

Tree Warden 01080800



What is “The Tree Warden”?

- ❑ Tree wardens are appointed public officials. Each municipality is required to have a tree warden.
- ❑ Under Conn. State General Statute Sec. 23-59 Powers and Duties, the tree warden is responsible for “the care and control of all trees and shrubs” along town public roads or on town grounds except those along state highways under the Control of Commissioner of Transportation. The tree warden is also responsible for assessing the need for the removal or pruning of town trees as matter of public safety.

Tree Warden Objectives

- ❑ Oversee the care, maintenance or removal of all public trees
- ❑ Address, assess and document tree concerns
- ❑ Protect and advocate trees to maximize the total amount of forest
- ❑ Protect the public from trees where necessary

Tree Warden Duties

- ❑ Coordinate pruning of trees for safety and health
- ❑ Assess trees for potential hazards to public safety
- ❑ Recommend the removal of Town trees that are dead/dying (*from storms, insects, disease or old age*)
- ❑ Coordinate and inspect contracted tree work
- ❑ Communicate with the public and address public concerns
- ❑ Provide tree program updates to the Town's Municipal Department Heads

Utility Maintenance

The Town's Tree Management Program and UI's Enhanced Tree Trimming Program (*ETT*) address different issues.

- ❑ Power outage prevention (*Enhanced Tree Trimming Program - ETT*)
 - *prune/remove trees near utility lines*
 - *United Illuminating Company removes all material*
- ❑ Tree work for the Town with wire involvement
 - *Tree Warden submits request to UI*
 - *UI contractor performs all work affecting utility lines and removes debris associated with such work*
 - *Town of Trumbull removes all remaining material*

What are some of the challenges?

Several factors that impact or are expected to impact Connecticut forests

Insects - often transported through international trade and make their way across the country in cargo, shipping materials, and even personal travel

- *Emerald Ash Borer*
- *Hemlock Woolly Adelgid - HWA*
- *Asian Longhorned Beetle – ALB (47% of trees in CT susceptible, 32% highly susceptible)*
- *Spongy Moth (oaks are more susceptible but affects most trees)*
- *Southern Pine Beetle*
- *Winter Moth (oak, maple, etc)*
- *Spotted Lanternfly (47% of trees in CT susceptible)*
- *Japanese Beetle (affects over 300 different species of plants)*



Ash borer

Disease - caused by a variety of organisms, including bacteria, viruses and, most commonly, fungi. Some of the most serious causes of tree mortality within the state have been diseases

- *Elongate hemlock scale – EHS*
- *Chestnut Blight*
- *Dutch Elm Disease*
- *Oak Wilt*
- *Beech Leaf Disease*
- *Anthracnose Diseases (ash, maple, oak, beech, birch, elm, walnut, dogwoods, etc.)*



Oak Wilt

Other factors

- *Drought*
- *Invasive plants*
- *Storms*
- *Aging urban forest*

Cost Drivers

- Urban forests in CT heavily impacted by emerald ash borer and the gypsy moth/drought ... high mortality in the late 2010's
- American Chestnut mostly wiped out in early 20th century by Chestnut Blight
- Northern red oak – *the leading species in 1950s – 1970's* - replaced by red maple
- Dying/diseased/damaged trees create public unsafe conditions
- Declining large tree population - replacement with smaller trees ... environmental benefits are less substantial
- Rising costs of tree removal are taxing on municipalities

Town Risk and Cost Mitigation Strategy

1962 Town Ordinance Amendment

ARTICLE III. TREES

Sec. 17-51. Planting permit.

No person shall plant any tree or shrub within the limits of any public road or grounds under the jurisdiction of the Tree Warden except upon approval of a written application made to the Tree Warden, setting forth the size, specie, type and location of each tree, bush or shrub for which a permit is requested. The Tree Warden shall consider the effect of planting the specified trees, bushes or shrubs upon the present and future use, safety, development and improvement of the highway for all lawful purposes, and he shall grant or deny such permit upon the basis of such considerations.

(Code 1962, § 13-1)

Charter reference(s)—Tree Warden, Ch. III, § 12G.

State law reference(s)—Trees generally, G.S. § 23-58 et seq.

https://library.municode.com/ct/trumbull/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIMUCO_CH17STSI_HI_ARTIIITR

Town Risk and Cost Mitigation Strategy

Define Tree “Public Right of Way” vs Private Property Tree



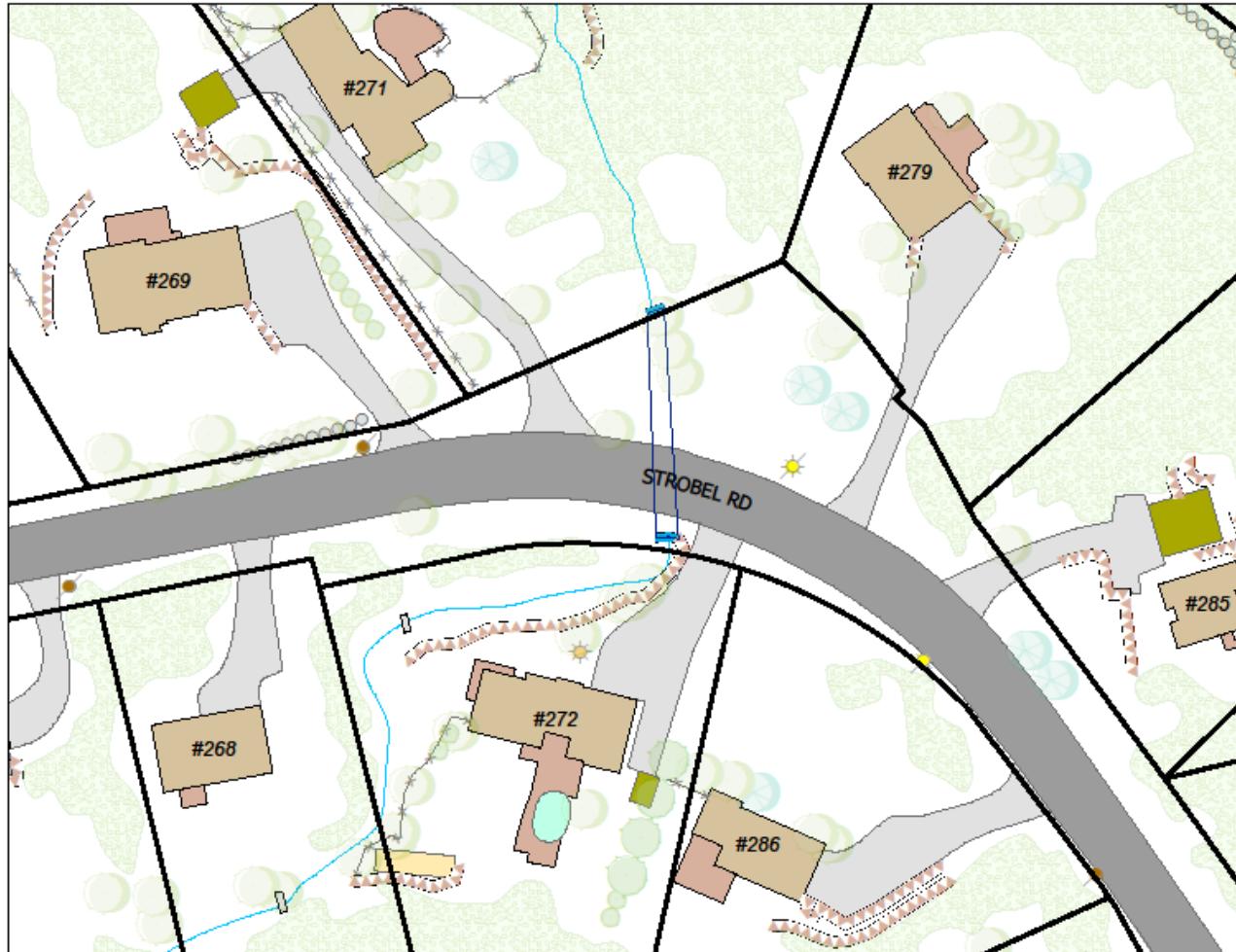
Town Risk and Cost Mitigation Strategy

Define Tree “Public Right of Way” vs Private Property Tree



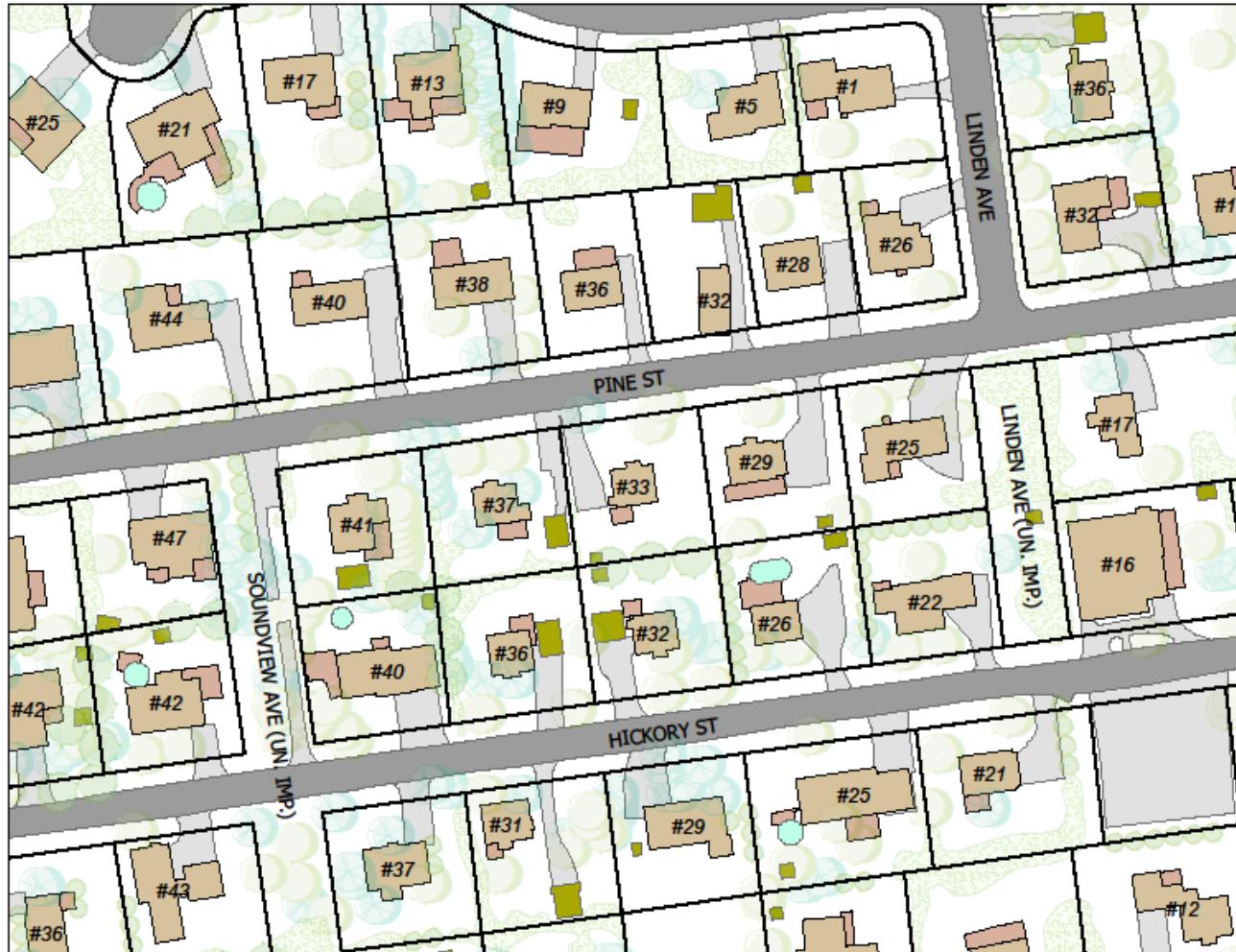
Town Risk and Cost Mitigation Strategy

Define Tree “Public Right of Way” vs Private Property Tree



Town Risk and Cost Mitigation Strategy

Define Tree “Public Right of Way” vs Private Property Tree



Tree Assessment Process Reporting - VEOCI

Workflow Entry ▾

Workflow Submission

Work order details

First Name

Last Name

Address  

Type of Tree Issue

Trees

Trees/Limbs/Branches Down - Road Obstruction

Tree Debris Removal

Reason for Call

Phone # 

Cell Phone 

Email

Tree Assessment

Inspection Date REQUIRED  

Species 

- Ash
- Beech
- Birch
- Black Locust
- Buttonwood
- Cedar
- Cherry
- Chestnut
- Crabapple

Priority REQUIRED 

- 1 - Highest
- 2
- 3 - Lowest

Drop files or click to add

Electrified REQUIRED Yes No

Tree Damage? REQUIRED Storm Disease Dead N/A

Pending  

N/A 

Risk Rating REQUIRED 

-  4 - Imminent
-  3 - Probable
-  2 - Possible
-  1 - Improbable

Yes  

No 

Recommendation

Recommendation

Remove  

Prune  

Raise / Clear / Reduce  

No action required  

Assigned to: REQUIRED 

Click the lock to edit the field. Change will be discarded if locked before submitting the change.

Date and time of recommended resolution REQUIRED  

Tree Assessment Criteria

Risk Level

High

Imminent (#4)

Immediate action required due to public safety concern.

Probable (#3)

Reported concern has been confirmed corrective action to be scheduled.

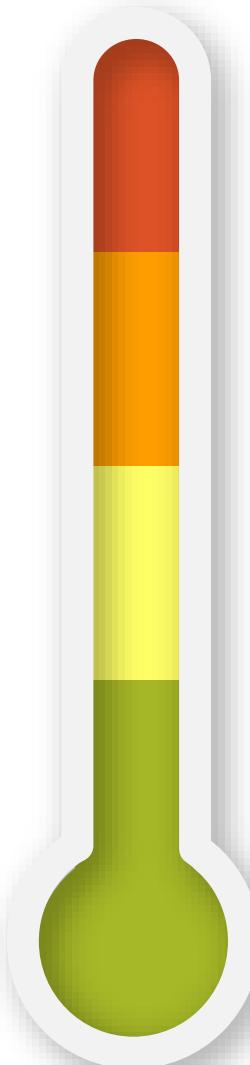
Possible (#2)

Assessment completed appropriate pruning to be scheduled.

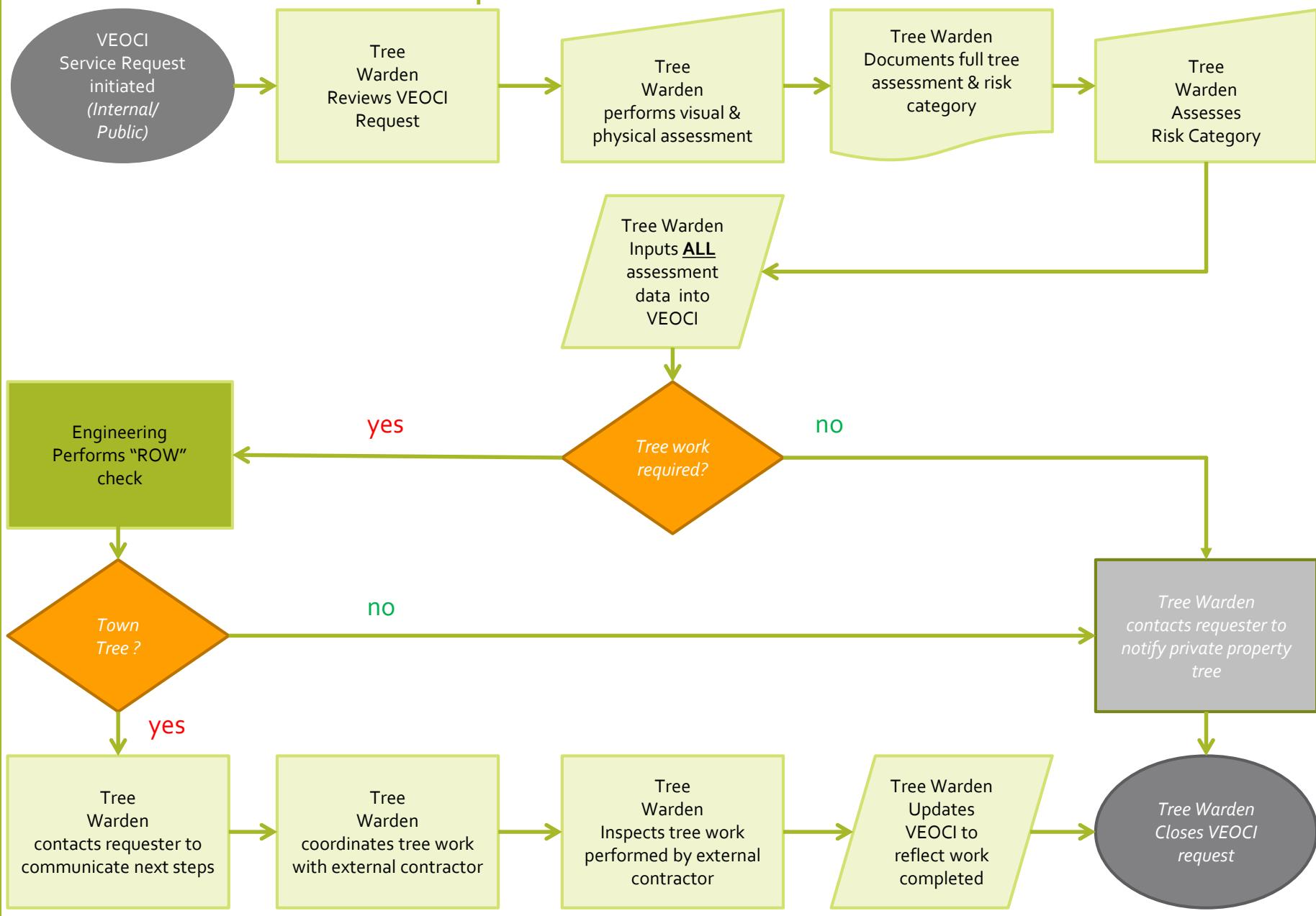
Low

Improbable (#1)

Determined to not required action or not within ROW. Proper notification provided to adjacent property owner if further action is required.



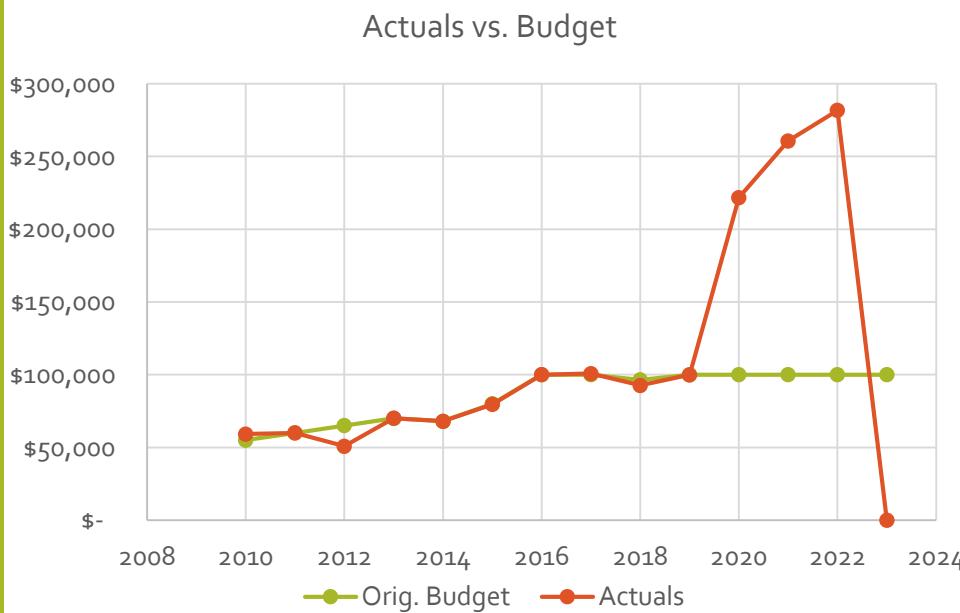
Tree Warden Process Map



VEOCI Tree Assessment Data FY2022

Risk Rating	Closed Tickets	Open Tickets	Total Tickets
4 - Imminent	47	2	49
3 - Probable	52	22	74
2 - Possible	8	-	8
1 - Improbable	38	23	61
<i>Pending Review</i>	-	64	64
Total	145	111	256

Financial Impact – Historical Budget vs. Actuals



FY	Orig. Budget	Rev. Budget	Actuals
2010	\$ 55,000	\$ 59,180	\$ 59,180
2011	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 59,980
2012	\$ 65,000	\$ 64,921	\$ 50,795
2013	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,052
2014	\$ 68,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 67,961
2015	\$ 80,000	\$ 79,935	\$ 79,574
2016	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2017	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,746	\$ 100,745
2018	\$ 96,500	\$ 93,278	\$ 92,598
2019	\$ 100,000	\$ 99,974	\$ 99,863
2020	\$ 100,000	\$ 221,736	\$ 221,735
2021	\$ 100,000	\$ 260,682	\$ 260,682
2022	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 281,773
2023	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -

Public Safety

- ✓ Always Respond to Public Safety Concerns
- ✓ Immediate Action & Notification



Communication

- ✓ Establish Improved Communication with BOF
- ✓ *Develop Quarterly Dashboard*

Processes

- ✓ Improve Tree Warden Work Order Processes
- ✓ New Tree Warden direct phone extension
- ✓ Mobile Work Order technology upgrades

Plan Going
Forward

APPENDIX

Tree Warden Statute

Sec. 23-59a. Required coursework for tree wardens. Failure to comply. Extension of time. Record of completion. Tree Wardens Association of Connecticut coursework. Exemptions. Fee. (a) Not later than one year after appointment or reappointment as a tree warden, pursuant to section 23-58, such tree warden shall successfully complete coursework, as approved by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection. The minimum requirements for such coursework shall include: Tree biology, tree maintenance and pruning, urban forest management and tree laws. The commissioner may administer such coursework or may, in the commissioner's sole discretion, delegate responsibility to administer such coursework to a professional or educational organization capable of providing such training.|

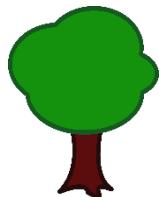
Why are forests important?

- ❑ Wildlife habitat
- ❑ Water quality & environmental protection
- ❑ Biodiversity
- ❑ Climate change mitigation
- ❑ Recreational benefits

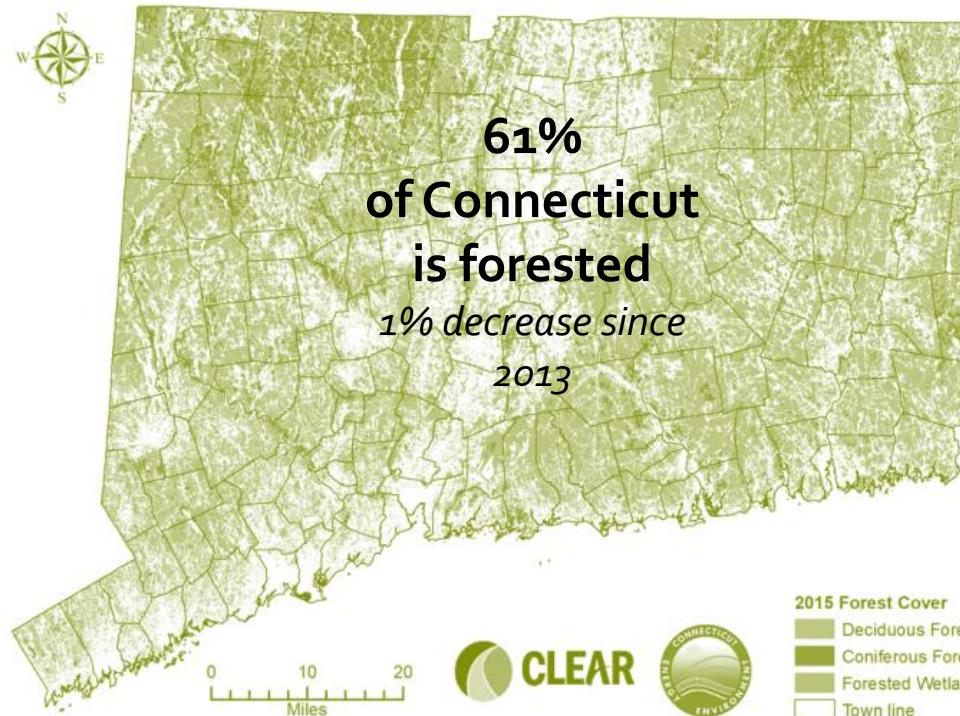
CT's 2020 Forest Landscape



Two people per acre of forest
7TH most in the U.S.



Oaks and Maples dominate forest landscape



CT has the highest urban cover in the U.S.
61.6%



~ 72% of trees are privately owned

CT's Forest Landscape

69% of Connecticut's forests are classified as an “oak/hickory forest type group”

An “oak/hickory forest type group” includes:

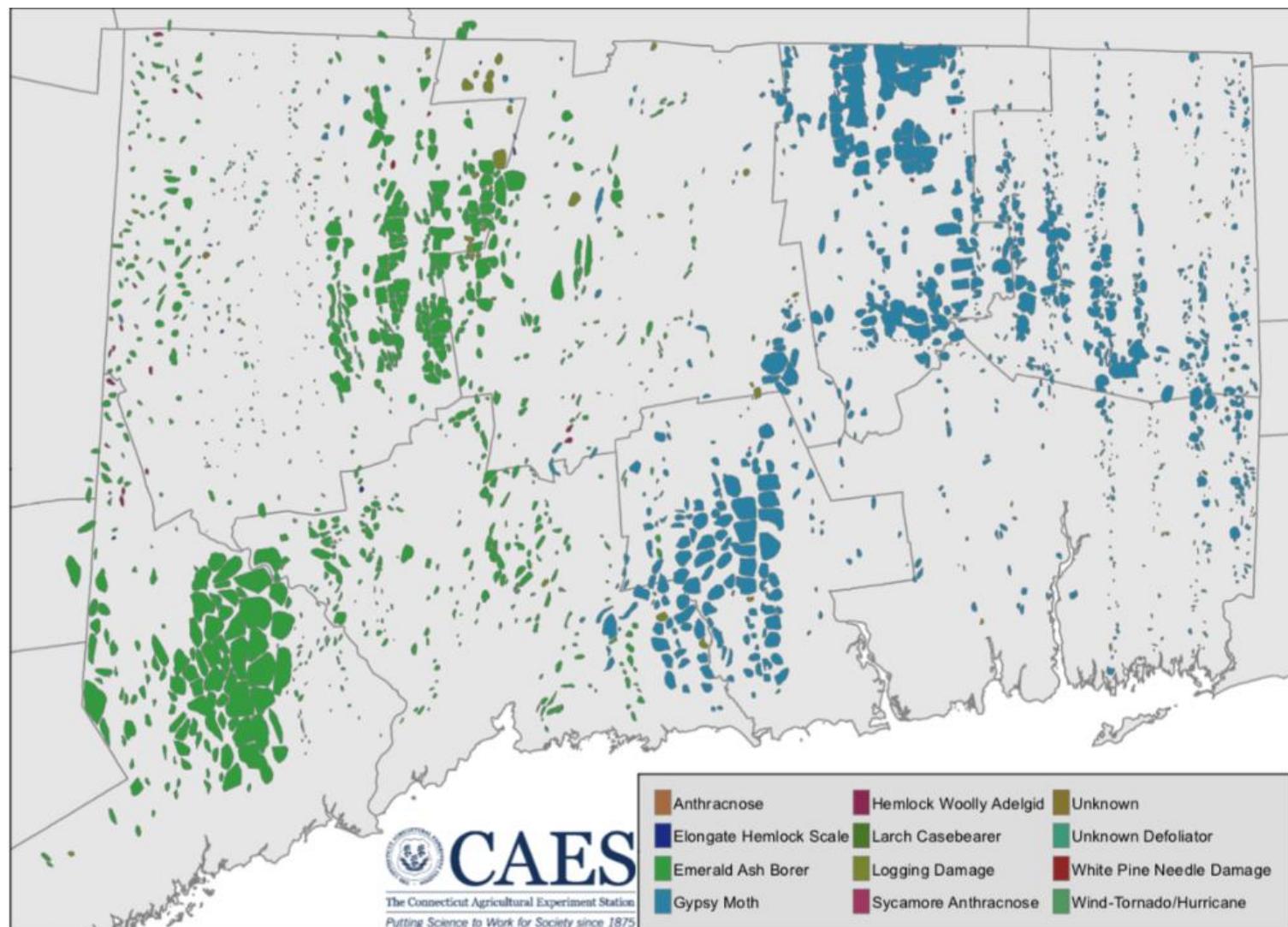
- *White oak/red oak/hickory*
- *Northern red oak*
- *Red maple/oak*
- *Chestnut oak/black oak/scarlet oak*
- *Cherry/white ash/yellowpoplar*
- *Mixed upland hardwoods*
- *Yellow-poplar/white oak/northern red oak*
- *Scarlet oak*
- *White oak*
- *Elm/ash/black locust*
- *Sassafras/persimmon*
- *Chestnut oak*

Top Ten Species by Volume (million ft ³)	
Red maple	948
Northern red oak	683
Black oak	411
Eastern white pine	343
Black birch	343
White oak	279
Eastern hemlock	229
White ash	211
Sugar maple	196
Scarlet oak	156

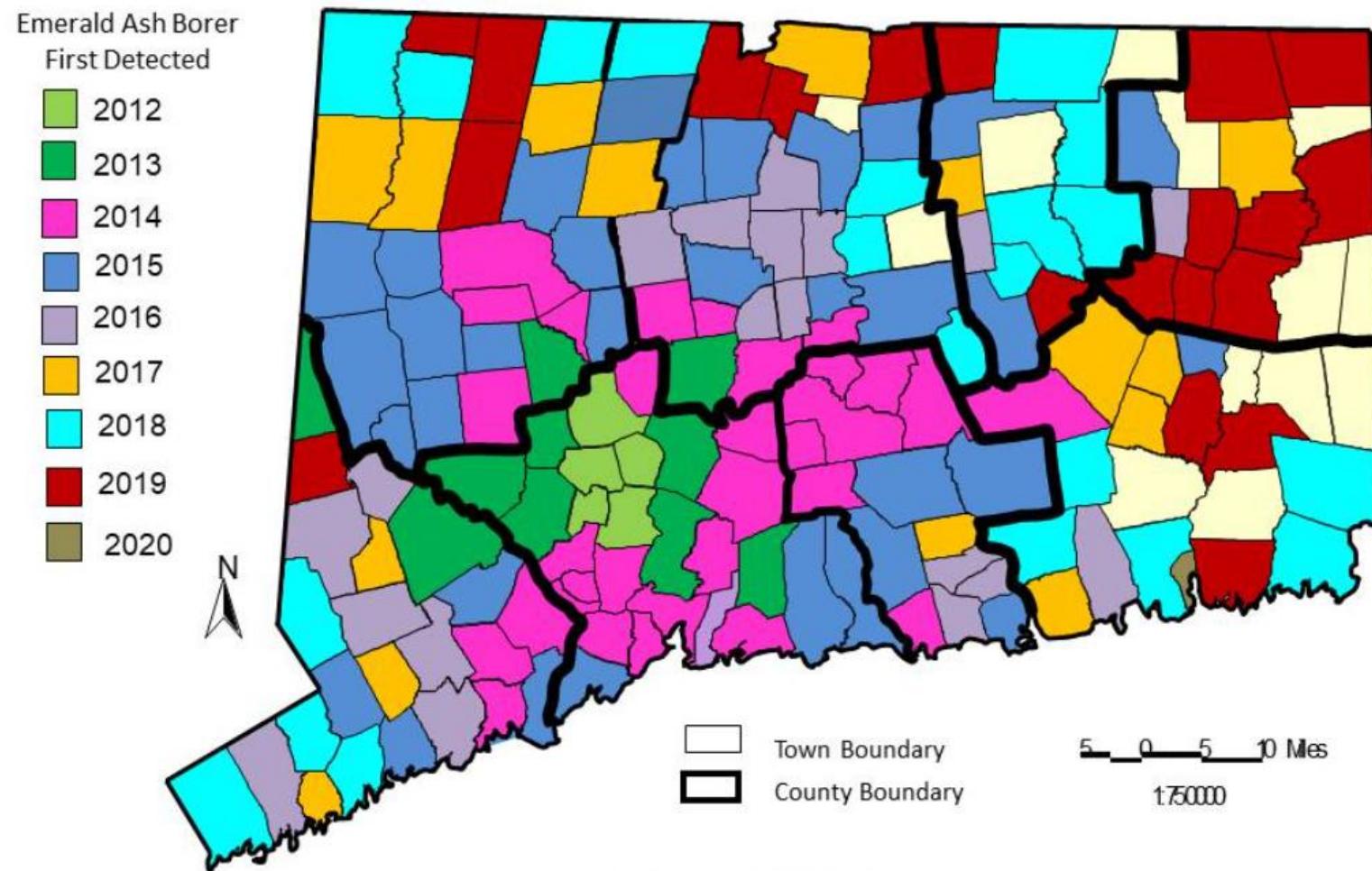
USDA Forest Service 2019

What is hurting and damaging our trees?

2019 Main Causes of Defoliation

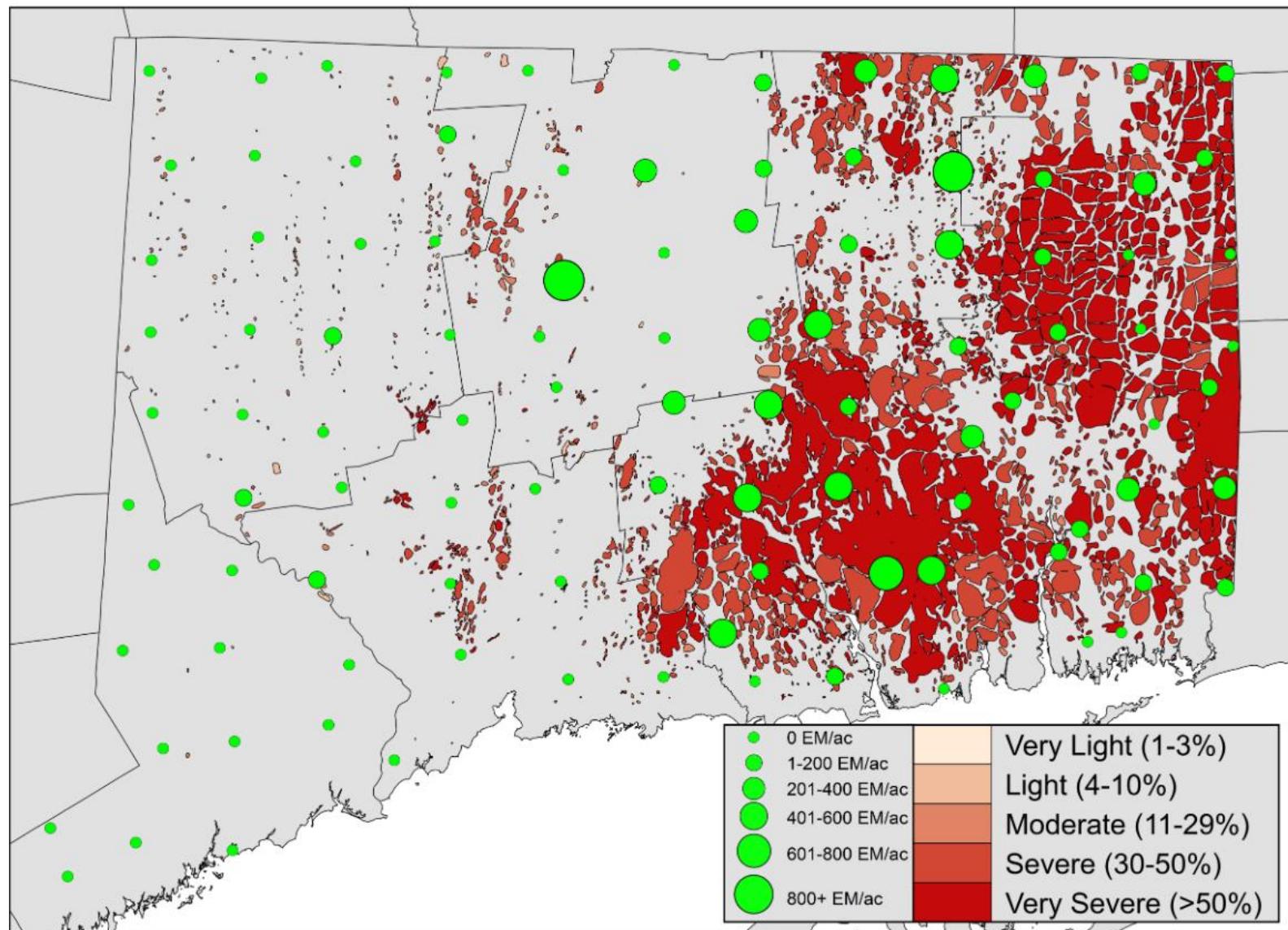


Emerald Ash Borer



Updated 1-9-2020

Spongy Moth (Gypsy Moth)



Source: CT DEEP

Tree Damage from Insects



Emerald Ash Borer damage



Spongy Moth defoliated trees in North Branford

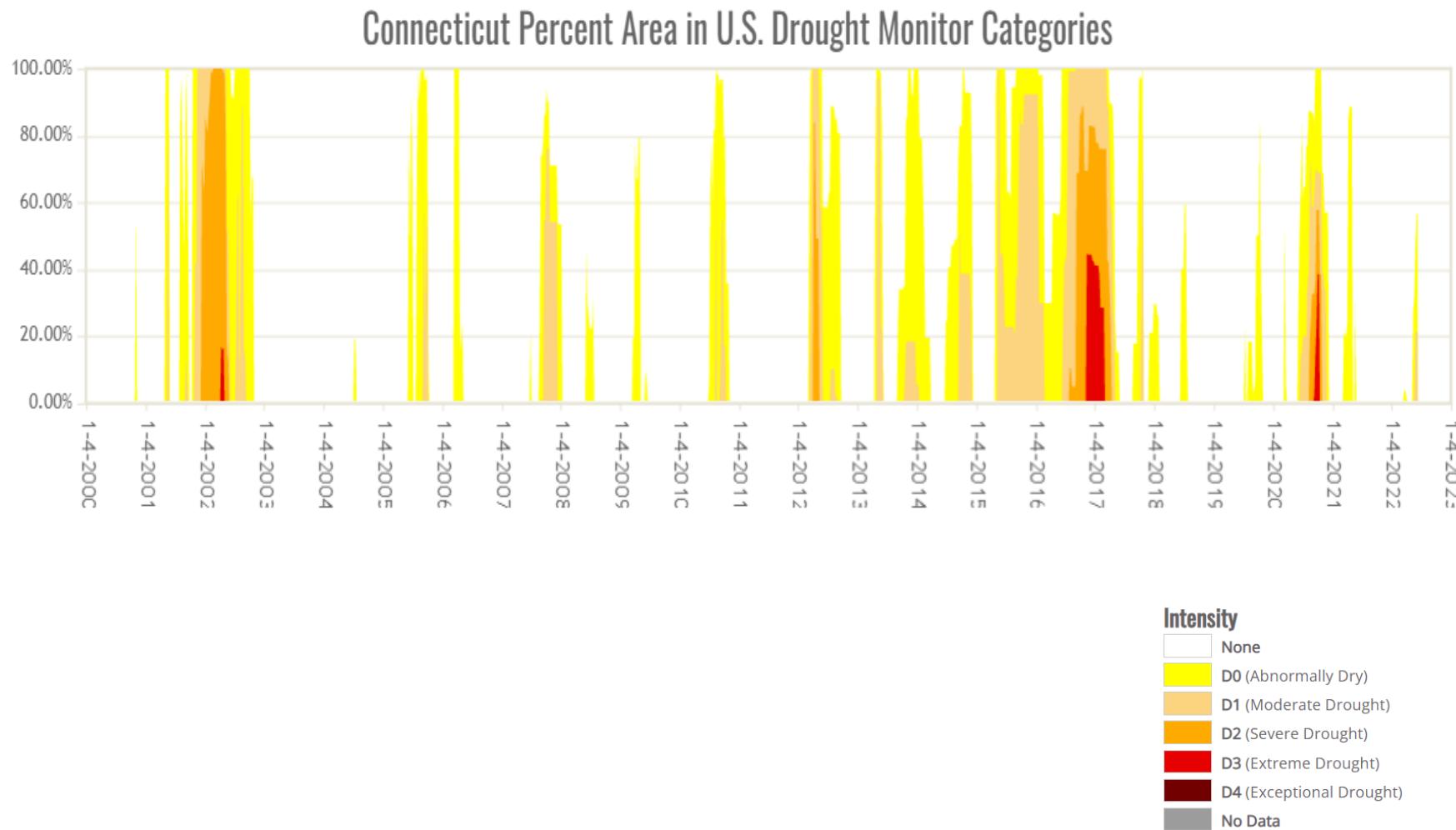


Hemlock Woolly Adelgid damage after severe drought



Before and after Asian Longhorn Beetle tree removals (Worcester, MA)

Historical Drought Conditions



Source: U.S. Drought Monitor