

Abstract

(Sub)urbanization significantly change the character of the landscape in the suburbs. Moving population and economic activities in the hinterland of cities initiates changes of land cover and landscape structure. The landscape becomes more fragmented mainly due to transport infrastructure that binds to the construction of new commercial and residential areas. Characterizing landscape structure is possible using landscape metrics. For the analysis of Prague hinterland was selected 7 landscape metrics (percentage of land cover categories, number of patches, mean patch size, mean shape index, total edge, mean distance to the nearest neighbour and DIVISION index). Metrics were selected based on the research of world literature dealing with the phenomenon of urban sprawl. The aim was to select appropriate metrics describing landscape composition and landscape configuration, but at the same time with clear interpretation. The results suggest that significant changes in the landscape structure occurred during period of 55 years, in the Prague suburb. Most new buildings, whether residential or commercial, were built especially on former agricultural land. There is obviously lack of protection from the urban sprawl.

Keywords: (sub)urbanization, urban sprawl, landscape structure, land cover, landscape metrics