

Questions

Ch 1.1 presents information “almost exclusively drawn from European studies”. How would the understanding of land use, as presented in this section, differ if most of the studies were from the U.S.? From Asia? Africa?

In Figure 1.1.2, they assert that urban structural types are the “bridge between the science of urban ecology and urban planning”. Do you agree? Would there be a better way to categorize land use that bridges these two areas of science and planning? (Look at the categories presented in Fig. 1.1.3. Ecologically speaking, is there a difference between “Retail” and “Industry and business” land uses? How about accounting for percent evapotranspiring surfaces or vegetation type? Some sort of human-based categories?)

Urban sprawl or densification? Which is the lesser of two evils? Or, how could we improve upon either to make them more ecologically friendly?

In Ch. 1.1, do the suggestions they present in the conclusions adequately address the challenges of linking land use with ecological and ecosystem processes?

Ch. 1.1 presents a lot of information about how land is used in cities and how that land use has changed. How would you improve upon these studies they cite (or studies of land use in general)?

What could we do to counter the urban heat island effect in cities? (What improvements can be made to streets, buildings, roofs, transportation, etc.?)

What are the ecological repercussions of earlier flowering of plants in cities?

How could the urban heat island affect other (non-botanical) organisms living in urban areas?

If thermal stress is a problem for human health in urban areas, could it be a problem for other organisms? (Animals specifically) What about air pollution?

What organisms (or species) could potentially benefit from urban land use types and higher temperatures in urban areas?

Knowing what you do about ecology, how would you design an urban area to address some of these land use and air quality issues?