

What's Hot at the Mall?

1. Open the **Madison Square Mall.kml** file in Google Earth. This is the aerial imagery of the area around the Madison Square Mall area in Huntsville, Alabama.
2. Examine the daytime **thermal image** in the figure below of the same area. In the **thermal image**, **warmer** temperatures are represented by **lighter shades of gray and white**. **Cooler temperatures** are represented by **darker shades**.



1. What is the largest warm feature on the image? (Hint: look for white areas).
The shopping mall.
2. What other features in the image are warm?
Buildings, parking lots, roads, and houses.
3. What is the largest cool feature on the image? (Hint: look for dark areas).
Wooded or forested areas.

4. What other features in the image are cool?

Individual trees.

5. Can you locate any cool spots in the mall parking lot area? What do you think these are?

Yes. Trees.

6. Why do you think some areas are warmer than other areas? For example, why do you think the shopping mall parking lot is warmer than the trees located south of the mall? (Hint: Think about sitting under a tree on a hot, summer day).

Some areas such as concrete surfaces of a mall parking lot absorbs and retains heat. Trees provide shade and prevent build up of heat.