



Land and Urbanization

Land Use and Land Cover

- ▶ Land that is covered mainly in buildings and roads is called urban land
- ▶ Any area not classified as urban is considered rural.
 - ▶ Farmland
 - ▶ Rangeland
 - ▶ Forest Land
 - ▶ National and State Parks
 - ▶ Wilderness



Primary Land-Use Categories

Land Cover Type	Human Use of Land
Rangeland	Land used to graze livestock and wildlife
Forest land	Land used for harvesting wood, wildlife, fish, nuts, and other resources
Cropland	Land used to grow plants for food and fiber
Parks and preserves	Land used for recreation and scenic enjoyment and for preserving native animal and plant communities and ecosystems
Wetlands, mountains, deserts, and other	Land that is difficult to use for human purposes
Urban land	Land used for houses, businesses, industry, and roads



Urbanization

- ▶ Until the 1850's most people live in rural areas.
 - ▶ Many were farmers, managed forests, worked in local mines or mills, or manufactured necessities of life for a small town
- ▶ The Industrial Revolution changed this pattern.
 - ▶ Thousands of rural jobs were eliminated
 - ▶ Many people moved to urban cities to find jobs
- ▶ Urbanization is the movement of people from rural areas to cities
- ▶ People usually leave rural areas for more plentiful and better paying jobs

The Urban Crisis

- ▶ Rapidly growing populations can overwhelm a cities infrastructure
 - ▶ Infrastructure is the basic facilities and services that support a community, such as roads, sewers, railroads, bridges, canals, fire and police stations, schools, libraries, hospitals, water mains, power lines, etc.
- ▶ When more people live in a city than its infrastructure can support, the living conditions deteriorate.
 - ▶ Traffic jams
 - ▶ Substandard housing
 - ▶ Polluted air and water





Urban Sprawl

- ▶ Rapid expansion of a city into the countryside around a city
- ▶ Much of this expansion results from building suburbs on the boundary of a larger city
 - ▶ Many suburbs are built on land that was previously used for food production
 - ▶ Whether people live in cities or in the countryside, they are dependent on the resources produced in rural areas. These resources include clean drinking water, fertile soil and land for crops, trees for wood and paper, and much of the oxygen we breathe.
- ▶ Many suburbs have been built on marginal land (land that is poorly suited for building) when a city was first built with little room for expansion

