December 26, 2007 | vol. 104 | no. 52 | 20637–21022

PNAS

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America www.pnas.org

Cover image: Suburban development in Howard County, MD. Spatial fragmentation as a function of distance from an urban center follows a parabolic curve, as the highly developed center gives way to countryside. Comparing the geography of the state of Maryland in 1973 and 2000, Irwin and Bockstael find that the parabolic curve has become higher and steeper, marking a significant increase in sprawl. See the article on pages 20672–20677. Image courtesy of Elena Irwin.

From the Cover

Contents

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

ANTHROPOLOGY

BIOCHEMISTRY

BIOPHYSICS

CELL BIOLOGY

DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

ECOLOGY