

**urbanization:** A population's shift from rural living to city and suburban living.

**suburbs:** A smaller community located at the outskirts of a city.

**exurbs:** A region surrounding a city and beyond the suburbs, generally inhabited by affluent individuals seeking even more space than the suburbs provide.

**sprawl:** The unrestrained spread of urban or suburban development outward from a city center and across the landscape. Often specified as growth in which the area of development outpaces population growth.

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**regional planning:** Planning similar to city planning but conducted across broad geographic scales, generally involving multiple municipal governments.

**zoning:** The practice of classifying areas for different types of development and land use.

**urban growth boundaries:** A line on a map established to separate areas zoned to be high-density and urban from areas intended to remain low-density and rural. The aim is to control sprawl, revitalize cities, and preserve the rural character of outlying areas.

**gentrification:** The transformation of neighborhood to conditions (such as expensive housing and high-end shops and restaurants) that cater to wealthier people. Often resulting in longtime lower-income residents being "priced out" of their homes or apartments."

**smart growth:** A city planning concept in which a community's growth is managed in ways intended to limit sprawl and maintain or improve residents' quality of life.

**new urbanism:** An approach among architects, planners, and developers that seeks to design neighborhoods in which homes, businesses, schools, and other amenities are within walking distance of one another, so that families can meet most of their needs close to home without the use of a car.

**transit-oriented development:** A development approach in which compact communities in the new urbanism style are arrayed around stops on a major rail transit line.

**mass transit:** A public transportation system for a metropolitan area that move large number of people at once. Buses, trains, subways, streetcars, trolleys, and light rail are types of mass transit.

**greenways:** A strip of park land that connects parks or neighborhoods; often located along a river, stream, or canal.

**greenbelts:** A long and wide corridor of parkland, often encircling an entire urban area.

**green building:** (1) A structure that minimized the ecological footprint of its construction and operation by using sustainable materials, using minimal energy and water, reducing health impacts, limiting pollution, and recycling waste. (2) The pursuit of constructing or renovating such buildings.

**Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED):** The leading set of standards for certification of green building.

**Urban heat island effect:** The phenomenon where by a city becomes warmer than outlying areas because of the concentration of heat-generating buildings, vehicles, and people, and because buildings and dark paved surfaces absorb heat and release it at night.

**Noise pollution:** Undesired ambient sound.

**Light pollution:** Pollution from urban or suburban lights that obscures the night sky, impairing people's visibility of stars.

**Urban ecology:** A scientific field of study that views cities explicitly as ecosystems. Researchers in this field apply the fundamentals of ecosystem ecology and systems science to urban areas.