

# Sprawl Series Introduction

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City officials and citizens are increasingly becoming more familiar with the term “urban sprawl” and the environmental, social and urban consequences that occur from it. Existing sprawl can be mended by pulling growth back inward through infill and redevelopment projects, which will ultimately help communities evade further sprawl from continuing in the future. This series includes photos that depict sprawl. While viewing these photos you may choose to consider how the following keywords apply to each photo. Then, consider how these keywords may apply to similar, present and future planning and strategies that can prevent sprawl from happening within your community.

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## Sprawl Definition:

The process by which the spread of development across the landscape far outpaces the population growth. The landscape sprawl creates has four dimensions: (1) a population that is widely dispersed in low-density development; (2) rigidly separated homes, shops, and workplaces; (3) a network of roads marked by huge blocks and poor access; and (4) a lack of well-defined thriving activity centers such as downtowns and town centers. Most other features usually associated with sprawl (e.g., the lack of transportation choices, relative uniformity of housing options, or the difficulty of walking) are the results of these conditions. *(Tompkins County, New York)*



*WASATCH FRONT REGIONAL COUNCIL*

Keywords:

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auto-dependency, disconnected streets and sidewalks, high consumption and inefficient use of infrastructure and utilities, high density, homogenous development, infill, leap-frog development, low-density development, mixed-use, planned communities, redevelopment, transit oriented development