

# HIISTORY OF PLANNING: PART 1

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## Introduction

- The 1920's in the United States was regarded as the '*First great age of suburbanization*'.
- This chapter deals with the period ranging from the Great depression ( before World War-II) to the present age.

## Introduction conti..

- **United States of America and Europe have great influence on many parts of the world in terms of urban planning.**
- **The flow of third world students towards America and Europe has gradually decreased as third world ( Developing economies ) nations now have begun their own planning efficiently.**

## Colonial America

- **Communities were with broad powers to control economic activities for their own regions.**
- **For an instance, the municipalities decided whether an individual was capable enough to start their own business.**
- **The legacies that existed in a region like rectangular street patterns etc. gave a glimpse of the urban planning of that period.**

## Colonial America conti..

- **James Oglethorpe was the grantee of a region and he had the power to plan and impose an orderly pattern.**
- **In 1682, William Penn developed a plan for Philadelphia which gives an idea of the planning going on from a long period.**

## Colonial America conti..

- **The constitution contains numerous safeguards for the rights of private property.**
- **The revolution thereafter strengthened the claims of individualism and thus a more liberal system came into existence.**

## Limited Means and Growing Problems

- **Planning starts with a focus on the commercial heart of the city.**
- **More importance was given to rail road connectivity and roads that had linkages to sea ports.**
- **Street patterns were laid in the 'Grid Iron' pattern .**

## Limited Means and Growing Problems conti..

- **As population increased, the land prices rose and open spaces reduced extensively.**
- **A good number of public squares still remain which existed many years back.**
- **The plans made in the prerevolutionary period could not survive under the forces of growth.**

## Limited Means and Growing Problems conti...

- For example in Philadelphia, the plans made in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century like the broad streets, public open spaces and the setbacks for houses changed rapidly.
- There was no more public spaces and they got converted to commercial centers.

## The Pressure for Reform

- As urban population increased there was immense pressure for reformation.
- The urban unemployment problems increased due to the social injustice and that turned out to be the negative effect of reformations.

## Sanitary Reform

- In the mid-nineteenth century, the sanitary problems increased as human wastes were disposed in the backyard septic tanks.
- There was also contamination of drinking water sources.
- The sewer lines were built only for carrying storm water.

## Sanitary Reform conti..

- Then, an invention took place in England called the 'water carriage sewer'.
- The idea was to dispose the sewage by another pipeline of lesser diameter which could lead it to somewhere outside the city.
- The prospect for improvement in public health was enormous.

## Sanitary Reform conti..

- **Since the sewer lines need gravity to dispose off the matter, good planning is essential keeping in mind the topography of the region.**
- **Planning was only a part of the larger goal of a generally healthful environment.**

## Sanitary Reform conti..

- **Sanitation and Integrated Design:  
Frederick Law Olmsted designed a number of new communities to be a part of an integrated design.**
- **The design was done keeping in mind the contours (elevations ) of the region.**

## Sanitary Reform conti..

- The locations of open spaces and plantings were considered for their effects on the adequacy of light and ventilation.
- To prevent diseases, Mr. Frederick Law stated that there should be good air circulation, good sunlight and considerable plantations.

## Urban Open Space

- New York's Central park developed by Frederick Law and Calvin Vaux in 1857 is a good example of urban open spaces in America.
- Surrounded by dense urban population, this park gives Manhattanite a beautiful landscaped piece of view.



## Urban Open Space conti..

- **There's one more beautiful park in Brooklyn developed by Olmsted.**
- **Parks give a good feeling for the public who experience miles of urban occupation.**
- **Some more similar parks can be found in Chicago, Buffalo, Montreal, Detroit, Boston and the like.**

## Housing Reform

- **A major goal for the nineteenth century was the housing for the urban poor.**
- **United States decided to give the housing policy to the market.**
- **Government only wanted to regulate the market.**

## Housing Reform conti..

- **Most of the Americans live in houses that were made for profit by the private market.**
- **The United States didn't follow the approach of Europeans in connection to the housing policies.**

## The Tradition of Municipal Improvement

- **Planning tradition moved forward to be called as 'Municipal Improvement'.**
- **The main aim of these improvements were tree plantations, antibill-board campaigns and the like.**

## The Municipal Art Movement

- A fusion of art, architecture, and planning made it not only a place to live but also a place of beauty.
- Arches, fountains, statues, and other works of urban design and decoration in America are actually inspirations drawn from Europe.

## The City Beautiful Movement

- The city beautiful movement brought together the idea of municipal art, civic improvement, and landscape design.
- The best known example of city beauty planning is the Mall and its immediate surroundings in Washington D.C.

## The City Beautiful Movement conti..

- The city beautiful movement sought to create or remake sought to create or remake a part of the city: a civic centre.
- The examples of 'City beautiful movement are:
  1. Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn, New York
  2. The Pulitzer fountain at the fifth avenue in Manhattan.

## The Birth of Modern City Planning

- Plan of Chicago was considered as an important step in the City-Beautiful art movement.
- Chicago's Union station is one result of the plan.
- Street widening and overpasses in the cities was a major step towards city planning.

## The Birth of Modern City Planning conti..

- The planning is not all about technical works but involves political support as well.
- A version of the plan was done as a textbook and was used in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in city schools.
- There was a “Planning Commission” incharge of all the planning works.

## The Birth of Modern City Planning conti..

- The public investments were used on publicly owned lands.
- The frequent plan revision and updating and the view that the public should participate in the making of the plan were regarded as the setbacks for those planning.

## The Public Control of Private Property

- The community was divided into a number of zones displayed on a zoning map.
- The permitted uses, densities, and design for each zone are specified in the zoning ordinance.
- The zoning process as well as some related types of land-use controls are described in the coming chapters.

## The Rush to Zone

- There was a rush in zoning and many ordinances passed during that period.
- Zoning has the advantage of separating the commercial and residential areas.
- Zoning it so that only single family houses could be built seemed like an effective and a costless way to protect it from undesirable side effects of progress.

## The Rush to Zone conti...

- Zoning raises the property's value as residential and commercial lands would be separated.
- Most planners treat zoning as a step for master planning.
- Move towards zoning became more strong when 'Model state zoning enabling act' came in to existence in 1924.

## The Growth of Community Master Planning

- In 1920's, there were two dozen planning consultant firms showing the growth of master planning.
- Master plans included:
  1. Land Use controls
  2. Street patterns
  3. Transits
  4. Rails
  5. Public recreations
  6. Civic arts

## The Growth of Community Master Planning conti...

- **Safeguarding the property values, and making a community attractive for business were the major goals.**
- **Citizen participation was less and they wanted to work on that issue.**

## The Growth of Community Master Planning conti...

- **The plan made needs to be reviewed as changes might take place due to communities' changed attitudes towards any development.**
- **Many cities were developed during this period, prominent among them are – Radburn in New Jersey, Palos Verdes in California, Longview in Washington and the like.**



## The Emergence of Regional and State Planning

- The most comprehensive regional plan was one drawn up for the New York City region.
- The plan covered 5528 square miles of which 300 were New York city itself.
- The New York regional plan became a base for other city and state plannings.

## The Emergence of Regional and State Planning conti...

- The planners defined the region in the following manner:
  1. They embraced the region within boundaries
  2. Recreational centres were within the reach of the societies
  3. They followed the boundaries of cities and counties at the periphery
  4. Regard was shown to the watersheds and waterways

## Grander Visions

- **One main vision is not just seeking an improvement in the existing pattern but also in terms of restructuring human settlements.**
- **The regional patterns aim would be to have a fully developed city combined with a healthy environment and closeness to nature that was lost before in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.**

## Overview of the Chapter

- **The chapter thus gives a brief information about the 'History of planning in America' from 1920's to the end 19<sup>th</sup> century ( year 2000).**
- **The planning is thus an important component for a country's overall development and that has been illustrated all throughout the chapter.**

**Thanks a Lot**