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| **Glossary** |  |
| **Chapter 22** |  |
| **land-use planning** | Planning to determine the best present and future uses of each parcel of land. |
| **megacity** | City with 10 million or more people. |
| **metropolitan area** | Geographic area containing a community with a population of 2,500 or more. The number of people used in this definition may vary, with some countries setting the minimum number of people at 10,000?50,000. See urban area. |
| **noise pollution** | Any unwanted, disturbing, or harmful sound that impairs or interferes with hearing, causes stress, hampers concentration and work efficiency, or causes accidents. |
| **smart growth** | Form of urban planning that recognizes that urban growth will occur but uses zoning laws and other tools to prevent sprawl, direct growth to certain areas, protect ecologically sensitive and important lands and waterways, and develop urban areas that are more environmentally sustainable and more enjoyable places to live. |
| **urban area** | Geographic area containing a community with a population of 2,500 or more. The number of people used in this definition may vary, with some countries setting the minimum number of people at 10,000?50,000. |
| **urban growth** | Rate of growth of an urban population. Compare degree of urbanization. |
| **urban sprawl** | Growth of low-density development on the edges of cities and towns. See smart growth. |
| **urbanization** | Creation or growth of urban areas, or cities, and their surrounding developed land. See degree of urbanization, urban area. |
| **zoning** | Designating parcels of land for particular types of use. |