Earth Day 2017
Texas Sprawl Report
Texas Eliminates about **20,000** acres of Natural Habitat and Farmland every **2 Months**.

That’s about **325** acres each day.

(From 2002-2012, Texas lost on average 118,800 acres a year. See table below)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Area of Developed Land (thousand acres)</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Added annual increment of Developed Land during period (acres)</th>
<th>Average daily amount of land consumed by sprawl during period (acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>5,188.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>5,703.2</td>
<td>1982-1987</td>
<td>103,040</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>6,249.0</td>
<td>1987-1992</td>
<td>109,160</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>7,749.1</td>
<td>1997-2002</td>
<td>165,340</td>
<td>453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>8,490.9</td>
<td>2002-2007</td>
<td>148,360</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>8,936.6</td>
<td>2007-2012</td>
<td>89,140</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td></td>
<td>1982-2012</td>
<td><strong>124,950</strong></td>
<td><strong>342</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

67% of lost open spaces related to POPULATION GROWTH

Causes of Sprawl in Texas, 1982-2012

- Population Increase: 67.4%
- Per Capita Land Use: 32.6%
Vanishing Open Spaces worst in the Texas Urban Triangle

From 1982 to 2012, the counties bordering on the Texas Urban Triangle accounted for 65% of open space lost in the state. From 2002 to 2012, it accounted for 77%.
THE COLOR-CODING on these maps is based on the percentage of each county that has been converted from natural habitat and farmland into residential, commercial, industrial, transportation and other development.

NumbersUSA determined the development percentage for each county by taking the number of acres of land that has already been developed and dividing that number by the total acreage of all land in a county. (The federal Natural Resources Conservation Service is the source that calculates the acreage of developed land for each county.)
PROJECTION BASED ON CURRENT TRENDS: This map shows the percentage of land in the Texas Urban Triangle that will be developed if the rate of Texas population growth continues at the 2000-2010 rate and if per capita land use remains at its 2012 level.

To estimate the amount of developed land there will be in Texas in 2050, NumbersUSA used population projections for each county by the Texas Demographic Center (Lloyd Potter, State Demographer) and multiplied those figures by the 2012 per capita land use for each county (according to the federal Natural Resources Service).
IF POPULATION GROWTH RATE CUT IN HALF: This map shows the percentage of developed land in Texas in 2050 based on the Texas Demographic Center's projections of each county’s population if the 2000-2010 growth rate is cut in half, and if the 2012 per capita land use rate remains the same.
Texas adds 8,700 people EVERY WEEK

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 to 2016)
The 8,700 new Texans every week need:

- **A place to live:** TEXAS adds **2,200 new housing units every week.** *(Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, “New Private Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits: 1-Unit Structures for Texas”)*

- **A place to drive:** TEXAS adds **48 miles of new road every week** (to handle nearly 8,950 additional vehicles put on its roads every week.) *(Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Functional System Lane-Length – 2000, 2015)*

- **A place to construct:** more schools, stores, office & government buildings, libraries, cultural centers, facilities for water, sewage & solid waste, and places to work, recreate, worship, entertain, and park.
To make room for all that Development Texas loses 2,500 acres of open space every week
The Factors in Sprawl

1. Growth in Per Capita Land Consumption

2. Population Growth
Where is Texas Population Growth Coming From?

- Births to native Texans
- Migration from other U.S. States
- New immigrants and births to immigrants
Immigration Numbers Drove Most Texas Population Growth From 2000 to 2012

5.1 million – total population growth in Texas

1.6 million – new immigrants (since 2000) in Texas +
1.3 million – births to all immigrants in Texas =
2.9 million new Texas residents due to federal immigration policies

57% – new immigrants & births to immigrants as percentage of all Texas population

(Sources: U.S. Census Dept.; Office of the State Demographer, Texas; Center for Immigration Studies)
Per Capita Land Consumption

= Average acreage to provide each resident with:

- Housing, schools, health care, government buildings
- Places of work, shopping, arts, recreation, worship
- Streets, roads, parking, waste treatment systems
Causes of Changes In Per Capita Land Consumption

A. DEVELOPMENT
B. TRANSPORTATION
C. QUALITY OF EXISTING COMMUNITIES
   (ability to hold onto residents)
D. NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD
## Per Capita Land Use in Texas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Per Capita Land Use</th>
<th>Change in PCLU</th>
<th>% Change PCLU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>0.33839</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0.34253</td>
<td>0.00413</td>
<td>1.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sprawl Due to Population Growth: 67.4%*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Per Capita Land Use</th>
<th>Change in PCLU</th>
<th>% Change PCLU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>0.35726</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0.34253</td>
<td>-0.01473</td>
<td>-4.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sprawl Due to Population Growth: 67.8%*

While per capita land use (PCLU) has decreased more recently, this has not been enough to offset total population growth.