Urban Sprawl in New Jersey: Changes in Forest Cover for Selected Municipalities

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Introduction:

There is a phenomenon in the United States that is [illegible] of
far removed from the business areas where the residents spend much of their time traveling.

Urban sprawl is a major problem in the United States. And there are many environmental, social and [illegible] problems associated with it. Sprawl increases traffic, pollutes our air and water, worsens flood damage, destroys parks, farms and open space, wastes our tax money and crowds our children's schools.

Objective:

This project will examine sprawl in NJ by looking at particular hot spots of population increase and comparing these areas to changes in forest cover. It is hoped that this research will allow us to better understand how sprawl is affecting our communities so that we find solutions [illegible]

Methodology:

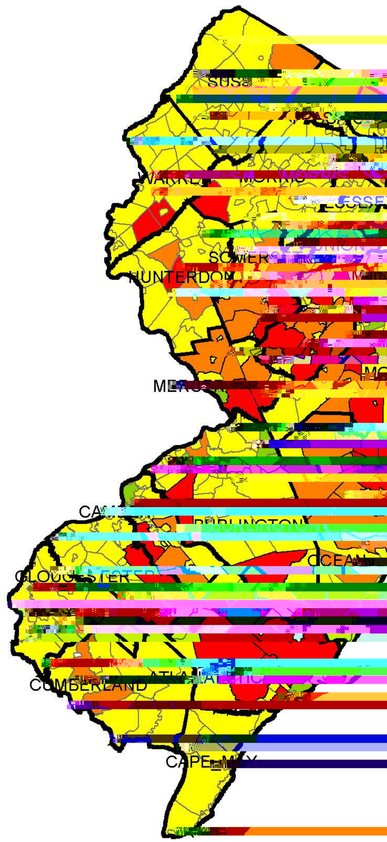
Most of the data needed for the project was gathered from Stockton College's GIS database. This included the 1976, 1986 and 1995 land use data as well as the census data from 1980, 1990, and 2000. The air photos used were gathered from the Ocean County Planning Department and the Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District.

For the first [illegible] of the project, the 1980 and 1990 [illegible] were combined. The change in municipal population over the 20 years was noted. Areas [illegible] population growth were found. Those [illegible] regions were then [illegible] selected.

For the second [illegible] part of the project, the change in forest cover for the municipalities from 1976 to 1995 was identified. After examining the data, patterns were noted and comparisons were made.

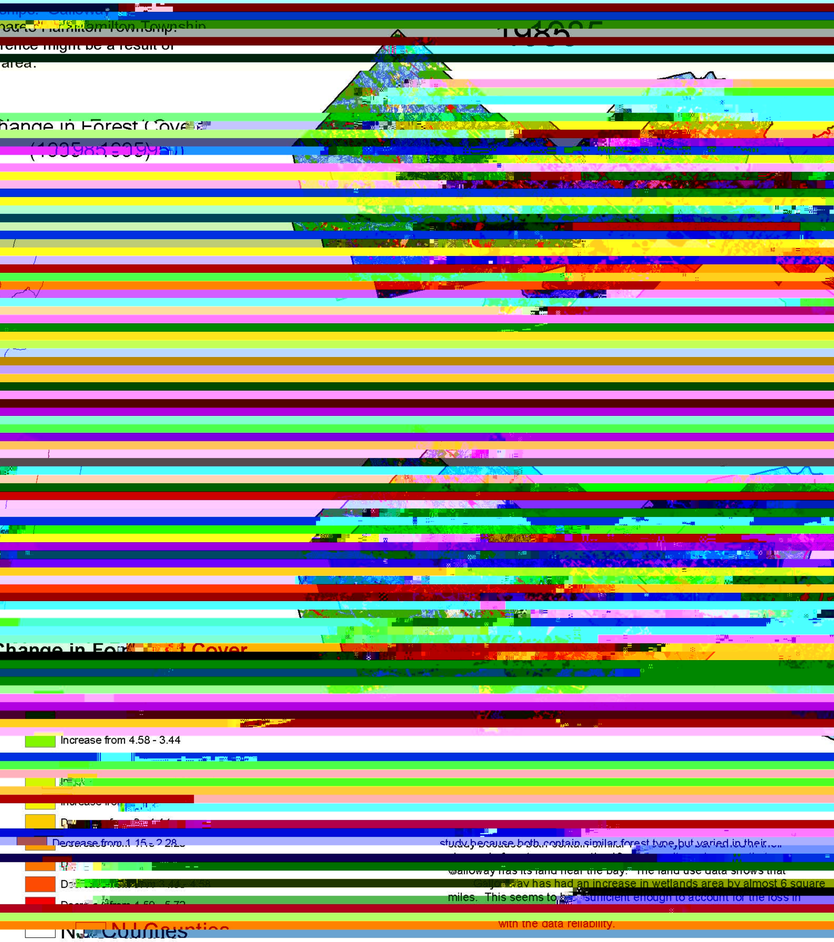
Abstract:

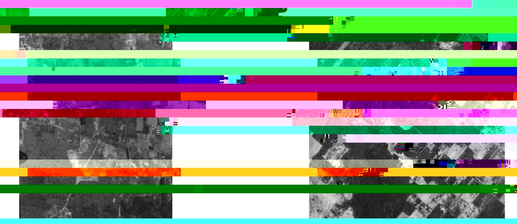
The objective of this project is to examine urban sprawl in New Jersey and to better understand how it is affecting the state. Sprawl affects our community environmentally, socially, and economically. This [illegible] the change in forest cover between [illegible] and 1995 for the selected two South Jersey municipalities. The changes in forest cover were compared for Hamilton and Galloway Townships. Galloway Township was found to have lost more forest than Hamilton Township. The paper concluded that a reason for this difference might be a result of an increase in wetlands area.

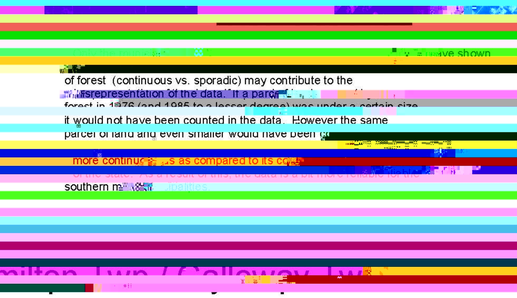


Population Change (1980-2000)

(Change in Forest Cover (1995-1976))







of forest (continuous vs. sporadic) may contribute to the misrepresentation of the data. If a parcel of forest in 1976 (and 1985 to a lesser degree) was under a certain size it would not have been counted in the data. However the same parcel of land and even smaller would have been [illegible] more continuous [illegible] as compared to its counterpart [illegible] southern m[illegible]

Hamilton Twp / Galloway Twp

1985

study because both contain similar forest type but varied in their [illegible] Galloway has its land near the Bay. The land use data shows that Galloway has had an increase in wetlands area by almost 6 square miles. This seems to be sufficient enough to account for the loss in with the data reliability.