

A List of Current Density Resources

Visualizing Density Workshop

Julie Campoli, Terra Firma Design & Alex MacLean, Landslides

julie@eterrafirma.com

alex@landslides.com

- *Visualizing Density* (Book)
Available through the Lincoln Institute. <http://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/PubDetail.aspx?pubid=1178>
- Visualizing Density Web Site
An interactive web site about density created by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Activities include an overview of density issues, a density quiz, a searchable database of images and a block game for exploring various design approaches. <http://www.lincolninst.edu/subcenters/VD/>
- Affordable Housing Design Advisor
A site sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, showcasing high quality affordable housing. It emphasizes the link between good design and successful housing, featuring a gallery of projects as well as a design checklist. <http://www.designadvisor.org/>
- Demystifying Density
A lecture series from the Housing Design Advisor web site, making the case for residential density. Streaming video presentations are accompanied by PowerPoint slides. <http://www.designadvisor.org/>
- Metropolitan Design Center, Residential Design Project
Presentations illustrating density and housing types can be downloaded from this web site. They also offer a collection of images available for use. The center is housed within the University of Minnesota College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.
http://www.designcenter.umn.edu/projects/past/past_04_07/housing/mps_planning.html#Urban
- (The Other) Visualizing Density, Design Centre for Sustainability at UBC
Presentation made at a "Smart Growth on the Ground Forum," Squamish, B.C., featuring excellent graphics to illustrate density issues. <http://www.sgog.bc.ca/uplo/Sq2.10.05Kellett.pdf>
- Building Healthy Communities 101: Density and Design
The Los Angeles Housing Department features density and related issues as part of its web-based primer on housing, growth, and development. The site includes a basic discussion of the issues, an explanation of measures, and a broad selection of illustrated examples from around the city.
<http://www.lacity.org/lahd/curriculum/gettingfacts/design/index.html>
- Healthy Growth Calculator
This interactive site, developed by the Sierra Club, shows how density impacts the environment. It lets you select a density and highlight the differences in the use of land, materials, energy and driving.
http://www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/density/choose_density.asp
- Urban Advantage
The web site of a firm specializing in digital photo montages shows the before and simulated "after" views of infill development.
<http://www.urban-advantage.com>

- U.S. Census
Population and housing data for any census block in the country can be downloaded from this site. Visualizing Density Workshop instructions (attached) will walk you through the steps for calculating density for US Census blocks from Census 2000.
<http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?lang=en>

Publications

- *Santa Cruz Accessory Dwelling Unit Manual*
A “how to” manual for fitting second units into existing neighborhood parcels. Loaded with good design techniques. http://www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us/pl/hcd/ADU/PDF/ADU_Manual.pdf
- *Small lot residential development in Eugene, Oregon*
An analysis of site layout options for small parcels.
http://www.jtc.sala.ubc.ca/bulletins/density_small%20lot_eugene.pdf
- *The Energy Yardstick: Using PLACE³S to Create More Sustainable Communities*
Produced for the Center for Excellence for Sustainable Development and the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, this document lays out a process for measuring the energy efficiency and sustainability of various community development approaches. It compares the effects of low vs. high-density development on energy demand and describes ways to design communities for maximum energy efficiency.
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/places/PLACESGB.PDF>
- *Higher Density Development: Myth and Fact* Urban Land Institute, 2005
A joint publication of the National Multifamily Housing Council, the Sierra Club, and the American Institute of Architecture, this booklet refutes 10 common arguments against density. It includes several examples of recent projects to illustrate points.
<http://www.nmhc.org/Content/ServeFile.cfm?FileID=4647>
- *Creating Great Neighborhoods: Density in Your Community*
Produced by California’s Local Government Commission, in cooperation with the US EPA, and sponsored by the National Association of Realtors. This booklet features design principles, information about the link between smart growth and density, and case studies of projects in 9 communities. A PDF version of the document as well as a hard copy order form can be found at
<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/density.htm>
- *The Compact Development Compact Disc (CD2)*
A compact disc published by the California Local Government Commission that provides tools for those promoting dense development. It includes tools such as PowerPoint presentations advocating density, case study examples, surveys and a density guessing game to spark public discussion, as well as supplementary information on design guidelines and property values and affordability. An order form can be found at the LGC web site <http://www2.lgc.org/bookstore/detail.cfm?itemId=33>

Steps for Using the Census 2000 to Measure Density (units per acre)

1. On a map, define the area to be measured. Establish an address within the area.
2. Download the Data.
 - A. Go to the Main Menu of the US Census web site
[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet? lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet?lang=en)
 - B. Click on “Address Search” in the left column.
 - C. Enter the street, city and state of the address.
 - D. Under the “Geographies” section, click on Block number to highlight it.
 - E. Click on “Map It” and check the map to make sure it is the correct block.
 - F. Click OK.
 - G. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on “Census 2000 Summary File 1.”
 - H. You will see a table showing the population count for that block. Under “Detailed Tables” Click on “Tables”
 - I. In the list of tables, scroll down to H1. Housing Units. Highlight this and then click on “Add.” Click on “show result.” You will see the total number of housing units for that block in the H1 table.
3. Calculate the Density.
 - A. Using a mapping software program or measuring by hand, determine the number of acres in the area you defined. Make sure that it corresponds to the boundaries of the US Census blocks.

Divide the number of units by the number of acres.