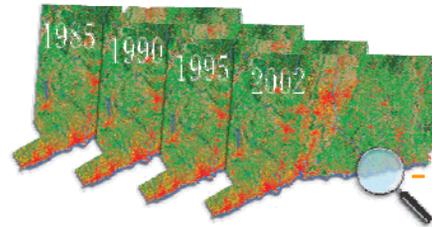


# Connecticut's Changing Landscape Project

Four dates of consistent land cover for Connecticut created by the Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) at the University of Connecticut.

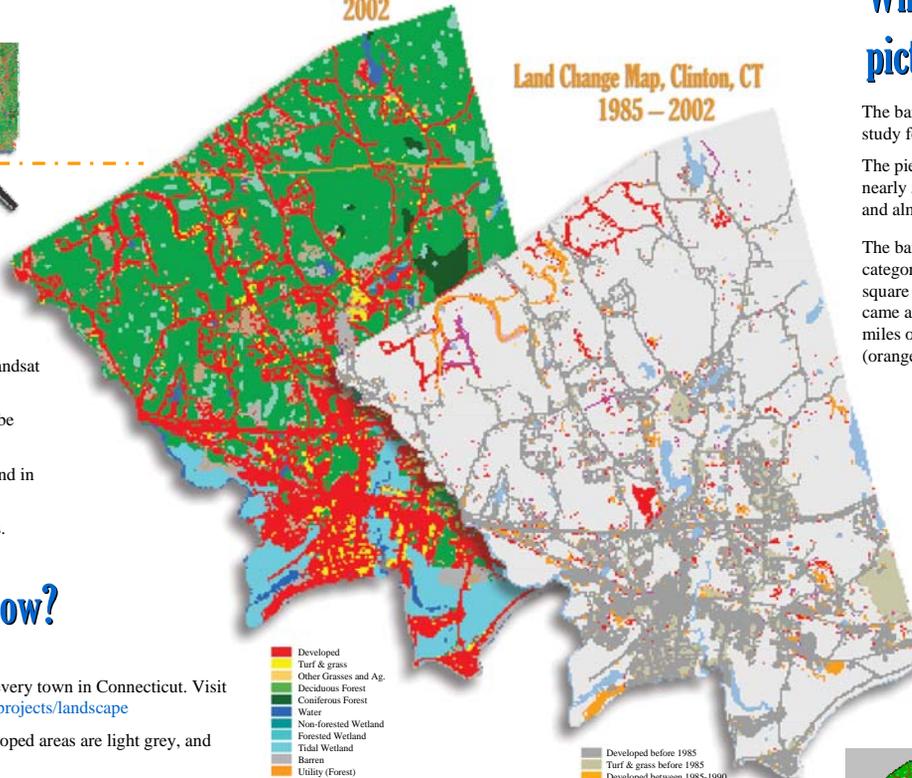


Project funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

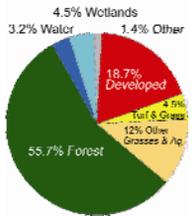


Land Cover Map, Clinton, CT  
2002

Land Change Map, Clinton, CT  
1985 - 2002



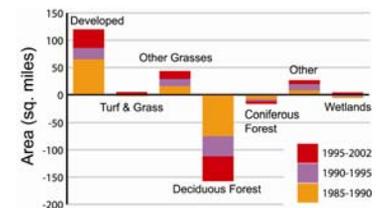
## What's the overall picture for CT?



The bar and pie charts summarize the study for the entire state.

The pie chart shows that in 2002, nearly 56% of the state was forested and almost 19% was developed.

The bar chart summarizes the gain/loss of several key land cover categories over the entire study period. The state gained about 120 square miles of developed land during the 17-year period. Most came at the expense of forested land, which lost about 170 square miles of cover. The economic boom period of the late 1980's (orange) accounted for the largest portion of change.



There are many ways to slice and dice this data. Visit the Statewide Data section of the website for more. [clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape](http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape)

## How were the maps made?

The land cover maps were created from remote sensing images captured in 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2002 by the Landsat satellite.

The image processing techniques allow all four dates to be compared in order to assess CHANGE.

The four-date, 17 year history dataset is the first of its kind in the nation.

Visit **The Project** section of the website for more details. [clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape](http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape)

## What do the change maps show?

Where development has occurred since 1985.

A sample town, Clinton, is shown. This map exists for every town in Connecticut. Visit the **Your Town** section of the website. [clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape](http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape)

All areas developed before 1985 are dark grey. Undeveloped areas are light grey, and new development is colored.

Because the "turf and grass" category usually denotes lawns, golf courses, parks and other manicured areas associated with development, these are also shown.

In Clinton, the large red area near the center of town is Clinton Crossing outlet mall. On the northern border of town can be seen a number of residential subdivisions, built in several phases over the study period as indicated by their color.



## What are the limitations?

For detailed descriptions, visit **The Project** portion of the website. [clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape](http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape)

Some of the big limitations are:

- "Resolution" is the smallest level of detail that can be seen. On these maps, the resolution is 30 meters—that is about 10,000 sq. feet, or ¼ acre.
- There are a number of ways to measure developed land that result in very different and yet correct estimates. Visit the **What We're Measuring** section of the website for a complete explanation.
- This is a land cover map, not land use. The difference? Land cover is what is on the ground while land use denotes the use of the land.
- Because of their similar light-reflecting characteristics, our data cannot distinguish between agricultural land and areas with long grass or shrubby vegetation; thus there is no true "ag" class to chart the loss of Connecticut's farmland. YET. See Coming Soon.
- The water and wetlands categories include changes that reflect the year's climate and are not usually related to any permanent loss or gain.

**Coming Soon!**

## CT Land Cover Version 2

**New Agricultural Field Category**

**Updated Change Maps!**

**Refinements to all dates and all classes!**

Increase in development:  
4 time periods  
1985-1990  
1990-1995  
1995-2002  
2002-2006

1985-2006  
• Loss of forest (green)  
• Loss of agricultural field (brown)