



**Careers from A to Z:  
Uma the Urban  
Planner**

# WHO IS UMA?



Hi, I'm Uma! I'm an **urban planner**. An urban planner designs the layout of cities, like where buildings and sidewalks will be placed.

Have you ever wanted to design something? I did! When I was a kid, I liked designing buildings with legos and blocks. Now, I design cities. I make sure cities are beautiful and safe places for people to work and live. It is my job to make sure a city has enough roads, parks, and schools. I carefully plan where everything needs to be located, and I have to follow a lot of rules! These rules are called **building codes**. Part of my job is to know about the city codes and to investigate how to use the city's land. Come along with me today to learn more about my job!

## WHAT IS INFRASTRUCTURE?

Infrastructure refers to all of the things a city needs. For example, a city needs roads, water, hospitals, and electricity. As urban planners design cities, they must think about how infrastructure will work in the city. It's an urban planner's job to plan out where water pipes will go or make sure there are many roads to get to a hospital.

Could you imagine living in a place without these important things available?



# My Daily Schedule

*Come along and see what I do all day as an urban planner!*

**6:30 AM:** It's smoothie time! I brought my smoothie to work early this morning because I am working on a project to make a bridge for people to cross. The bridge will allow people to get to work quicker. Today, we are going to count the number of vehicles that drive through a busy intersection. The data we collect will help us learn how many people will use the bridge.

**9:00 AM:** Now, I am meeting with the mayor to learn about additional businesses that are coming to our city. We are planning to add parking garages, sidewalks, and parks.

**10:00 AM:** Wow! That meeting gives me a lot to think about. Let's go to my office and look at plans for a new dog park. I need to take one last look to make sure the final plans meet building codes.

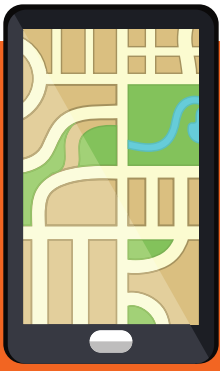
**11:15 AM:** The dog park plans are fabulous! Now, I'll call the newspaper and let them know we need to get a story ready. We want everyone to know about the new dog park.



**12:30 PM:** I am also working on a project that involves the **demolition** of a couple of old factories. Yes, we really are going to knock the buildings down! We tried to turn the old factories into something new, but we learned they were unsafe. This means we have to tear them down. Let's go walk around the factories with the construction company to hear how they will be demolished.

**1:20 PM:** This afternoon I will give a big presentation on the new development (new buildings) that will go into the space where the factories are being removed. I need a few minutes to go over the presentations before we head to the meeting. Time to go review my notes!

– Uma



# IT'S YOUR TURN

Look at the city map. Sections of Main Street will be closed for a month due to construction. You need to help establish new transportation routes. Complete the following instructions without crossing the closed areas of Main Street.

1. Draw the shortest walking route from the Post Office to the apartment building that includes a stop at the doughnut stand.
2. Draw the fastest route for a delivery truck from the Train Depot to the market.
3. Draw a route from the hotel to the stadium that includes a scenic view of the fountain. This route cannot cross over the route you took for the delivery truck above.
4. Draw the safest walking route for children from the school to the park so they do not have to go past the gas station.
5. Draw a route that takes kids to a fun place, a place to get food, and a place to sleep.

