

Urban Planners, Geographers Turn to Landsat for Answers

*“A vision
to observe
Earth for
the benefit
of all...”*

Interior Secretary
Stewart Udall, 1966

With urban growth continuing to spread across the United States and the planet, Landsat’s value in monitoring and measuring its effect on natural land cover grows as well.

Remotely-sensed satellite data are important for regulatory officials and urban geographers who must account for urbanization’s impact. A valuable resource to them, the National Land Cover Database, relies on Landsat to help it characterize land cover for the entire continental United States and Alaska.

Landsat and NLCD reveal:

- When urban growth is expanding into nearby forests and endangering habitat for wildlife.
- The percentage of urban surface imperviousness—*asphalt, concrete, and rooftops*—and how that can lead to urban flooding and reduced water quality.
- Important information about livability in large urban areas, everything from the number of parks to housing density.



A vision to observe Earth...
50th Anniversary Celebration

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