

Introduction to Urban Planning

1. What Is Urban Planning?

- **Definition** – The systematic process of shaping the physical layout, infrastructure, and services of towns and cities to improve the quality of life for residents, support economic vitality, and protect the environment.
 - **Key Goals**
 - **Livability:** Safe, healthy, and enjoyable public spaces.
 - **Sustainability:** Efficient use of resources and reduced environmental impact.
 - **Equity:** Fair access to housing, transportation, jobs, and amenities.
 - **Resilience:** Ability to adapt to climate change, natural hazards, and social shifts.
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2. Historical Overview

Period	Major Developments	Representative Projects
Ancient & Classical (c. 3000?BC – 500?AD)	Grid?based city layouts (e.g., Mohenjo?Daro, Hippodamian plan).	Roman road network, Greek polis.
Medieval (500–1500)	Organic growth, fortified towns, narrow streets.	European walled cities, market squares.
Industrial Revolution (18th–19th?c.)	Rapid expansion, poor sanitation, emergence of zoning concepts.	London’s Metropolitan Board of Works, Paris Haussmann renovations.
Modernist Era (early?mid 20th?c.)	Functional zoning, car?centric design, high?rise housing.	Le Corbusier’s “Radiant City,” Bras?lia.
Post?Modern & New Urbanism (late 20th?c.)	Mixed?use neighborhoods, walkability, community participation.	Seaside, FL; Portland’s urban growth boundary.

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Period	Major Developments	Representative Projects
21st Century (present)	Smart city technologies, climate-responsive design, equity-focused policies.	Singapore's integrated planning, Copenhagen's climate adaptation plan.

3. Core Principles

1. **Comprehensive Planning** – Long-term vision covering land use, transportation, housing, environment, and public services.
 2. **Participatory Process** – Engaging citizens, stakeholders, and private sector early and throughout the planning cycle.
 3. **Integrated Land Use & Transportation** – Aligning development patterns with transit options to reduce car dependence.
 4. **Mixed Use Development** – Combining residential, commercial, and civic uses within walkable distances.
 5. **Density & Form** – Managing building heights, floor-area ratios, and street patterns to promote efficient land use.
 6. **Public Realm Emphasis** – Designing streets, parks, plazas, and sidewalks that encourage social interaction.
 7. **Environmental Stewardship** – Protecting natural resources, promoting green infrastructure, and reducing carbon footprints.
 8. **Economic Viability** – Supporting job creation, local businesses, and fiscal health of municipalities.
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4. The Planning Process

1. Pre-Planning / Visioning

- Data collection (demographics, land inventory, infrastructure).
- Vision workshops and scenario building.

2. Analysis

- **SWOT** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).

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- **GIS mapping** of land uses, transportation corridors, environmental assets.

3. Plan Development

- Draft land-use maps, zoning ordinances,