



CEEJAC LAND SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair: Yaw Darko, CT Land Conservation Council
October 13, 2023

INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome – Yaw Darko, CT Land Conservation Council, Chair

Roll Call – Yaw Darko

- Leticia Colon de Mejias
- Sharon Lewis
- Cierra Patrick
- Alex Rodriguez
- Terry Adams

AGENDA

- Welcome & Roll Call – Yaw Darko
- Subcommittee Introductions – Yaw Darko
- Summary of Subcommittee Goals – Yaw Darko
- Presentation about Urban Forestry – Danica Doroski, CT DEEP
- Questions & Discussion
- Discussion of proposed topics for engagements – Yaw Darko
 - **Land Acquisition & Management’s Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant – Lindsay Suhr, CT DEEP**
 - **Other examples**
- Public Comments – Yaw Darko
- Next Steps – Yaw Darko

CEEJAC MEETING GROUND RULES

During the discussion, all members should:

- Listen respectfully, without interrupting.
- Listen actively and with an ear to understanding others' views.
- Only have one conversation at a time.
- Be mindful to give others the opportunity to speak.
- Focus on the task at hand rather than the position.
- Avoid off-topic conversations.
- Criticize ideas, not people.
- Commit to learning, not debating.
- Avoid blame, speculation and inflammatory language.
- Avoid assumptions about any member of the group.

The background features a stylized landscape with a yellow sun in the top right, green hills in the middle, and blue water at the bottom. All elements are separated by thick, dark blue outlines. The text "Subcommittee Introductions" is centered in the green hill area.

Subcommittee Introductions

SUMMARY OF LAND SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

Identify a public participation process that includes community stakeholders in the development of grant funding programs.



URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY OVERVIEW AND OPPORTUNITIES

Presented by: **Dr. Danica Doroski, State Urban Forester**
Bureau of Natural Resources

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Introduction to Urban and Community Forestry
Overview of Inflation Reduction Act
Discussion of New Funding Opportunity

WHAT IS URBAN FORESTRY?

Urban forests are the trees growing where we work, live, and play

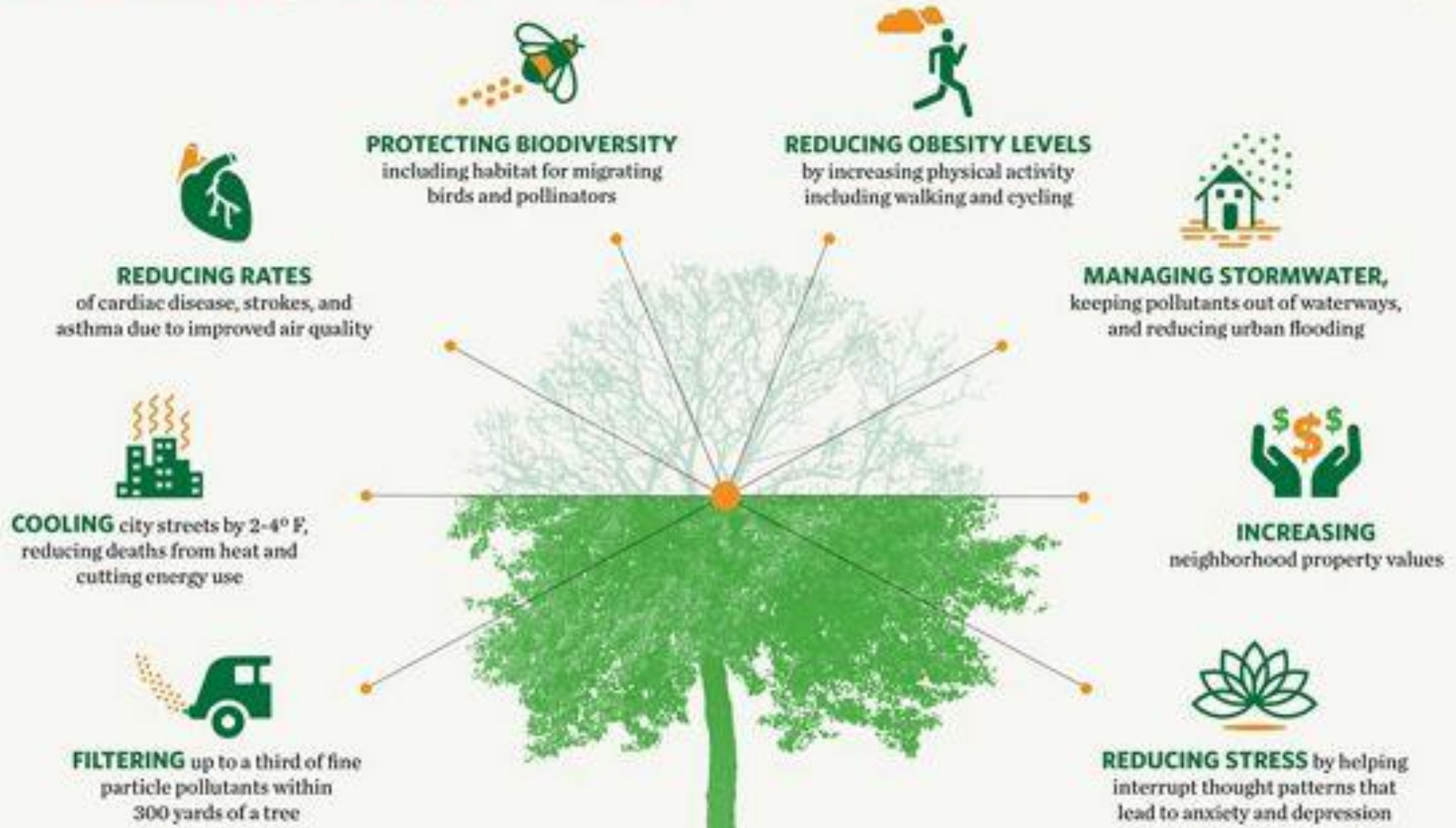




URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTS ARE NOT CONFINED TO THE LARGEST CITIES

Benefits of Urban Trees

Research has linked the presence of urban trees to...



REDUCING RATES
of cardiac disease, strokes, and
asthma due to improved air quality

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY
including habitat for migrating
birds and pollinators

REDUCING OBESITY LEVELS
by increasing physical activity
including walking and cycling

MANAGING STORMWATER,
keeping pollutants out of waterways,
and reducing urban flooding

INCREASING
neighborhood property values

REDUCING STRESS by helping
interrupt thought patterns that
lead to anxiety and depression

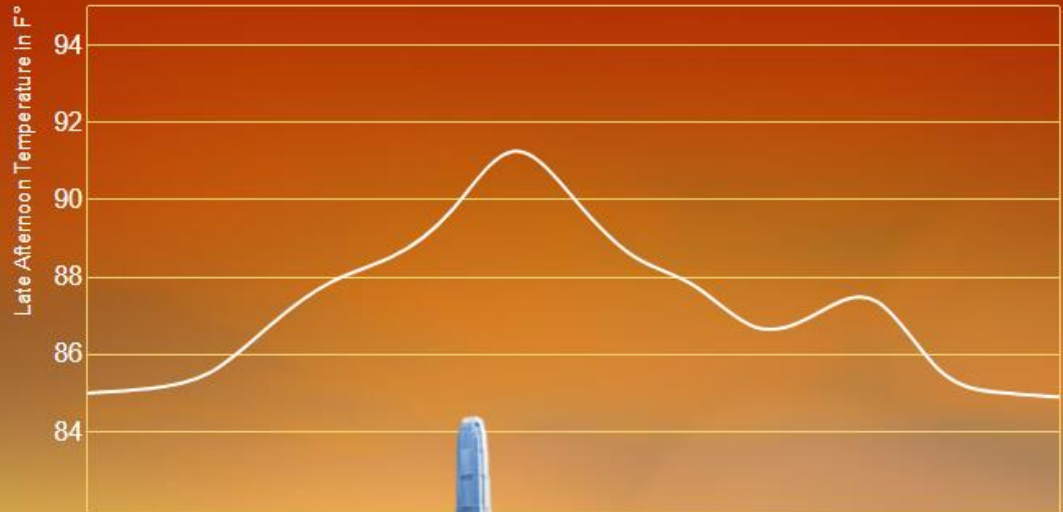
COOLING city streets by 2-4° F,
reducing deaths from heat and
cutting energy use

FILTERING up to a third of fine
particle pollutants within
300 yards of a tree

URBAN AREAS ARE HOTTER THAN NEARBY RURAL AREAS

Cities Are Hotter: Urban Heat Island

The roads, buildings, and infrastructure in urban areas make cities much hotter than rural areas, which often have more plants and trees. **57 of the 60 cities** analyzed had measurable urban heat islands over the past 10 years. In the summer, temperatures can be as much as 15-27°F hotter in cities.



RURAL SUBURBAN COMMERICAL DOWNTOWN URBAN PARK SUBURBAN RURAL FARMLAND

SUMMER HEAT IN

Hartford

UP TO
19.0° HOTTER IN THE CITY
THAN IN NEARBY
RURAL AREAS

AVERAGE
2.5° CITY SUMMERS ARE
HOTTER THAN IN
RURAL AREAS

9 MORE DAYS ABOVE
90° F EACH YEAR,
THAN RURAL AREAS



TREES OFFSET THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

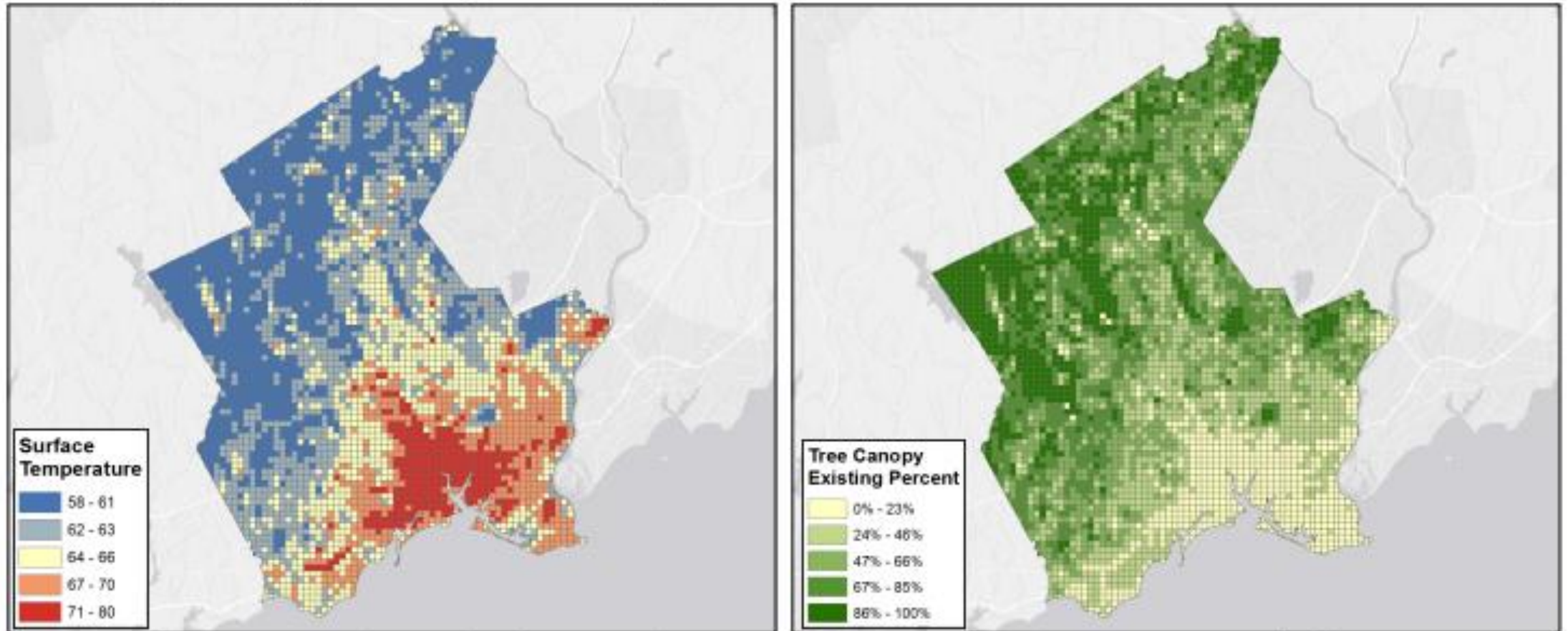


Figure 8: Surface temperature, degrees Fahrenheit on October 3, 2014 (left) in comparison with Existing Tree Canopy (right).

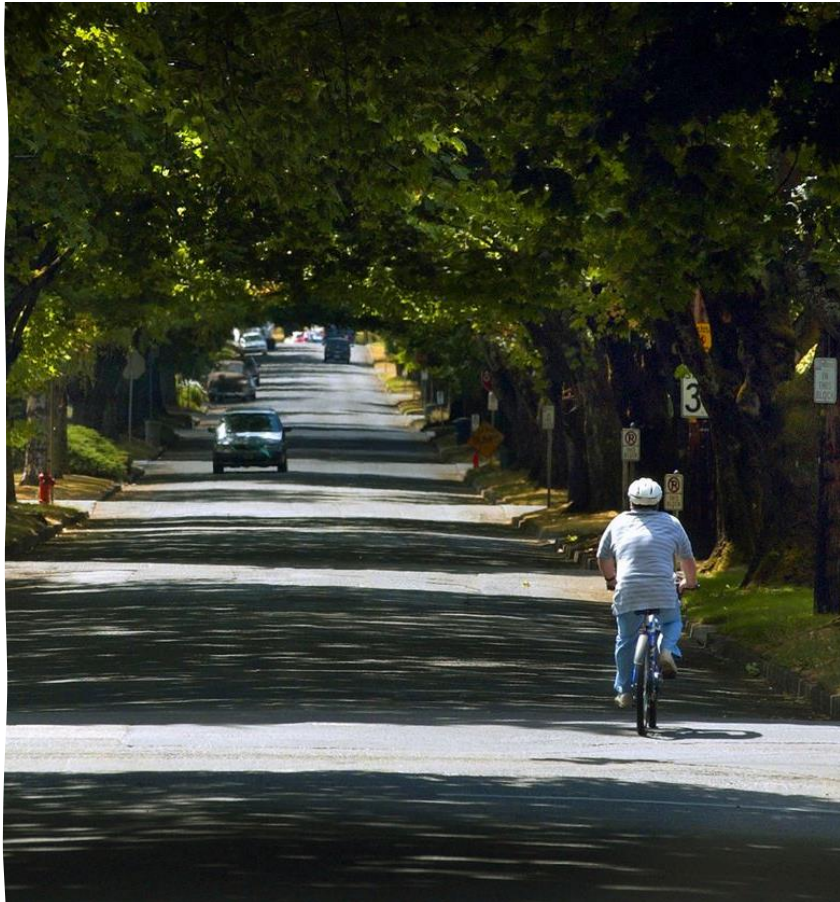
URBAN TREES PROVIDE A RANGE OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH BENEFITS



Improved social cohesion

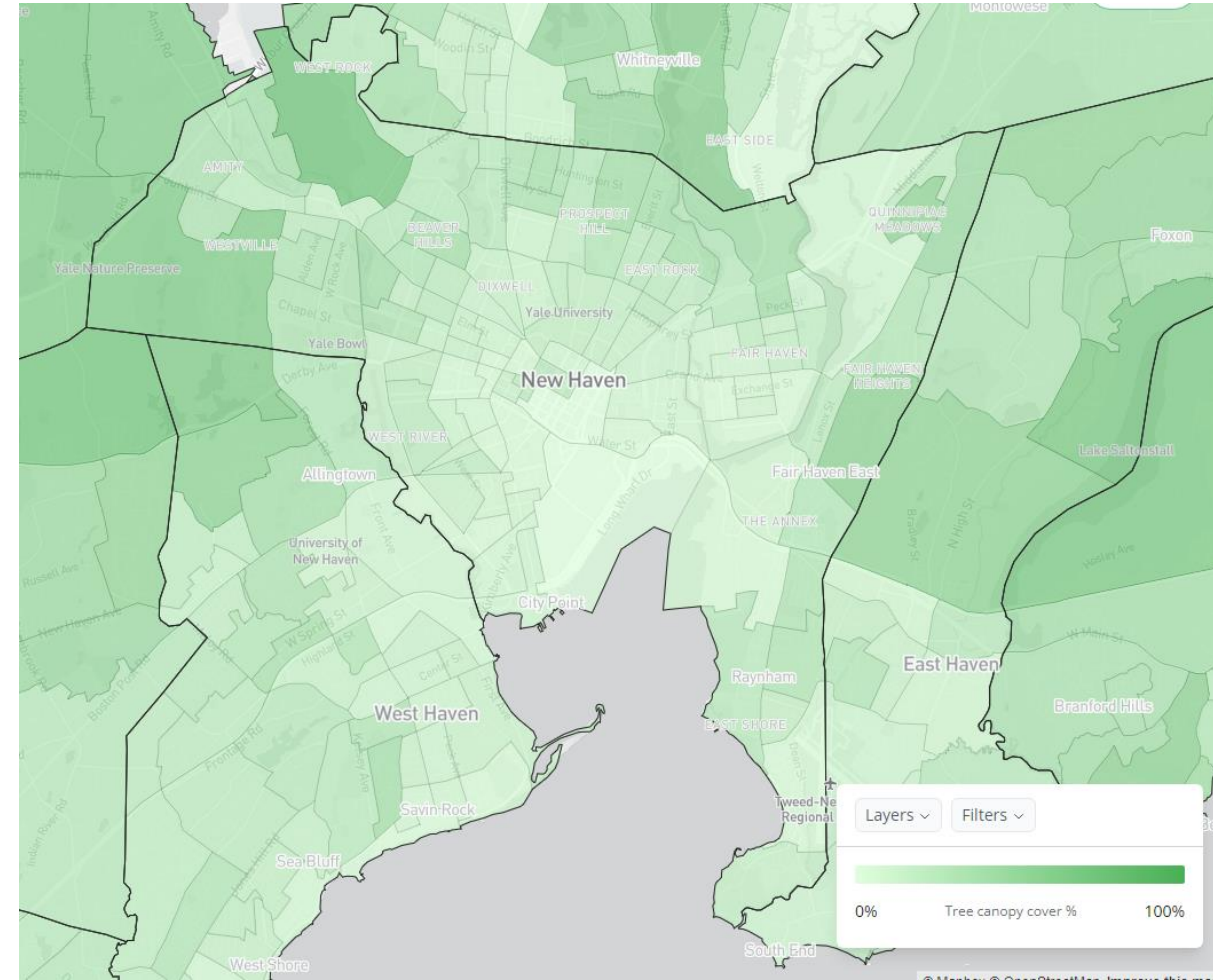
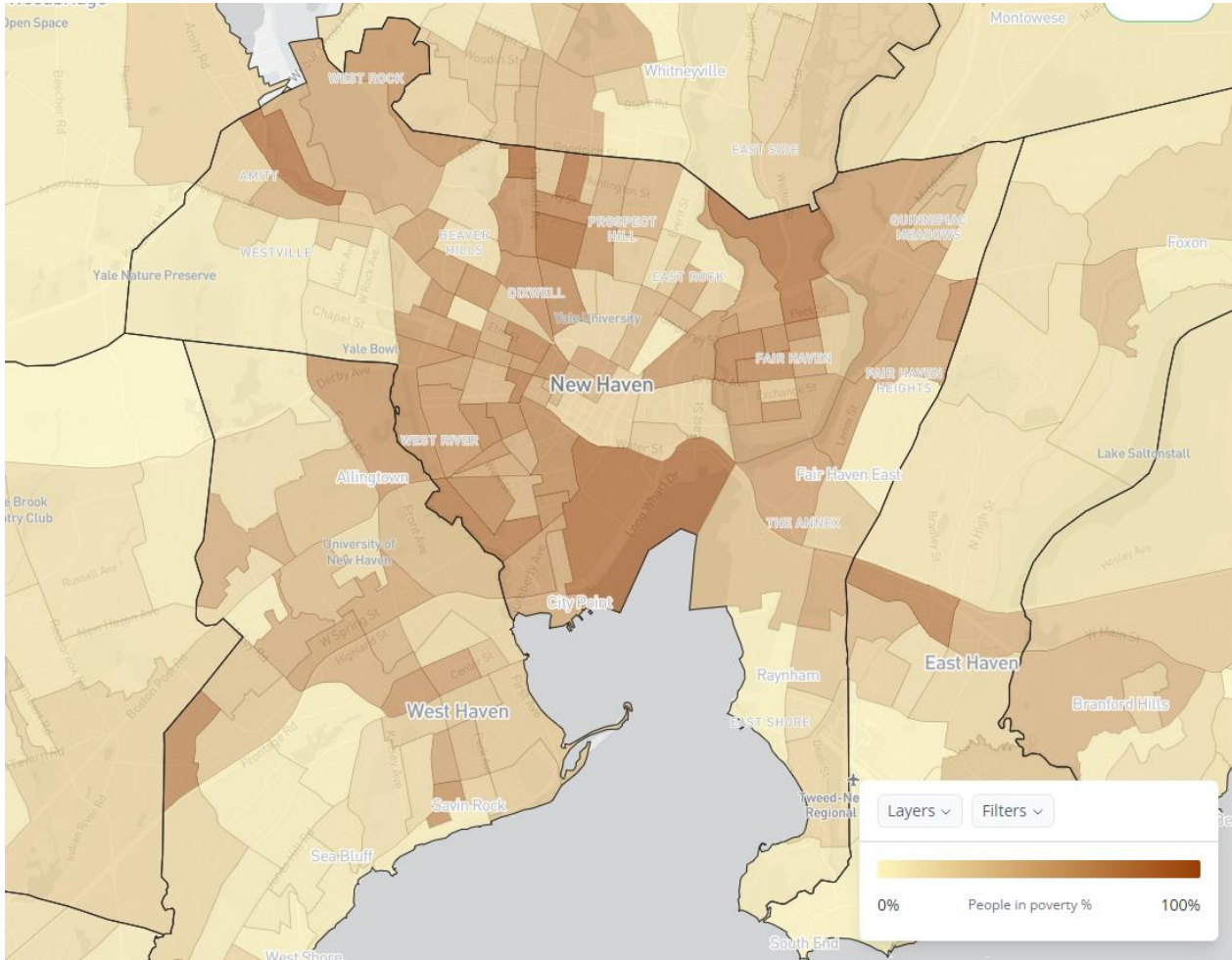


Increased pedestrian traffic



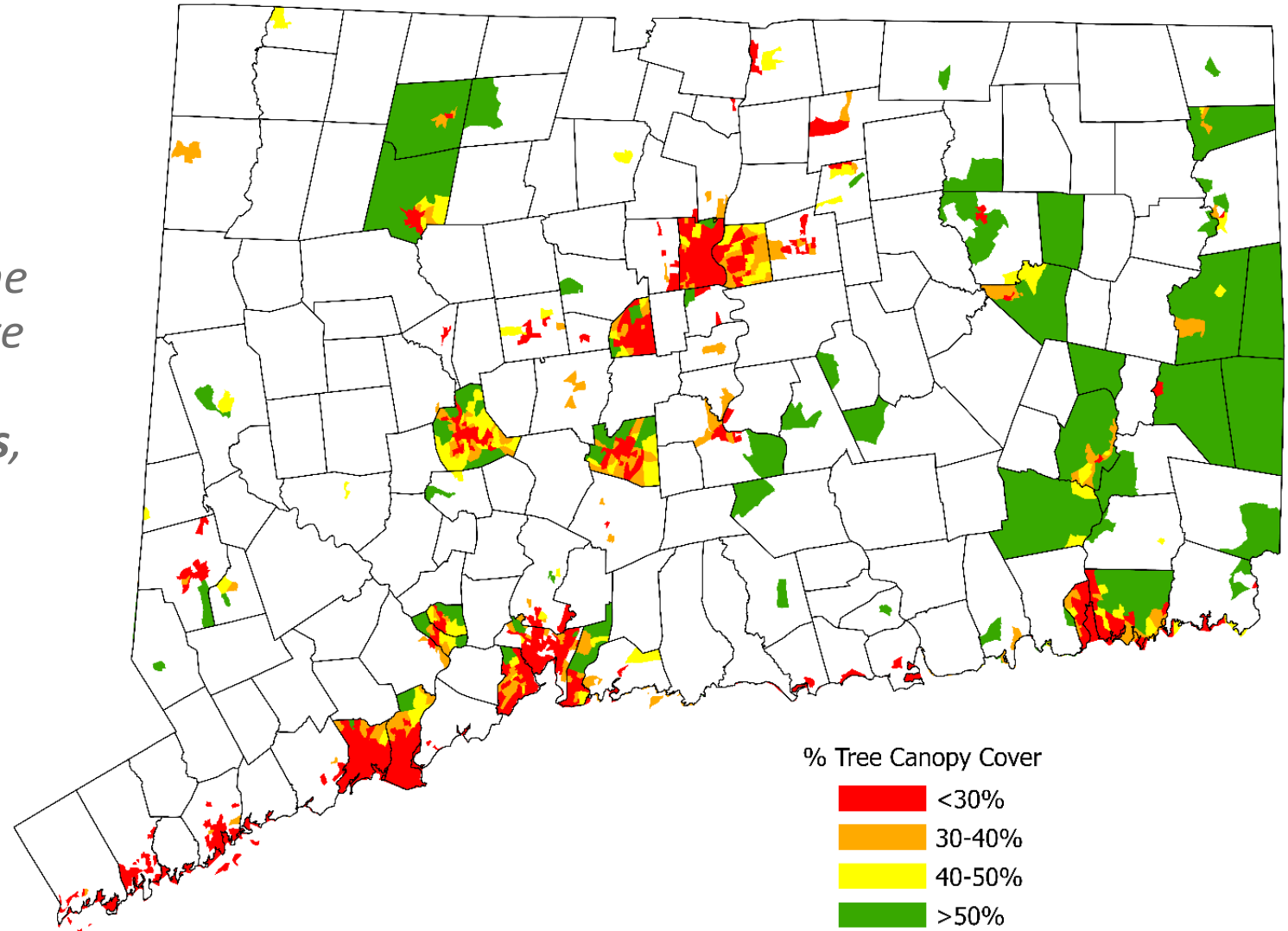
Reduced vehicular speeds

URBAN TREE COVER IS NOT EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED



PUBLIC ACT 23-206

*In order to ensure that the benefits of open space and tree cover are enjoyed equitably by residents of the state, it shall be the goal of the state to **increase the total percentage of environmental justice communities, as defined in section 22a-20a, that are covered by tree canopy, not later than January 1, 2040, by five per cent of the total area of such communities that have a current tree canopy cover of less than forty per cent.***



Tree canopy cover in environmental justice communities as defined by CGS 22a-20a

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROJECTS



Maintenance and Stewardship



Inventories and Management Plans



Restoration of Urban Woodlands



Tree Planting and Workforce Development



Education and Outreach



Urban Wood Utilization

TREE PLANTING AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT



Planting Trees to Cool Communities
Urban Resource Initiative

MAINTENANCE AND STEWARDSHIP



*Reducing the Effects of our Changing Climate:
Increasing Urban Canopy in Thompsonville*
Town of Enfield

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter Remington Woods Project
Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Historic Funding to Expand Access to Trees and Green Spaces in Disadvantaged Urban Communities

More than \$1 billion from President Biden's Investing in America Agenda will increase urban tree cover, boost equitable access to nature, and tackle the climate crisis

\$2.65 MILLION TO CONNECTICUT'S URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM TO SUPPORT COMPETITIVE SUBGRANTS

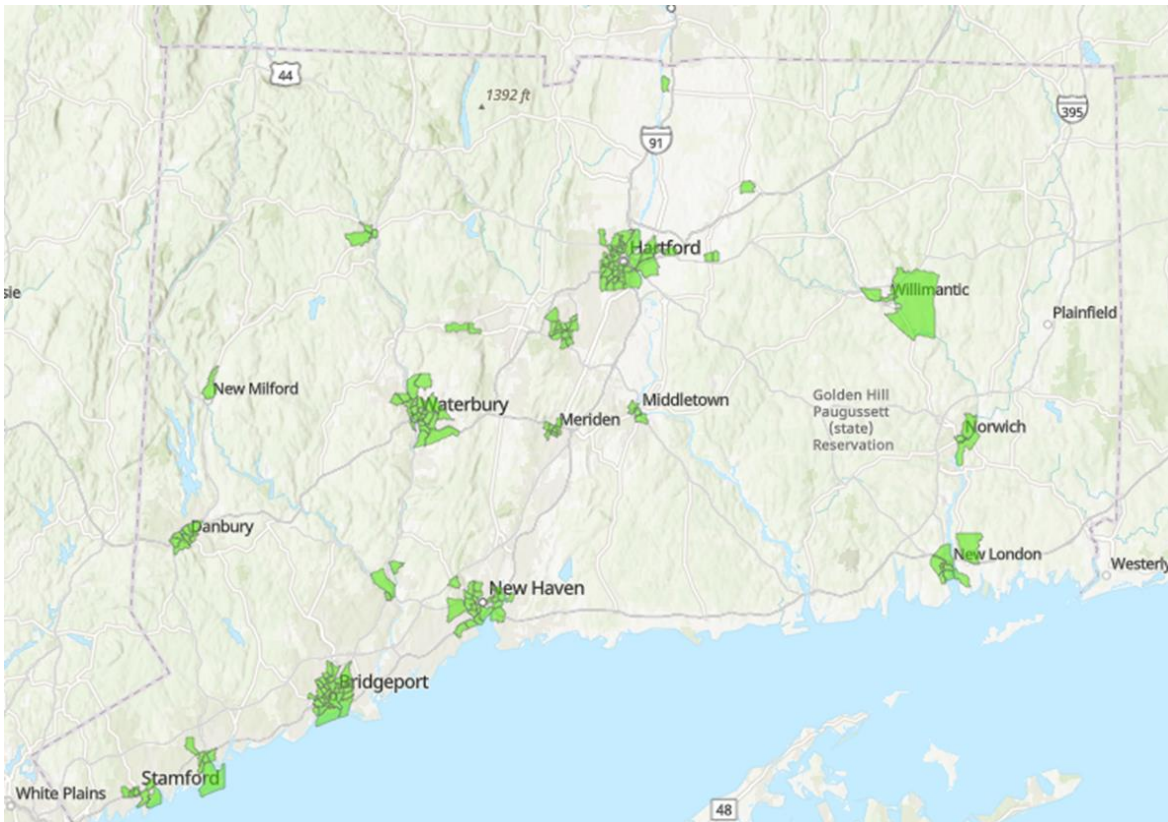
Unique features of new funding opportunity



- No match requirement
- Projects must benefit disadvantaged communities
- Private property is eligible
- Many CT communities have already received funding through the public notice of funding opportunity

PROJECTS MUST BENEFIT DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool



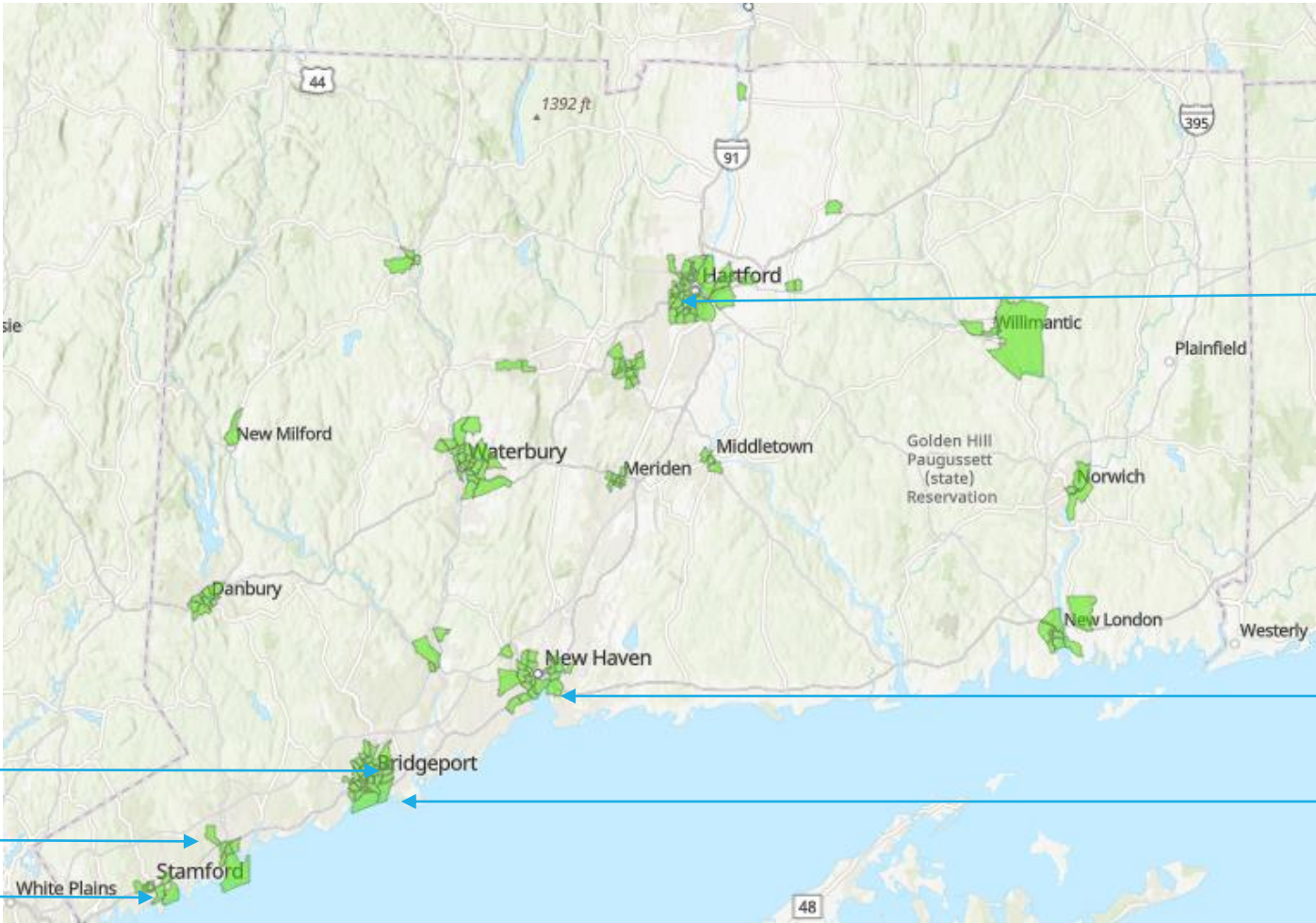
- Disadvantaged communities defined as census tracts that are at or above the threshold for one or more environmental burdens, and at or above the threshold for an associated socioeconomic burden
- You can view these communities using DEEP's [Eligibility Tool](#)

PRIVATE PROPERTY IS ELIGIBLE



- Sample written agreement must be included in applications demonstrating responsibilities of property owner and municipality.

MANY CT COMMUNITIES HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED FUNDING THROUGH THE PUBLIC NOTICE OF FUNDING



Hartford

New Haven

Bridgeport

Stratford

Norwalk

Stamford

CURRENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO GRANT PROGRAMS

Bi-weekly
Grant Office
Hours

Grant Writing
Webinars

Online
Application

Eligibility Tool

SPECIFIC ASKS OF COMMITTEE AND PUBLIC

Does this program seem like something you, or others in your community, would pursue? What steps can we take to make the program more helpful for and applicable to your community?

What are some of the barriers you anticipate to participating in this program?

What aspects of a request for proposals will make this program appealing to potential applicants (e.g. timeline, maximum award amount)?

How can a scoring rubric be used to help level the playing field (e.g. different weighting for different levels of grant writing experience)?

Any other feedback?

THANK YOU

Danica Doroski

State Urban Forester

Bureau of Natural Resources/Division of Forestry

CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

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ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

State government entity

Local government entity

Agency or governmental entity of the District of Columbia

Agency or governmental entity of an insular area

Federally Recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations/villages, and Tribal organizations as defined in 25 USC 5304 (I) and operating within the United States, or its territories

Non-profit organizations

Public and State-controlled institutions of higher education

Community Based Organization



Discussion of Additional Topics

- Land Acquisition & Management's Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant
Lindsay Suhr, CT DEEP
- Other examples: Brownfields, Siting, Permitting, Open Space and Recreation, Heat Islands

A stylized, colorful landscape illustration. The top right corner features a bright yellow sun. Below it is a large green hill with a dark blue outline. The bottom of the image shows a light blue area representing water, also with a dark blue outline. The text "Public Comment Period" is centered in white on the green hill.

Public Comment Period



Next Steps
Scheduling, Future Meetings