

Environmental Degradation in the United States' Urban Cities: The Case of Atlanta, Georgia

Key Governing Institutions

- Agencies responsible for maintaining the environment, and all interacting social sectors, but have had limited success
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division
- Department of Community Health
- Department of Economic Development
- Department of Transportation
- Georgia Water Council



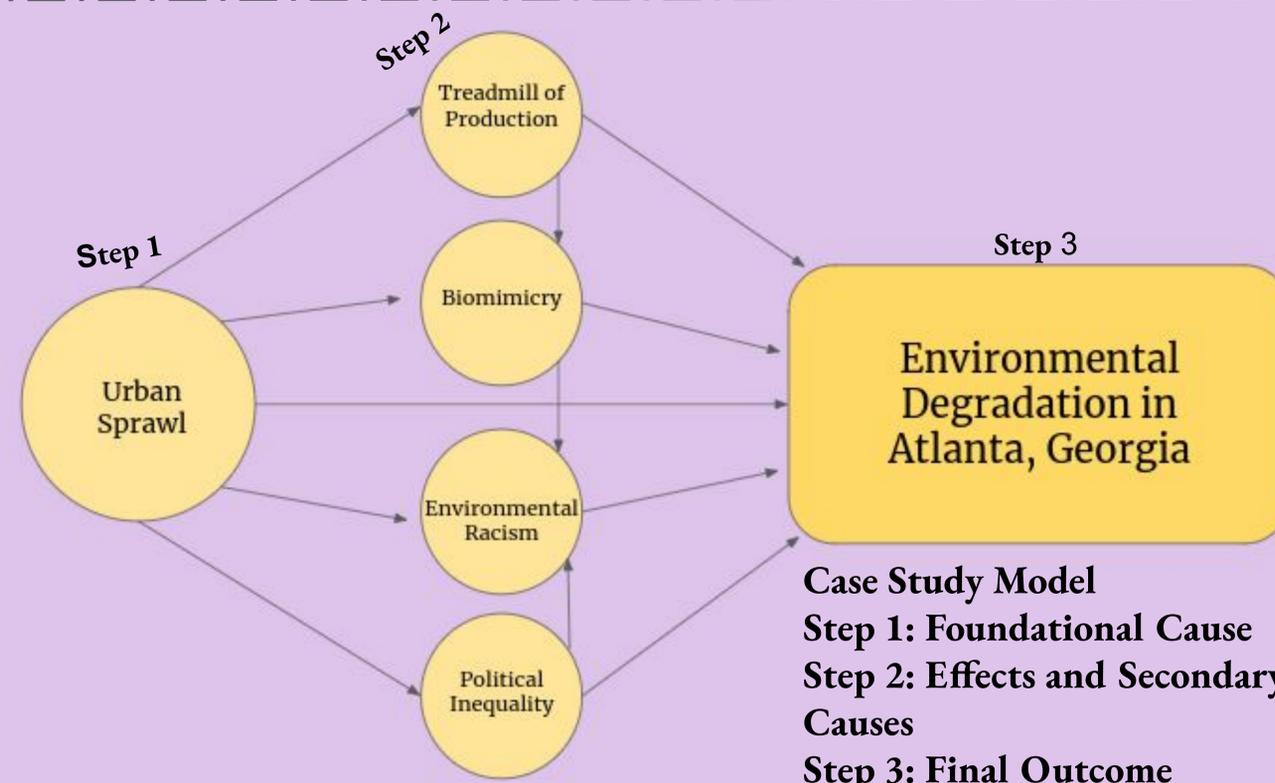
→ The city of Atlanta, Georgia, notoriously regarded as the “city in the forest”, has grown at an alarming rate (18.7% from 2010-2019, according to Census reports). The catalyzed rate of urbanization has exacerbated an unstable development pattern amongst the city’s environment, producing ecological deterioration in a variety of forms.

Comparative Urban City Cases

- Cases utilized to illuminate the issue related to urban sprawl, its counter effects, and its segway into environmental degradation
- Charlotte, North Carolina
- Miami, Florida
- Kansas City, Missouri

Instances of Environmental Degradation

- Ecological setbacks, as well as catalyzed social obstacles
- Deforestation (Land Use/Land Cover)
- Water Pollution (Sewer Overflows)
- Industrialized Air Pollution (Hazardous Waste Sites, Transportation)
- Disproportionate Effects (Drawbacks of a degrading environment being placed on marginalized communities of color in low socioeconomic areas)



Solutions to Urban Sprawl & its countereffects

- Smart growth/”new urbanism”- livable, walkable communities
- Preserving open space, agricultural areas, and historical sites
- Increase in transportation choices (i.e-mass transit)
- Construction of energy efficient, compact homes and houses
- Specific aid for underdeveloped, low socioeconomic areas