

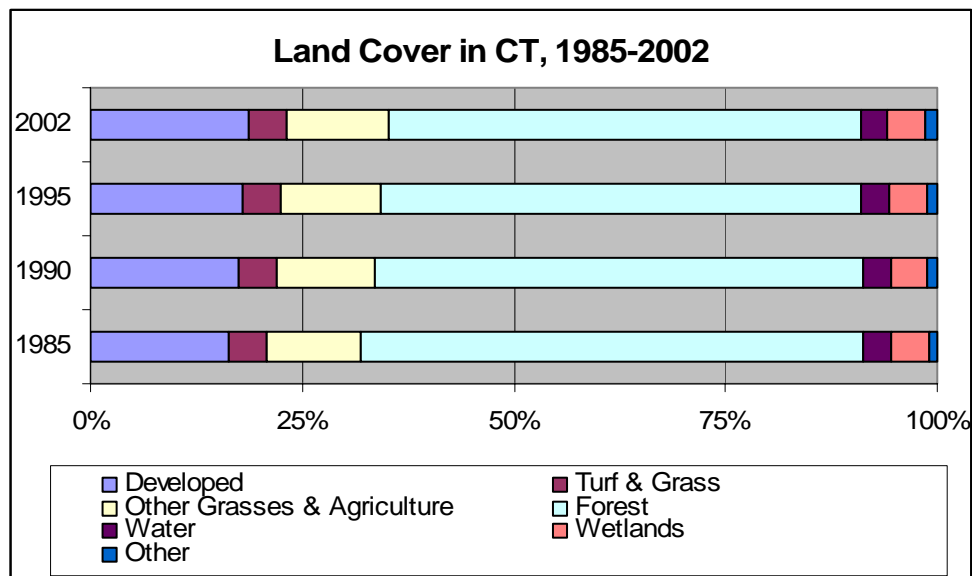


Local Regulatory Affairs Fact Sheet

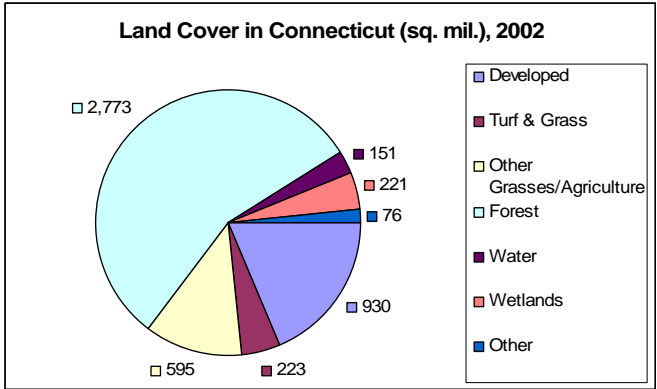
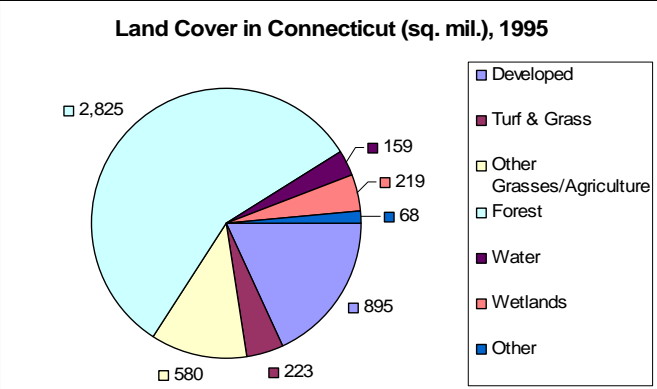
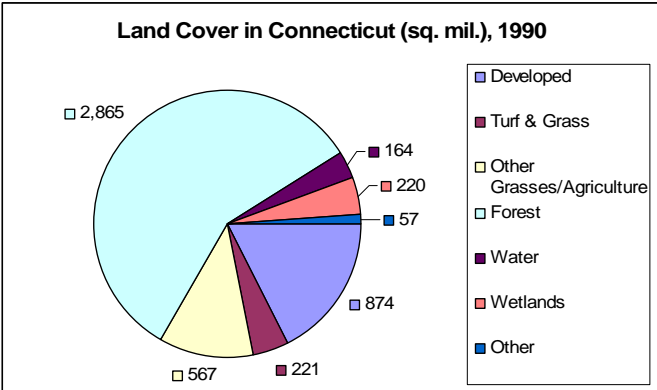
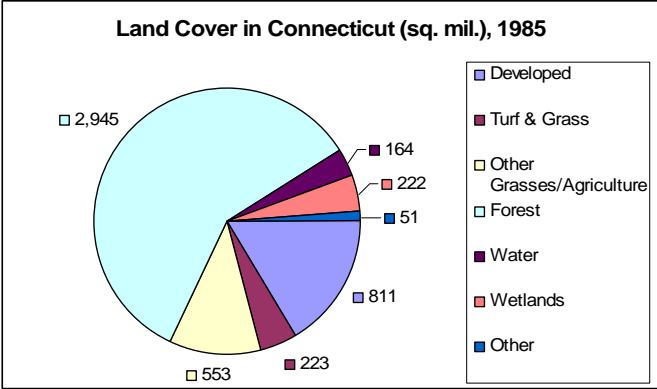
LAND COVER DATA FACT SHEET

The Center for Land-Use Education and Research (CLEAR) at UConn has completed a projected called “Connecticut’s Changing Landscape.” The project uses remote sensing and satellite data to show changes to land cover in Connecticut from 1985 to 2002. Information on the project, as well as data for specific towns, can be found at the following web site:

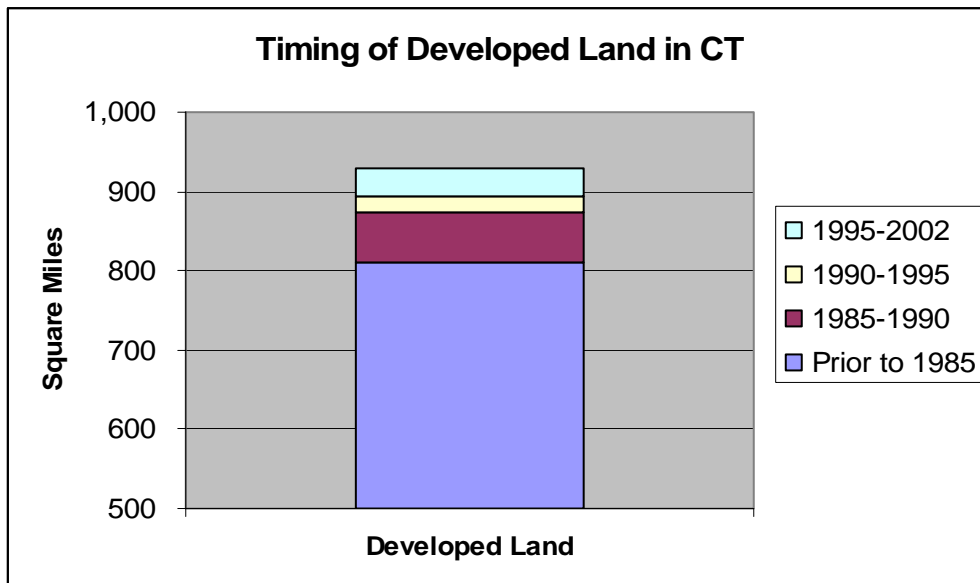
<http://www.clear.uconn.edu/projects/landscape/index.htm>



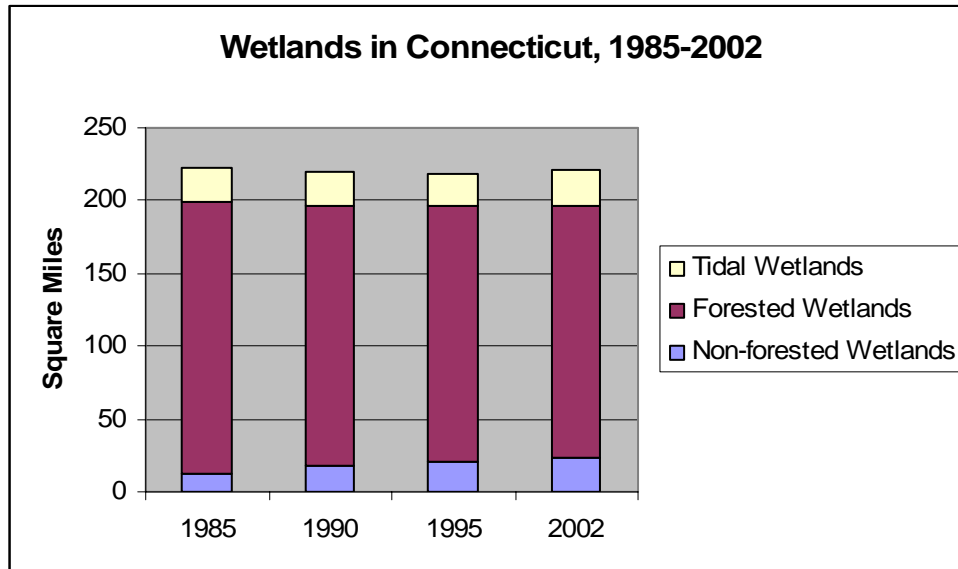
	1985		1990		1995		2002	
	sq. miles	% of CT	sq. miles	% of CT	sq. miles	% of CT	sq. miles	% of CT
Developed	811	16.3%	874	17.6%	895	18.0%	930	18.7%
Turf & Grass	223	4.5%	221	4.5%	223	4.5%	223	4.5%
Other Grasses/Agriculture	553	11.1%	567	11.4%	580	11.7%	595	12.0%
Forest	2,945	59.3%	2,865	57.7%	2,825	56.9%	2,773	55.8%
Water	164	3.3%	164	3.3%	159	3.2%	151	3.0%
Wetlands	222	4.5%	220	4.4%	219	4.4%	221	4.5%
Other	51	1.0%	57	1.2%	68	1.4%	76	1.5%



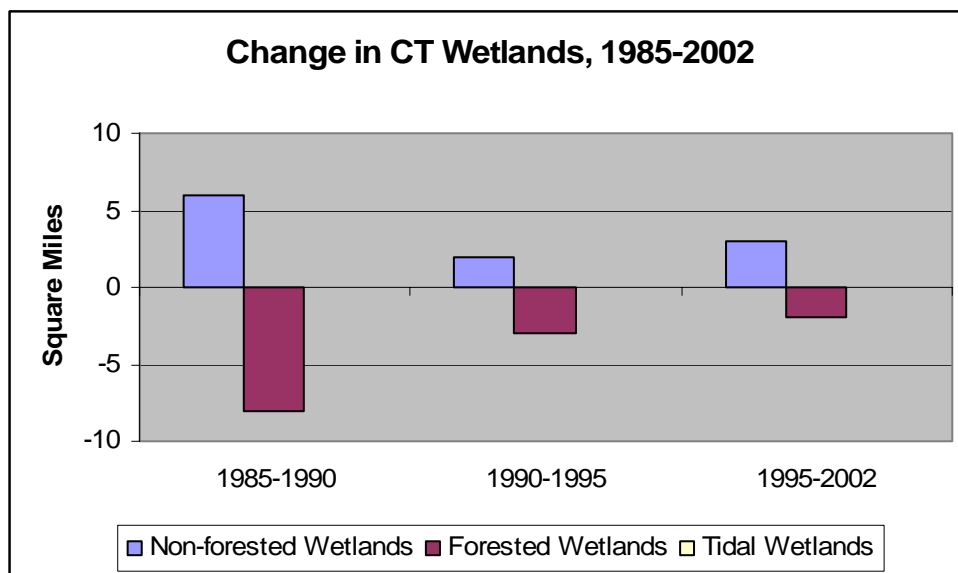
- According to the project, 18.7 percent of Connecticut's land was developed in 2002. This compares to 16.3 percent developed in 1985. The percentage is significantly lower than the 25-50 percent that has been claimed by several smart growth advocates.
- From 1985-2002, 119 square miles of Connecticut was developed. This represents two percent of total land area in the state.



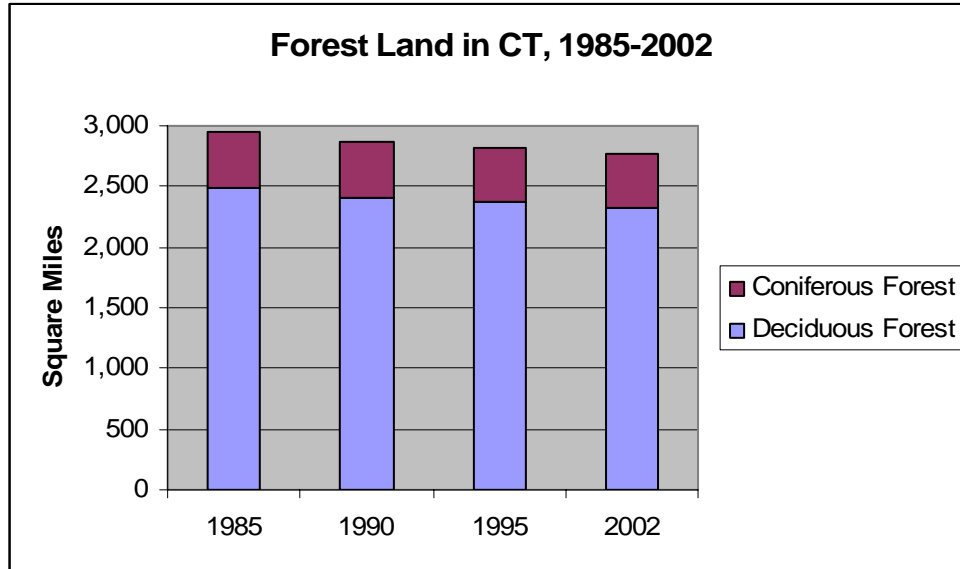
- Of Connecticut's 930 developed square miles, 87.2 percent was developed prior to 1985. An additional 6.8 percent was developed between 1985 and 1990, 2.3 percent was developed between 1990 and 1995, and 3.7 percent was developed between 1995 and 2002.



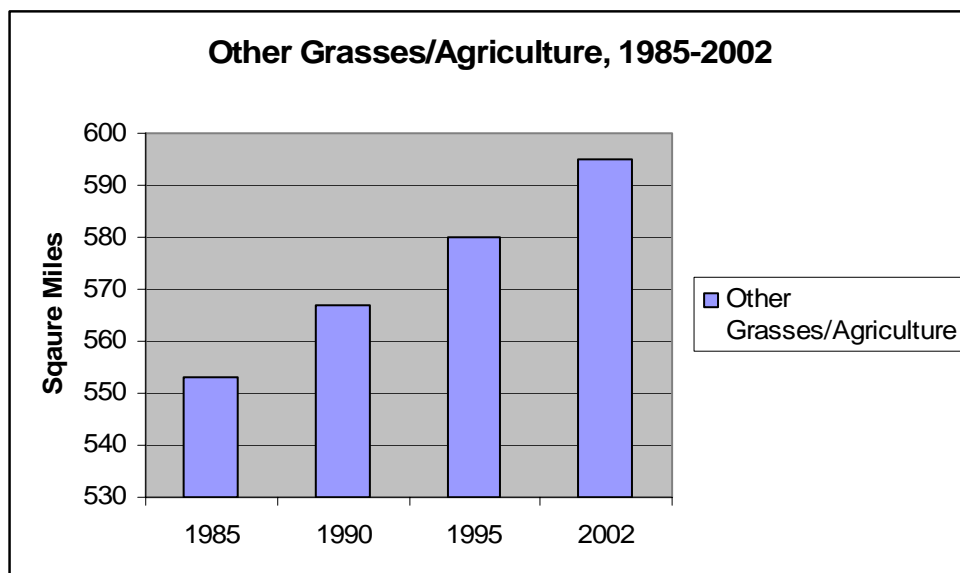
- The amount on wetlands in Connecticut has remained relatively unchanged over the past 19 years. In 1985, Connecticut had 222 square miles of wetlands. In 2002, that number was 221 square miles.



- What has changed is the designation of much of Connecticut's wetlands. From 1985-2002, Connecticut lost about 13 square miles of forested wetlands while gaining 11 square miles of non-forested wetlands. Tidal wetlands remained essentially unchanged.



- From 1985 to 2002, Connecticut saw a decrease in forest land. Deciduous forest land cover was reduced from 2,483 to 2,327 square miles, a decrease of 6.3 percent. Coniferous forest was reduced from 462 to 446 square miles, a decrease of 3.5 percent.



- The land cover classified as “Other Grasses & Agriculture” increased from 553 square miles to 595 square miles from 1985 to 2002. This translates to an increase of 7.6 percent.
- The “Other” category includes barren land and utility right-of-way. All of the change to the “Other” category from 1985 to 2002 was an increase in barren land, from 35 to 61 square miles. This equates to a 74.3 percent increase.

HBA/LRA Fact Sheets are produced by the Home Builders Association of Connecticut, Inc., 818 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06119. All reported data in this Land Cover Fact Sheet comes directly from UConn’s study. The HBA can be reached at 860-232-1905.