



**Urban planning** (urban, city, and town planning) is a technical and political process concerned with the control of the use of land and design of the urban environment, including transportation networks, to guide and ensure the orderly development of communities. It involves research and analysis, strategic thinking, architecture, urban design, public consultation, policy recommendations, implementation and management.

City Planners are concerned with the following:

- **Environmental Factors:** Environmental protection and conservation are of utmost importance to many planning systems across the world. Not only are the specific effects of development to be mitigated, but attempts are made to minimize the overall effect of development on the local and global environment.
- **Aesthetics:** All successful urban planning considers urban character, local identity, respects heritage, pedestrians, traffic, utilities and natural hazards.
- **Safety and Security:** Extreme weather, flood, or other emergencies can often be greatly mitigated with secure emergency evacuation routes and emergency operations centers. Many cities will also have planned, built safety features, such as levees, retaining walls, and shelters.
- **Reconstruction and Renewal:** Identifying and correcting **urban decay**, a process by which a city, or a part of a city, falls into a state of disrepair and neglect frequently due to depopulation, economic restructuring, property abandonment, high unemployment, fragmented families, political disenfranchisement, crime, and desolate urban landscapes.
- **Transportation:** The density of an urban environment increases traffic, which can harm businesses and increase pollution unless properly managed. Parking space for private vehicles requires the construction of large parking garages in high density areas. This space could often be more valuable for other development.
- **Economics:** Good communications and short travel distances increases the overall economic output of a city, and results in improved business and employment opportunities for its inhabitants.

