

CGC1P Unit 3: People, Places and Patterns

Activity 6: Land Use

Overview

In this activity you will learn about land use and urban planning.

Lesson

Municipalities determine how land will be used in their area. These parcels of land are zoned for specific purposes through by-laws.

Land use is determined by:

- developers who own the land
- informed citizens who speak up
- politicians who approve the zoning by-laws
- urban planners and city planners who develop proposals keeping in mind all the legislation and the needs of the parties involved.

What are the categories of land use in a city?

- approximately 40% is zoned for residential (homes)
- approximately 33% of the land is used up for transportation purposes; this includes roads, highways, and parking lots.
- approximately 10% is zoned for institutional uses like government buildings, libraries, religious centers, and schools.
- approximately 7 % is for recreational uses, like parks and open spaces
- approximately 6% is for industrial land uses (factories, industrial parks)
- approximately 4% is zoned for commercial land which includes stores and business offices.

What About Rural Living?

There are pros and cons to living in rural settings compared to a very large city (such as a Census Metropolitan Area - CMA). Positives for rural settings include a lower cost of living and feeling safer after dark. But there are fewer jobs in rural settings, and lower incomes earned.

Some facts about urban sprawl:

- cities are growing, the rural environment is shrinking.
- in Canada, only 10% of the land is suitable for farming
- many of the small villages/towns in these areas have grown into bigger urban centers/cities
- 18% of the best farmland in Canada is now used for urban purposes
- half of all the new urban land each year is from the best farmland. This means there is less and less good farmland available to grow the food to feed us.
- urban growth is happening very quickly, which means the areas surrounding a city rapidly become urban. If we are not careful, urban sprawl will mean the loss of more and more farmland in Canada

Rural-Urban Fringe:

- where the city and country meet
- land uses include farming, campgrounds, housing, industry, businesses, golf courses, and drive-in theatres
- as a city grows, the rural-urban fringe moves further out into the country and the old fringe becomes part of the city
- suburbs are an example of a fringe around cities. Suburbs are neighborhoods of residential homes built around the edges of cities.

Assignment

1. Match the word with the appropriate definition.

Municipalities	laws or rules passed by a municipal council that apply only to that municipality
by-laws	towns, cities, counties, or other areas having local self-government
land use	laws made by various governments. In Canada, provincial and federal legislation must also be considered when planning municipal projects.
zoning by-laws	the places where people live, such as apartments, townhouses, semi-detached houses, single detached houses, etc.
legislation	the movement of goods or people
residential	various ways people use the land
transportation	laws passed by municipalities that control where, how much, or what kind of development takes place
institutional	having to do with an established organization or foundation, especially one dedicated to education, public service, or culture. Buildings include hospitals, post offices, schools, city halls, etc.
recreational	activities which people do for pleasure and the places for doing them, such as theatres, cinemas, ball parks, etc.
industrial	having to do with companies which manufacture products. The word also can refer to companies engaged in distribution.
commercial	retail stores and goods produced and distributed in large quantities
urban sprawl	urban growth that happens quickly and is sometimes out of control
rural-urban fringe	the zone where the city and the surrounding area meet
suburbs	generally newer areas found around the fringes of established cities
cities	urban centers with more than 10 000 people in each

2. Who or what determines land use?
3. Fill in the correct percentages for each city land use type. What percentage of a typical city is:
____ residential ____ commercial ____ industrial
____ institutional ____ recreational ____ transportation
4. List three **pull factors** for an immigrant coming to Canada to settle in the city.
5. What are three **push factors** that would encourage a person move from the city to a rural lifestyle?
6. What are the benefits of living in a rural area?
7. What are 5 consequences of urban sprawl in Canada?
8. What are the advantages of living in the suburbs (rural-urban fridge)? What do you think are the drawbacks?