Identifying Land Use Change in the NJ Pinelands of the Past Two Decades Using GIS
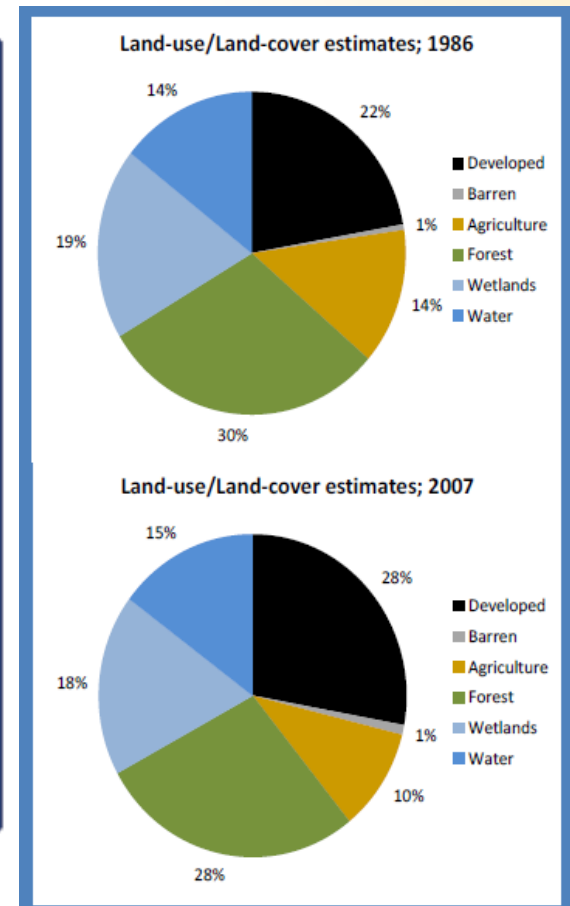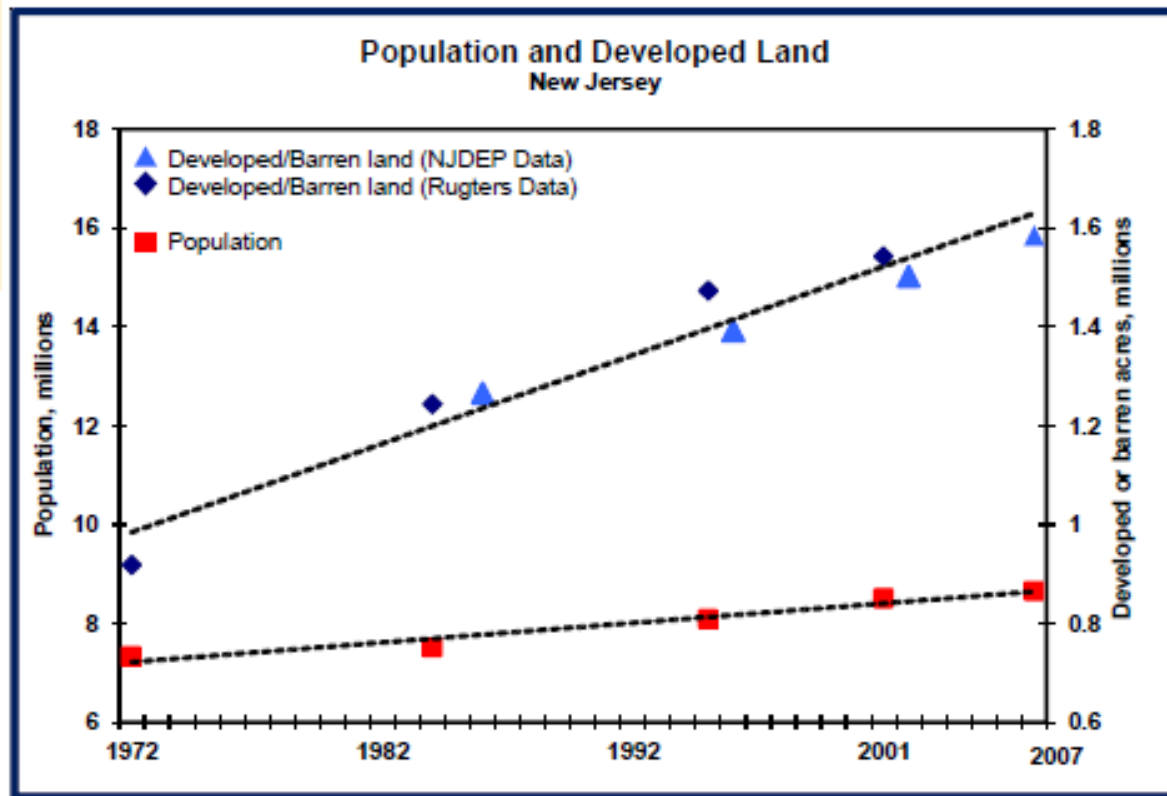
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Trend of the land use/cover change in NJ

Population and Developed Land
New Jersey

Land-use/Land-cover estimates; 1986

Land-use/Land-cover estimates; 2007

* Developed increased by 325,000 ac. 1986 – 2007.

* Developed area increased by 600,000 ac 1972 – 2001, a 68% of increase while population increased by 16%. (Data source: *Environmental Trends Report, NJDEP, Office of Science, http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/trends/*)

New Jersey Smart-growth Strategies

"promote community growth in a way that preserves open space, minimizes pollution and habitat loss, maximizes economic prosperity, and is equitable to all" (http://www.njfuture.org/smart-growth-101/).

* **Take Advantage of Existing Community Assets.** From local parks to neighborhood schools to transit systems, public investments should focus on getting the most out of what we have.

* **Preserve Open Space, Farmland, and Critical Environmental Areas.** People want to stay connected to nature and protect farms, waterways, ecosystems and wildlife.

* **Strengthen and Encourage Growth in Existing Communities.** We should look for opportunities to grow in already built-up areas before we pave new areas.

Objectives of the workshop

*Identify the location, the direction, and the trend of the land use changes;

*Quantify the changes; and

*Evaluate the changes in the context of New Jersey Smart-Growth strategies using GIS technology

Note: A worksheet is available in PDF format