

Sprawl defies region's static growth

Spreading out

Capital Region cities have lost population between 1980 and 2000, while the outlying towns have grown quickly — fueling sprawl.

Community Population growth/loss

Clifton Park	+9,006
Bethlehem	+7,008
Halfmoon	+6,614
Albany	-6,069
Schenectady	-6,151
Troy	-7,468

Source: "Open Space for Tomorrow," Open Space Institute

GREG MONTGOMERY/TIMES UNION



Report says nearsighted planning risks the loss of green spaces

By **KENNETH AARON**
Staff writer

ALBANY — Slowly — but not necessarily inexorably — sprawl is threatening the way of life Capital Region residents have grown accustomed to, according to a report set for release today.

While the region's population has increased only slightly over the past 20 years, towns outside

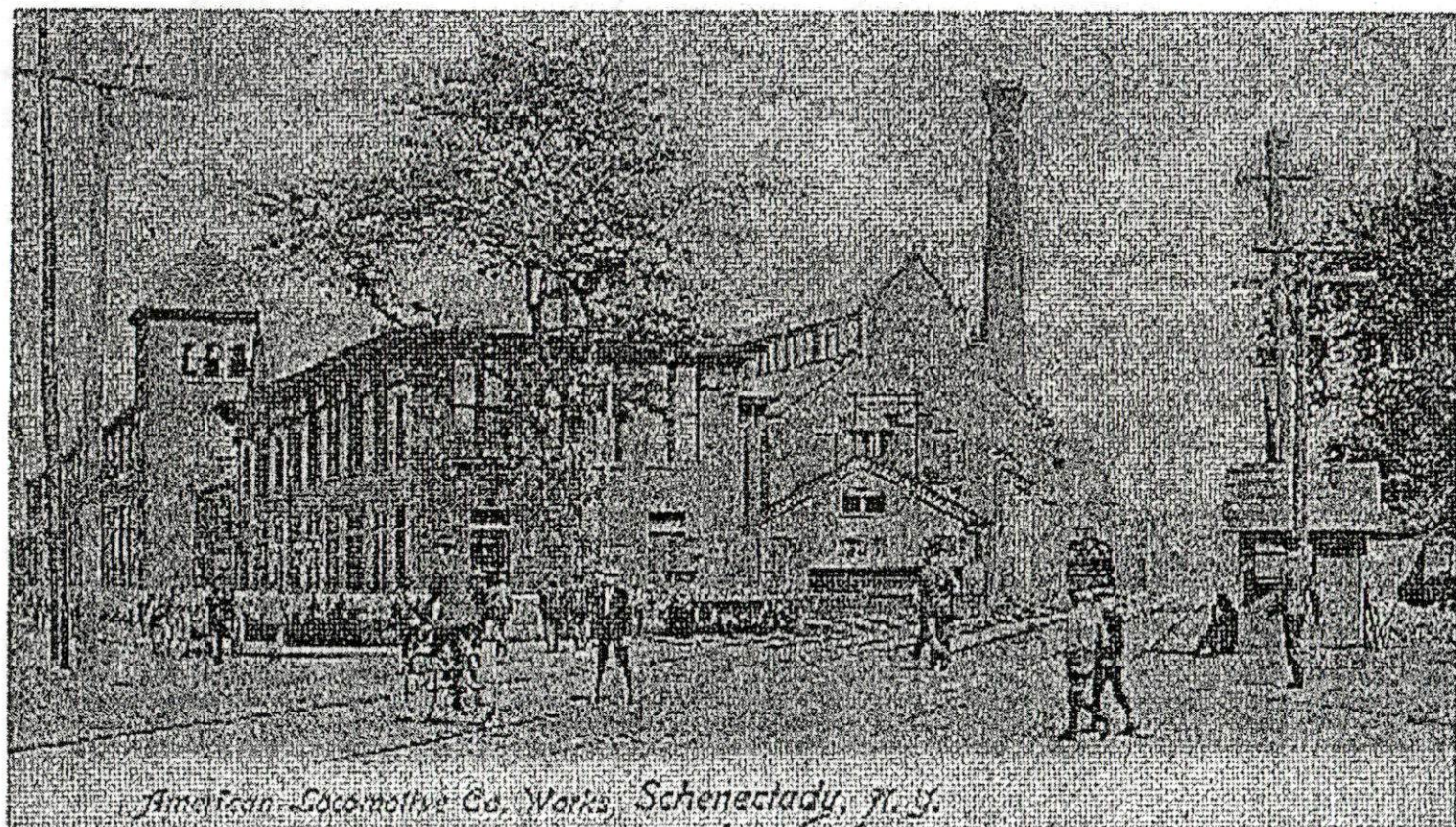
the region's larger cities are booming. The result has been haphazard, car-dependent communities that swallow open lands, according to the report by the Open Space Institute, a nonprofit land conservation group.

"You don't need growth to have sprawl," said David Sampson, a Troy attorney who helped prepare the study. "You just need somebody to move out of the city and live in the country."

Since 1980, there's been plenty of that. The area's population rose. Please see **SPRAWL A9**

American Locomotive Co. Works

Schenectady, N. Y.



old postcard of ca 1904

