

a field guide to sprawl

A Field Guide to Sprawl: Understanding the Landscape of Urban Expansion

a field guide to sprawl offers an insightful lens into the sprawling nature of modern cities and suburbs. As urban areas expand outward, often in an unplanned or haphazard manner, the phenomenon known as sprawl reshapes not only the physical environment but also social, economic, and ecological systems. Whether you're an urban planner, a curious resident, or simply someone interested in how cities grow, this guide will help you recognize, understand, and think critically about urban sprawl and its many facets.

What Is Urban Sprawl?

At its core, urban sprawl refers to the uncontrolled, low-density expansion of urban areas into the surrounding countryside. Unlike compact cities that grow upward or inward, sprawled developments spread horizontally, often consuming large tracts of land. This pattern is characterized by single-use zoning, heavy reliance on automobiles, and fragmented open spaces.

Key Features of Sprawl

Sprawl isn't just about new developments popping up on the outskirts of a city. It has distinct markers that help identify it:

- **Low-density housing:** Homes are spread out, typically detached single-family houses rather than apartments or mixed-use buildings.
- **Car dependency:** Public transit is limited or non-existent, making cars the primary mode of transportation.
- **Single-use zoning:** Residential, commercial, and industrial areas are separated rather than integrated.
- **Leapfrog development:** New construction skips over vacant land, creating pockets of development separated by undeveloped areas.
- **Loss of agricultural and natural lands:** Farmland, forests, and wetlands are often converted into urban uses.

Recognizing these features is essential when navigating or discussing sprawling environments.

The Causes Behind Urban Sprawl

Understanding why sprawl happens is just as important as being able to spot it. Many factors—economic, social, political—drive sprawling development patterns.

Economic Affordability and Housing Preferences

One of the most common reasons for sprawl is the quest for affordable housing. As city centers become more expensive and crowded, families often seek larger homes with yards in suburban or exurban locations. The desire for privacy, safety, and perceived better quality of life fuels this outward expansion.

Transportation Infrastructure and Policy

Highway construction and car-centric policies have made it easier to live farther from work or amenities. When cities prioritize road improvements over public transit or pedestrian infrastructure, sprawling growth becomes a logical choice for developers and residents alike.

Zoning Laws and Land Use Regulations

Many municipalities enforce zoning that separates residential, commercial, and industrial uses. This separation often necessitates driving from home to work or shopping, encouraging spread-out development rather than compact, walkable neighborhoods.

The Environmental and Social Impacts of Sprawl

While sprawl might offer seemingly attractive options like larger homes or green lawns, it comes with significant consequences that ripple through ecosystems and communities.

Environmental Concerns

Sprawl leads to habitat fragmentation, reducing biodiversity as natural areas are broken up or destroyed. Increased car travel contributes to higher greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and fossil fuel consumption. Moreover, sprawling developments often increase impervious surfaces—like roads and parking lots—which exacerbate stormwater runoff and degrade water quality.

Social and Economic Effects

Sprawled communities can foster social isolation due to long commutes and limited walkability. Public services such as schools, emergency response, and utilities become more expensive to provide across dispersed areas. Additionally, sprawl can lead to economic segregation, as wealthier households move to suburbs, while lower-income residents remain in urban cores with fewer resources.

Recognizing Sprawl in Your Community

A practical part of this field guide to sprawl is learning how to identify sprawling patterns in your own neighborhood or city.

Visual and Structural Clues

Look for areas dominated by cul-de-sacs, wide roads with multiple lanes, and large parking lots. Notice if neighborhoods lack sidewalks, bike lanes, or easy access to shops and workplaces. The absence of mixed-use developments—where homes, stores, and offices coexist—is a telltale sign.

Transportation and Mobility Patterns

If most residents rely on cars for daily errands, and public transit is sparse or inefficient, this suggests a sprawling layout. Long average commute times and traffic congestion during peak hours often accompany sprawling cities.

Strategies to Manage and Combat Sprawl

While sprawl poses challenges, cities worldwide are experimenting with solutions to foster more sustainable growth patterns.

Smart Growth Principles

Smart growth encourages compact, walkable neighborhoods with mixed land uses and diverse housing options. This approach supports public transit, preserves open space, and enhances community engagement.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)

Developing housing and commercial spaces near transit hubs reduces car dependency and encourages denser urban living. TODs often feature pedestrian-friendly designs and amenities within walking distance.

Urban Growth Boundaries

Some municipalities establish limits on how far urban development can extend, protecting farmland and natural habitats beyond these borders. Urban growth boundaries help contain sprawl and promote infill development.

Why Understanding Sprawl Matters

By becoming familiar with the signs and implications of sprawl, citizens and planners alike can make informed decisions about the future of their communities. Awareness leads to advocacy—whether pushing for better public transit, more sustainable zoning laws, or preservation of green spaces.

Ultimately, this field guide to sprawl invites us to look beyond the surface of urban expansion and consider how our cities can grow in ways that balance human needs with environmental stewardship. As urbanization continues globally, the lessons learned from sprawl will shape the livability and resilience of our towns and cities for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of 'A Field Guide to Sprawl'?

'A Field Guide to Sprawl' primarily examines the phenomenon of urban sprawl, detailing its characteristics, causes, and impacts on communities and the environment.

Who is the intended audience for 'A Field Guide to Sprawl'?

The book is aimed at urban planners, architects, environmentalists, students, and anyone interested in understanding the dynamics and consequences of suburban expansion.

How does 'A Field Guide to Sprawl' define urban sprawl?

Urban sprawl is defined as the uncontrolled and unplanned spreading of urban development into rural areas, characterized by low-density housing, heavy car dependency, and fragmented land use.

What environmental concerns are highlighted in 'A Field Guide to Sprawl'?

The guide highlights issues such as habitat destruction, increased greenhouse gas emissions due to car reliance, loss of farmland, and strain on water and energy resources.

Does 'A Field Guide to Sprawl' offer solutions to combat urban

sprawl?

Yes, the book suggests strategies like smart growth, mixed-use development, improved public transportation, and policies promoting sustainable urban planning.

How does 'A Field Guide to Sprawl' illustrate the impact of sprawl on social communities?

The guide discusses how sprawl can lead to social isolation, reduced walkability, and decreased civic engagement by fostering car-dependent, segregated neighborhoods.

Are there case studies included in 'A Field Guide to Sprawl'?

Yes, the book includes various case studies from different cities and regions to demonstrate real-world examples of sprawl and its effects.

Additional Resources

****A Field Guide to Sprawl: Understanding the Dynamics of Urban Expansion****

a field guide to sprawl serves as an essential framework for dissecting one of the most pervasive phenomena in modern urban development: urban sprawl. This sprawling growth pattern, characterized by low-density, automobile-dependent expansion of cities into peripheral areas, has significant implications for the environment, economy, and social fabric of communities worldwide. As metropolitan areas continue to swell, understanding the nuances of sprawl—its causes, consequences, and potential alternatives—becomes critical for urban planners, policymakers, and residents alike.

Defining Urban Sprawl: Characteristics and Patterns

At its core, urban sprawl refers to the outward spread of a city and its suburbs over rural land at the fringe of metropolitan regions. Unlike compact urban growth, sprawl tends to feature scattered, low-density housing developments, a lack of centralized planning, and a heavy reliance on private vehicles for transportation. This form of expansion often results in fragmented land use, where residential zones are separated from commercial and industrial areas, necessitating longer commutes and increased energy consumption.

Several distinctive features typify urban sprawl:

- **Low-density development:** Typically single-family homes dominate, with large lot sizes and few multi-family dwellings.
- **Leapfrog development:** New developments jump over undeveloped land rather than expanding contiguously.

- **Automobile dependency:** Infrastructure prioritizes roads and highways, often at the expense of pedestrian and public transit options.
- **Monofunctional zoning:** Separation of residential, commercial, and industrial uses leads to inefficient land use patterns.

Historical Context and Drivers of Sprawl

The phenomenon of sprawl is not merely a contemporary issue; its roots extend back to the mid-20th century, particularly in post-World War II America. The rise of automobile ownership, government policies favoring highway construction, and the desire for suburban living fueled rapid expansion beyond traditional urban cores. Economic prosperity combined with affordable land on city outskirts made sprawling developments attractive to both developers and homeowners.

Moreover, zoning laws that segregate land uses and the availability of cheap credit contributed to the growth of suburban subdivisions. These factors collectively created a feedback loop encouraging further sprawl, as residents sought larger homes and better schools away from congested city centers.

The Environmental and Social Implications of Sprawl

While sprawl can offer perceived benefits such as increased housing availability and perceived quality of life improvements, it carries significant environmental and social costs. A field guide to sprawl must address these complexities to provide a balanced understanding.

Environmental Concerns

Urban sprawl is a leading contributor to habitat fragmentation and loss of agricultural land. The conversion of greenfields into built environments disrupts ecosystems, reduces biodiversity, and alters natural water flows, increasing flood risks. Additionally, sprawling areas tend to have higher per capita energy consumption due to greater reliance on cars and less efficient infrastructure.

Air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions are exacerbated by longer travel distances and traffic congestion inherent in sprawling suburbs. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transportation accounts for nearly 29% of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, with sprawling metropolitan areas contributing disproportionately to this figure.

Social and Economic Dimensions

From a social perspective, sprawl can lead to increased segregation by income and race, as wealthier populations move to suburban enclaves, leaving urban centers with concentrated poverty.

This spatial mismatch can reduce access to employment opportunities and essential services for disadvantaged groups.

Economically, sprawling development demands extensive infrastructure investments—roads, utilities, schools—that are costly to build and maintain. These expenses often strain municipal budgets, sometimes resulting in reduced service quality or increased taxes. Furthermore, the dependence on cars raises household transportation costs, disproportionately affecting lower-income families.

Alternatives and Solutions to Sprawl

In response to the challenges posed by urban sprawl, planners and policymakers have explored various strategies aimed at promoting more sustainable and equitable urban growth.

Smart Growth and Compact Development

Smart growth principles advocate for development that is environmentally responsible, economically viable, and socially inclusive. Emphasizing higher-density, mixed-use neighborhoods with access to public transit reduces the need for automobile travel and preserves open space.

Key features of smart growth include:

1. **Walkable neighborhoods:** Designing streetscapes that encourage walking and cycling.
2. **Mixed land use:** Integrating residential, commercial, and recreational spaces.
3. **Transit-oriented development:** Concentrating growth near public transit hubs.
4. **Preservation of natural areas:** Protecting green spaces and agricultural land through zoning and incentives.

Urban Growth Boundaries and Zoning Reform

Some cities have implemented urban growth boundaries (UGBs) to limit outward expansion and encourage infill development within existing urban areas. Portland, Oregon, is often cited as a successful example where UGBs have helped contain sprawl and promote higher-density living.

Reforming zoning codes to allow for more flexible land uses and denser housing options—such as duplexes, triplexes, and accessory dwelling units—can also mitigate sprawl by increasing housing supply closer to city centers.

Measuring and Managing Sprawl: Tools and Metrics

Quantifying sprawl is essential for effective management and policy formulation. Urban researchers employ various metrics to assess the extent and impact of sprawl, including:

- **Density measures:** Population or housing units per square mile/kilometer.
- **Land use mix indices:** Degree of integration between residential, commercial, and other land uses.
- **Connectivity and street network analysis:** Evaluates accessibility and walkability.
- **Transportation mode share:** Percentage of trips made by private vehicle versus public transit, walking, or cycling.

Advances in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing have enhanced the ability to monitor sprawl patterns over time, enabling more data-driven urban planning decisions.

Case Studies: Comparing Sprawl Across Cities

A comparative look at metropolitan regions reveals stark differences in sprawl intensity. For example, Atlanta, Georgia, is often cited as a sprawling city with extensive low-density suburbs and heavy car dependency. In contrast, cities like New York and San Francisco exhibit denser, more transit-oriented development patterns.

Internationally, sprawling growth is not confined to the United States. Cities in developing countries face rapid, often unplanned, expansion, leading to informal settlements and infrastructure challenges. However, some European cities with strong land-use regulations and public transit systems have managed to limit sprawl effectively.

The Future of Urban Growth: Navigating Sprawl in a Changing World

As urban populations continue to rise globally, managing sprawl becomes increasingly urgent. Climate change, resource constraints, and shifting demographics demand more sustainable approaches to urban development. Integrating green infrastructure, promoting active transportation, and fostering equitable access to housing and jobs will be vital.

Technological innovations, such as smart city applications and mobility-as-a-service platforms, may also reshape how cities grow and function, potentially mitigating some negative effects of sprawl. Yet, these solutions must be coupled with sound policies and community engagement to be effective.

In sum, a field guide to sprawl not only illuminates the complexities of urban expansion but also underscores the need for informed, proactive responses to shape healthier, more resilient cities for the future.

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a field guide to sprawl: A Field Guide to Sprawl Dolores Hayden, 2004 A visual lexicon of the colorful slang, from alligator investment to zoomburb, that defines sprawl in America. May well establish Ms. Hayden as the Roger Tory Peterson of Sprawl. --New York Times

a field guide to sprawl: A Field Guide to American Houses (Revised) Virginia Savage McAlester, 2015-11-10 The fully expanded, updated, and freshly designed second edition of the most comprehensive and widely acclaimed guide to domestic architecture: in print since its original publication in 1984, and acknowledged everywhere as the unmatched, essential guide to American houses. This revised edition includes a section on neighborhoods; expanded and completely new categories of house styles with photos and descriptions of each; an appendix on Approaches to Construction in the 20th and 21st Centuries; an expanded bibliography; and 600 new photographs and line drawings.

a field guide to sprawl: The Hub's Metropolis James C. O'Connell, 2013-03-22 The evolution of the Boston metropolitan area, from country villages and streetcar suburbs to exurban sprawl and "smart growth." Boston's metropolitan landscape has been two hundred years in the making. From its proto-suburban village centers of 1800 to its far-flung, automobile-centric exurbs of today, Boston has been a national pacesetter for suburbanization. In *The Hub's Metropolis*, James O'Connell charts the evolution of Boston's suburban development. The city of Boston is compact and consolidated—famously, "the Hub." Greater Boston, however, stretches over 1,736 square miles and ranks as the world's sixth largest metropolitan area. Boston suburbs began to develop after 1820, when wealthy city dwellers built country estates that were just a short carriage ride away from their homes in the city. Then, as transportation became more efficient and affordable, the map of the suburbs expanded. The Metropolitan Park Commission's park-and-parkway system, developed in the 1890s, created a template for suburbanization that represents the country's first example of regional planning. O'Connell identifies nine layers of Boston's suburban development, each of which has left its imprint on the landscape: traditional villages; country retreats; railroad suburbs; streetcar suburbs (the first electric streetcar boulevard, Beacon Street in Brookline, was designed by Frederic Law Olmsted); parkway suburbs, which emphasized public greenspace but also encouraged commuting by automobile; mill towns, with housing for workers; upscale and middle-class suburbs accessible by outer-belt highways like Route 128; exurban, McMansion-dotted sprawl; and smart growth. Still a pacesetter, Greater Boston has pioneered antisprawl initiatives that encourage compact, mixed-use development in existing neighborhoods near railroad and transit stations. O'Connell reminds us that these nine layers of suburban infrastructure are still woven into the fabric of the metropolis. Each chapter suggests sites to visit, from Waltham country estates to Cambridge triple-deckers.

a field guide to sprawl: How to Read the American West William Wyckoff, 2014-05-01 From deserts to ghost towns, from national forests to California bungalows, many of the features of the

western American landscape are well known to residents and travelers alike. But in *How to Read the American West*, William Wyckoff introduces readers anew to these familiar landscapes. A geographer and an accomplished photographer, Wyckoff offers a fresh perspective on the natural and human history of the American West and encourages readers to discover that history has shaped the places where people live, work, and visit. This innovative field guide includes stories, photographs, maps, and diagrams on a hundred landscape features across the American West. Features are grouped according to type, such as natural landscapes, farms and ranches, places of special cultural identity, and cities and suburbs. Unlike the geographic organization of a traditional guidebook, Wyckoff's field guide draws attention to the connections and the differences between and among places. Emphasizing features that recur from one part of the region to another, the guide takes readers on an exploration of the eleven western states with trips into their natural and cultural character. *How to Read the American West* is an ideal traveling companion on the main roads and byways in the West, providing unexpected insights into the landscapes you see out your car window. It is also a wonderful source for armchair travelers and people who live in the West who want to learn more about the modern West, how it came to be, and how it may change in the years to come. Showcasing the everyday alongside the exceptional, Wyckoff demonstrates how asking new questions about the landscapes of the West can let us see our surroundings more clearly, helping us make informed and thoughtful decisions about their stewardship in the twenty-first century. Watch the trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYSmp5gZ4-I>

a field guide to sprawl: The Aesthetics of Nostalgia TV Alex Bevan, 2019-02-07 The *Aesthetics of Nostalgia TV* explores the aesthetic politics of nostalgia for 1950s and 60s America on contemporary television. Specifically, it looks at how nostalgic TV production design shapes and is shaped by larger historical discourses on gender and technological change, and America's perceived decline as a global power. Alex Bevan argues that the aesthetics of nostalgic TV tell stories of their own about historical decline and progress, and the place of the baby boomer television suburb in American national memory. She contests theories on nostalgia that see it as stagnating, regressive, or a reversion to outdated gender and racial politics, and the technophobic longing for a bygone era; and, instead, argues nostalgia is an important form of historical memory and vehicle for negotiating periods of historical transition. The book addresses how and why the shows construct the boomer era as a placeholder for gender, racial, technological, and declensionist discourses of the present. The book uses *Mad Men* (AMC, 2007-2015), *Ugly Betty* (ABC, 2006-2010), *Desperate Housewives* (ABC, 2004-2012), and film remakes of 1950s and 60s family sitcoms as primary case studies.

a field guide to sprawl: The City Reader Richard T. LeGates, Frederic Stout, 2015-07-16 The sixth edition of the highly successful *The City Reader* juxtaposes the very best classic and contemporary writings on the city to provide the comprehensive mapping of the terrain of Urban Studies and Planning old and new. *The City Reader* is the anchor volume in the Routledge Urban Reader Series and is now integrated with all ten other titles in the series. This edition has been extensively updated and expanded to reflect the latest thinking in each of the disciplinary areas included and in topical areas such as compact cities, urban history, place making, sustainable urban development, globalization, cities and climate change, the world city network, the impact of technology on cities, resilient cities, cities in Africa and the Middle East, and urban theory. The new edition places greater emphasis on cities in the developing world, globalization and the global city system of the future. The plate sections have been revised and updated. Sixty generous selections are included: forty-four from the fifth edition, and sixteen new selections, including three newly written exclusively for *The City Reader*. The sixth edition keeps classic writings by authors such as Ebenezer Howard, Ernest W. Burgess, LeCorbusier, Lewis Mumford, Jane Jacobs, and Louis Wirth, as well as the best contemporary writings of, among others, Peter Hall, Manuel Castells, David Harvey, Saskia Sassen, and Kenneth Jackson. In addition to newly commissioned selections by Yasser Elshehawey, Peter Taylor, and Lawrence Vale, new selections in the sixth edition include writings by Aristotle, Peter Calthorpe, Alberto Camarillo, Filip DeBoeck, Edward Glaeser, David Owen, Henri Pirenne, The Project for Public Spaces, Jonas Rabinovich and Joseph Lietman, Doug

Saunders, and Bish Sanyal. The anthology features general and section introductions as well as individual introductions to the selected articles introducing the authors, providing context, relating the selection to other selection, and providing a bibliography for further study. The sixth edition includes fifty plates in four plate sections, substantially revised from the fifth edition.

a field guide to sprawl: Look Closer David R. Coon, 2013-12-17 In recent years, the media landscape in the United States has followed a pattern similar to that of the physical landscape by becoming increasingly suburbanized. Although it is a far cry from reality, the fantasy of a perfect suburban life still exists in the collective imagination of millions of Americans. This dream of suburban perfection is built around a variety of such ideologically conservative values and ideals as the importance of tradition, the centrality of the nuclear family, the desire for a community of like-minded neighbors, the need for clearly defined gender roles, and the belief that with hard work and determination, anyone can succeed. Building on the relationships between suburban life and American identity, *Look Closer* examines and interprets recent narratives that challenge the suburban ideal to reveal how directors and producers are mobilizing the spaces of suburbia to tell new kinds of stories about America. David R. Coon argues that the myth of suburban perfection, popularized by postwar sitcoms and advertisements, continues to symbolize a range of intensely debated issues related to tradition, family, gender, race, and citizenship. Through close examinations of such films as *American Beauty*, *The Truman Show*, and *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* as well as such television series as *Desperate Housewives*, *Weeds*, and *Big Love*, the book demonstrates how suburbia is used to critique the ideologies that underpin the suburban American Dream.

a field guide to sprawl: The Nocilla Trilogy Agustín Fernández Mallo, 2019-02-19 A landmark in contemporary Spanish literature, Agustín Fernández Mallo's *Nocilla Trilogy*—*Nocilla Dream*, *Nocilla Lab*, and *Nocilla Experience*—presents multiple narratives of people and places that reflect America and the world in the digital age of the twenty-first century. In the middle of the Nevada desert stands a solitary poplar tree covered in hundreds of pairs of shoes. Farther along Route 50, a lonely prostitute falls in love with a collector of found photographs. In Las Vegas, an Argentine man builds a peculiar monument to Jorge Luis Borges. On the run from the authorities, Kenny takes up permanent residence in the legal non-place of Singapore International Airport, while the novelists Enrique Vila-Matas and Agustín Fernández Mallo encounter each other on an oil rig. These are just a few of the narrative strands that make up Fernández Mallo's *Nocilla Trilogy*—*Nocilla Dream*, *Nocilla Experience*, and *Nocilla Lab*. Greeted as a landmark in contemporary Spanish literature, the entire trilogy has not been available in English until now. "By juxtaposing fiction with non-fiction . . . the author has created a hybrid genre that mirrors our networked lives, allowing us to inhabit its interstitial spaces. A physician as well as an artist, Fernández Mallo can spot a mermaid's tail in a neutron monitor; estrange theorems into pure poetry." —Andrew Gallix, *TheIndependent* "An encyclopedia, a survey, a deranged anthropology: *Nocilla Dream* is just the coldhearted poetics that might see America for what it really is. There is something deeply strange and finally unknowable about this book, in the very best way." —Ben Marcus, author of *The Flame Alphabet*

a field guide to sprawl: William R. Freudenburg, a Life in Social Research Susan Maret, 2013-12-18 True to the nature of the *Gedenkschrift*, this commemorative publication celebrates the work of sociologist Dr. William Freudenburg, one of the founding editors of *RSPPP* and Dehlsen Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara.

a field guide to sprawl: Hope and Grief in the Anthropocene Lesley Head, 2016-02-22 The Anthropocene is a volatile and potentially catastrophic age demanding new ways of thinking about relations between humans and the nonhuman world. This book explores how responses to environmental challenges are hampered by a grief for a pristine and certain past, rather than considering the scale of the necessary socioeconomic change for a 'future' world. Conceptualisations of human-nature relations must recognise both human power and its embeddedness within material relations. Hope is a risky and complex process of possibility that carries painful emotions; it is something to be practised rather than felt. As centralised governmental solutions regarding climate

change appear insufficient, intellectual and practical resources can be derived from everyday understandings and practices. Empirical examples from rural and urban contexts and with diverse research participants - indigenous communities, climate scientists, weed managers, suburban householders - help us to consider capacity, vulnerability and hope in new ways.

a field guide to sprawl: *Return to Wild America* Scott Weidensaul, 2024-03-26 In 1953, birding guru Roger Tory Peterson and noted British naturalist James Fisher set out on what became a legendary journey-a one hundred day trek over 30,000 miles around North America. They traveled from Newfoundland to Florida, deep into the heart of Mexico, through the Southwest, the Pacific Northwest, and into Alaska's Pribilof Islands. Two years later, *Wild America*, their classic account of the trip, was published. On the eve of that book's fiftieth anniversary, naturalist Scott Weidensaul retraces Peterson and Fisher's steps to tell the story of wild America today. How has the continent's natural landscape changed over the past fifty years? How have the wildlife, the rivers, and the rugged, untouched terrain fared? The journey takes Weidensaul to the coastal communities of Newfoundland, where he examines the devastating impact of the Atlantic cod fishery's collapse on the ecosystem; to Florida, where he charts the virtual extinction of the great wading bird colonies that Peterson and Fisher once documented; to the Mexican tropics of Xilitla, which have become a growing center of ecotourism since Fisher and Peterson's exposition. And perhaps most surprising of all, Weidensaul finds that much of what Peterson and Fisher discovered remains untouched by the industrial developments of the last fifty years. Poised to become a classic in its own right, *Return to Wild America* is a sweeping survey of the natural soul of North America today.

a field guide to sprawl: *Sprawling Places* David Kolb, 2010-01-25 People often bemoan the spread of malls, suburban strips, subdivisions, and other sprawling places in contemporary America. But are these places as bad as critics claim? In *Sprawling Places*, David Kolb questions widely held assumptions about our built environments. Kolb agrees there is a lot not to like about many contemporary places, but to write them off simply as commodified "nonplaces" does not treat them critically. Too often, Kolb says, aesthetic character and urban authenticity are the focus of critics, when it is more important to understand a place's complexity and connectedness. Kolb acknowledges that the places around us increasingly have banal exteriors, yet they can be complex and can encourage their inhabitants to use them in multiple, nonlinear ways. Ultimately, Kolb believes human activity within a place is what defines it. Even our most idealized, classical places, he shows, change over the course of history when subjected to new linkages and different flows of activity. Engaging with the work of such writers and critics as Henri Lefebvre, Manuel Castells, Karsten Harries, and Christian Norberg-Schulz, Kolb seeks to move discussions about sprawl away from the idea that we must "choose between being rooted in the local Black Forest soil or wandering in directionless space." By increasing our awareness of complexity and other issues, Kolb hopes to broaden and deepen people's thinking about the contemporary built environment and to encourage better designs in the future.

a field guide to sprawl: *American Democracy and the Pursuit of Equality* Merlin Chowkwanyun, Randa Serhan, 2016-01-08 This collection assembles some of the country's foremost social scientists in one volume. It contains diverse investigations of metropolitan transformation, recent education policy, the (in)justice of disaster relief, the politics of aesthetics and design, immigration, the mass media, social movements, and the practice of social science itself, among others. Whatever their subjects, the writers investigate the promise and constraints of democratic practice in a time of disturbing growth in inequality and political disempowerment. Although they at times differ from one another, more often, they challenge popular received wisdom on a number of these topics. Cumulatively, the volume amounts to a critical sociological excavation of the United States from its leading social critics that will prove useful to specialists and general readers alike.

a field guide to sprawl: *The Politics of Public Space* Setha Low, Neil Smith, 2013-01-11 Why is public space disappearing? Why is this disappearance important to democratic politics and how has it become an international phenomenon? Public spaces are no longer democratic spaces, but instead centres of private commerce and consumption, and even surveillance and police control. *The Politics*

of Public Space extends the focus of current work on public space to include a consideration of the transnational - in the sense of moving people and transformations in the nation or state - to expand our definition of the 'public' and public space. Ultimately, public spaces are one of the last democratic forums for public dissent in a civil society. Without these significant central public spaces, individuals cannot directly participate in conflict resolution. The Politics of Public Space assembles a superb list of contributors to explore the important political dimensions of public space as a place where conflicts over cultural and political objectives become concrete.

a field guide to sprawl: *The New American Landscape* Thomas Christopher, 2011-04-21

Gardeners are the front line of defense in our struggle to tackle the problems of global warming, loss of habitat, water shortages, and shrinking biodiversity. In *The New American Landscape*, author and editor Thomas Christopher brings together the best thinkers on the topic of gardening sustainably, and asks them to describe the future of the sustainable landscape. The discussion unfolds from there, and what results is a collective vision as eloquent as it is diverse. *The New American Landscape* offers designers a roadmap to a beautiful garden that improves, not degrades the environment. It's a provocative manifesto about the important role gardens play in creating a more sustainable future that no professional garden designer can afford to miss. John Greenlee and Neil Diboll on the new American meadow garden Rick Darke on balancing natives and exotics in the garden Doug Tallamy on landscapes that welcome wildlife Eric Toensmeier on the sustainable edible garden David Wolfe on gardening sustainable with a changing climate Elaine Ingham on managing soil health David Deardorff and Kathryn Wadsworth on sustainable pest solutions Ed Snodgrass and Linda McIntyre on green roofs in the sustainable residential landscape Thomas Christopher on waterwise gardens Toby Hemenway on whole system garden design *The Sustainable Site Initiative* on the managing the home landscape as a sustainable site

a field guide to sprawl: *Urban Geography* David Kaplan, Steven Holloway, 2024-09-04

Provides a comprehensive and up-to-date treatment of Urban Geography The leading undergraduate textbook on the subject, *Urban Geography* covers the origins, historical development, and contemporary challenges of cities and metropolitan areas around the world. Incorporating the most recent research in urban studies, authors David H. Kaplan and Steven R. Holloway provide an overview of the dynamic field, introduce key elements of urban theory and methodology, analyze issues of immigration, ethnicity, and urbanism, and more. Exploring the urban experience in a global context, 16 student-friendly chapters address urbanization processes, industrial urbanization, discrimination in the housing market, gentrification, metropolitan governance, urban planning, geographical and political fragmentation, urban immigration, urban-economic restructuring, and more. Each chapter includes an introductory road map, learning objectives, definitions of key terms, discussion questions, and suggestions for research topics and activities. The fourth edition of *Urban Geography* contains two entirely new chapters on urban transportation and the relationship between cities and the environment, including climate change and natural disasters. New discussion of the impact of COVID-19 and other health aspects of cities is accompanied by new data, new figures, new themes, and new pedagogical tools. In this edition, the authors present traditional models of urban social space and new factors that organize intra-urban space, such as globalization and postmodernism. Examining cities in the developed world and in less developed regions, *Urban Geography, Fourth Edition*, is the ideal textbook for Urban Geography classes and related courses in Urban Studies, Sociology, and Political Science programs.

a field guide to sprawl: *The Street* Naa Oyo A. Kwate, 2021-05-14 Using MacArthur fellow Camilo José Vergara's intimate street photographs of Camden, New Jersey as reference points, the essays in this collection address everything from law enforcement to health care in order to analyze these images within the context of troubled histories and misguided policies that have exacerbated racial and economic inequalities.

a field guide to sprawl: *The Orphaned Land* V. B. Price, 2011-11-16 Although most people prefer not to think about them, hazardous wastes, munitions testing, radioactive emissions, and a variety of other issues affect the quality of land, water, and air in the Land of Enchantment, as they

do all over the world. In this book, veteran New Mexico journalist V. B. Price assembles a vast amount of information on more than fifty years of deterioration of the state's environment, most of it hitherto available only in scattered newspaper articles and government reports. Viewing New Mexico as a microcosm of global ecological degradation, Price's is the first book to give the general public a realistic perspective on the problems surrounding New Mexico's environmental health and resources.

a field guide to sprawl: Remote Sensing of Urban and Suburban Areas Tarek Rashed, Carsten Jürgens, 2010-06-03 Remote Sensing of Urban and Suburban Areas provides instructors with a text reference that has a logical and easy-to-follow flow of topics around which they can structure the syllabi of their urban remote sensing courses. Topics have been chosen to bridge the gap between remote sensing and urban studies through a better understanding of the science that underlies both fields. In so doing, the book includes 17 chapters written by leading international experts in respected fields to provide a balanced coverage of fundamental issues in both remote sensing and urban studies. Emphasis is placed on: theoretical and practical issues in contemporary urban studies and remote sensing; the spectral, spatial and temporal requirements of remotely sensed data in relation to various urban phenomena; methods and techniques for analyzing and integrating remotely sensed data and image processing with geographic information systems to address urban problems; and examples of applications in which applying remote sensing to tackle urban problems is deemed useful and important.

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