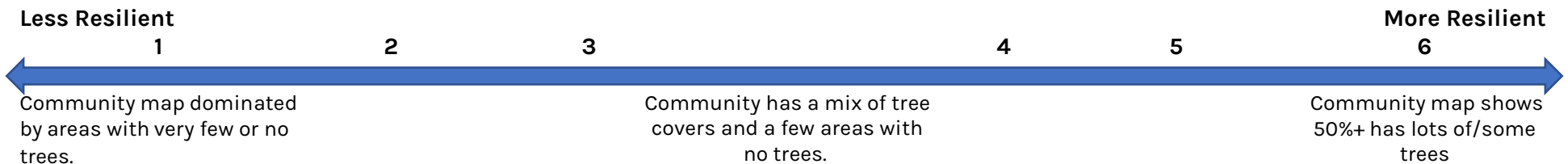
**Why this matters:** As temperatures rises and heat wave frequency increases, it is important people have access to natural places where they can cool off; particularly if they do not have air conditioning or the extreme heat causes a blackout.



### Tree Cover

Turn on the Trees (not tree cover) layer and see how "green" your community is.

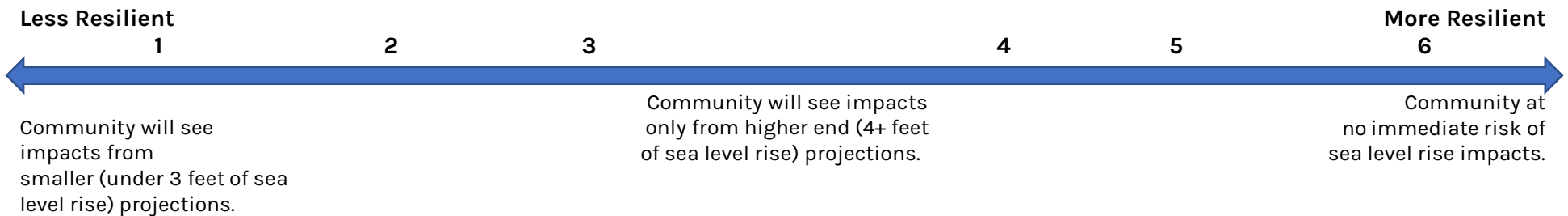
**Why this matters:** Trees help to cool communities by providing shade and help absorb water from storms.



## Sea Level Rise

Turn on the Sea Level Rise viewer and Sea Level Rise Legend to see how the potential of rising seas will impact your community.

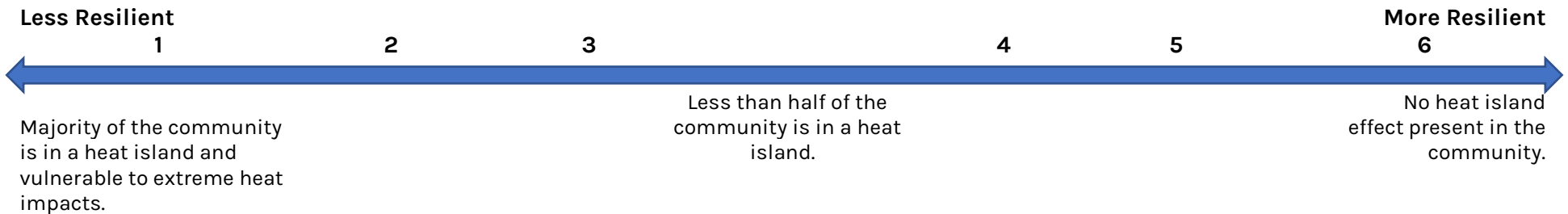
**Why this matters:** Rising sea levels along the coast has the possibility to displace people and habitats, as well as impact important roads and buildings.



## Heat Island

Turn on the Heat Island layer and see where they might be located.

**Why this matters:** Heat islands are urbanized areas that have higher temperatures than areas around them often due to fewer trees and more impervious surfaces that absorb heat. This can create public health issues related to heat illnesses such as heat stroke or exhaustion and the increase in demand of energy to power cooling can lead to a strain on the energy grid and cause blackouts.



## Coastal Wetlands

Turn on the Wetlands layer to see where and how much of this habitat is located in your community.

**Why this matters:** Coastal wetlands are critical ecosystems as they can help prevent erosion and minimize storm surge directly on the coast, absorb flood waters inland, and provide important habitat for many plants and animals.

