

Annexation

Legally adding land area to a city in the United States

Census Tract

An area delineated by the U.S Bureau of the Census for which statistics are published; in urbanized areas, census tracts correspond roughly to neighborhoods

Concentric Zone Model

A model of the internal structure of cities in which social groups are spatially arranged in a series of rings.

Council of Government

A cooperative agency consisting of representatives of local governments in a metropolitan area in the United States.

Density Gradient

The change in density in an urban area from the center to the periphery

Edge City

A large node of office and retail activities on the edge of an urban area

Filtering

A process of change in the use of a house, from single-family owner occupancy to abandonment

Gentrification

A process of converting an urban neighborhood from a predominantly low-income renter-occupied area to a predominantly middle-class owner-occupied area

Greenbelt

A ring of land maintained as parks, agriculture, or other types of open space to limit the sprawl of an urban area.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

In the United States, a central city of at least 50,000 inhabitants, the country within which the city is located, and adjacent counties meeting one of several tests indicating a functional connection to the central city

Micropolitan Statistical Area

An urbanized area of between 10,000 and 50,000 inhabitants, the county in which it is found, and adjacent counties tied to the city.

Multiple Nuclei Model

A model of the internal structure of cities in which social groups are arranged around a collection of nodes of activities.

Peripheral Model

A model of North American urban areas consisting of an inner city surrounded by large suburban residential and business areas tied together by a beltway or ring road

Public Housing

Housing owned by the government; in the United States, it is rented to low-income residents, and the rents are set at 30 percent

Redlining

A process by which banks draw lines on a map and refuse to lend money to purchase or improve property within the boundaries

Rush (or peak) Hour

The four consecutive 15-minute periods in the morning and evening with the heaviest volumes of traffic.

Sector Model

A model of the internal structure of cities in which social groups are arranged around a series of sectors, or wedges, radiating out from the central business district (CBD)

Smart Growth

Legislation and regulations to limit suburban sprawl and to preserve farm land

Sprawl

Development of new housing sites at relatively low density and at locations that are not contiguous to the existing built-up area.

Squatter Settlement

When the LDCs are unable to house the rapidly growing number of poor

Underclass

A group of society prevented from participating in the material benefits of a more developed society because of a variety of social and economic characteristics

Urbanization

An increase in the percentage and in the number of people living in urban settlement

Urbanized Area

In the United States, a central city plus its contiguous built up suburbs

Urban Renewal

Program in which cities identify blighted innercity neighborhoods, acquire the properties from private owners, relocate the residents and businesses, clear the site, build new roads and utilities, and turn the land over to private developers

Zoning Ordinance

A law that limits the permitted uses of land and maximum density of development in a community