Getting Past the Past?
Redlining + Connected Communities
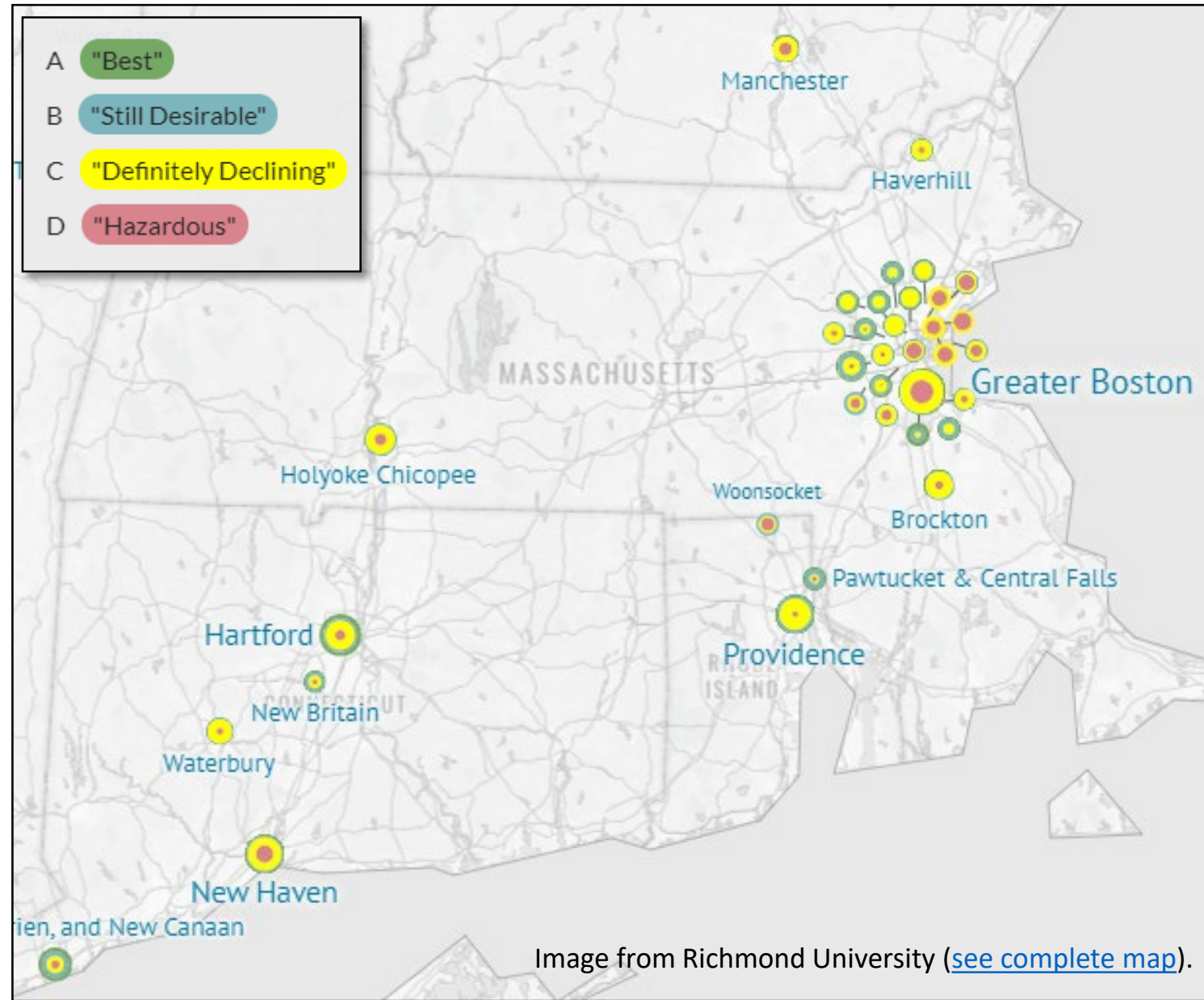
NELF Lunch Chat - July 21, 2020

Welcome!

- This lunch chat topic is inspired by a recent [webinar on redlining and urban tree canopy](#)
  - One in a series "Connecting for Conservation" by the Salazar Center for North American Conservation

- Overview of the hour:
  - Presentation (recorded)
  - Discussion (not recorded)
    - Notes will be available

What is redlining? Where are New England's redlined cities?

Redlining was a mortgage lending management practice, enacted in New Deal legislation with the intention of preventing foreclosures and stabilizing housing.

48+ New England cities were graded according to racist criteria under the National Housing Act of 1934.

A "Best"

B "Still Desirable"

C "Definitely Declining"

D "Hazardous"

Manchester

Haverhill

MASSACHUSETTS

Greater Boston

Holyoke Chicopee

Woonsocket

Brockton

Pawtucket & Central Falls

Hartford

Providence
RHODE
ISLAND

New Britain

Waterbury

New Haven

ien, and New Canaan

Image from Richmond University (see complete map).

A "Still Desirable" part of New Haven, CT

Clarifying remarks

This is a newer development of which the architecture is varied and pleasing... Were it not for the fact that this area is entirely Jewish, it would command a higher rating.

Inhabitants

Infiltration of: Jewish
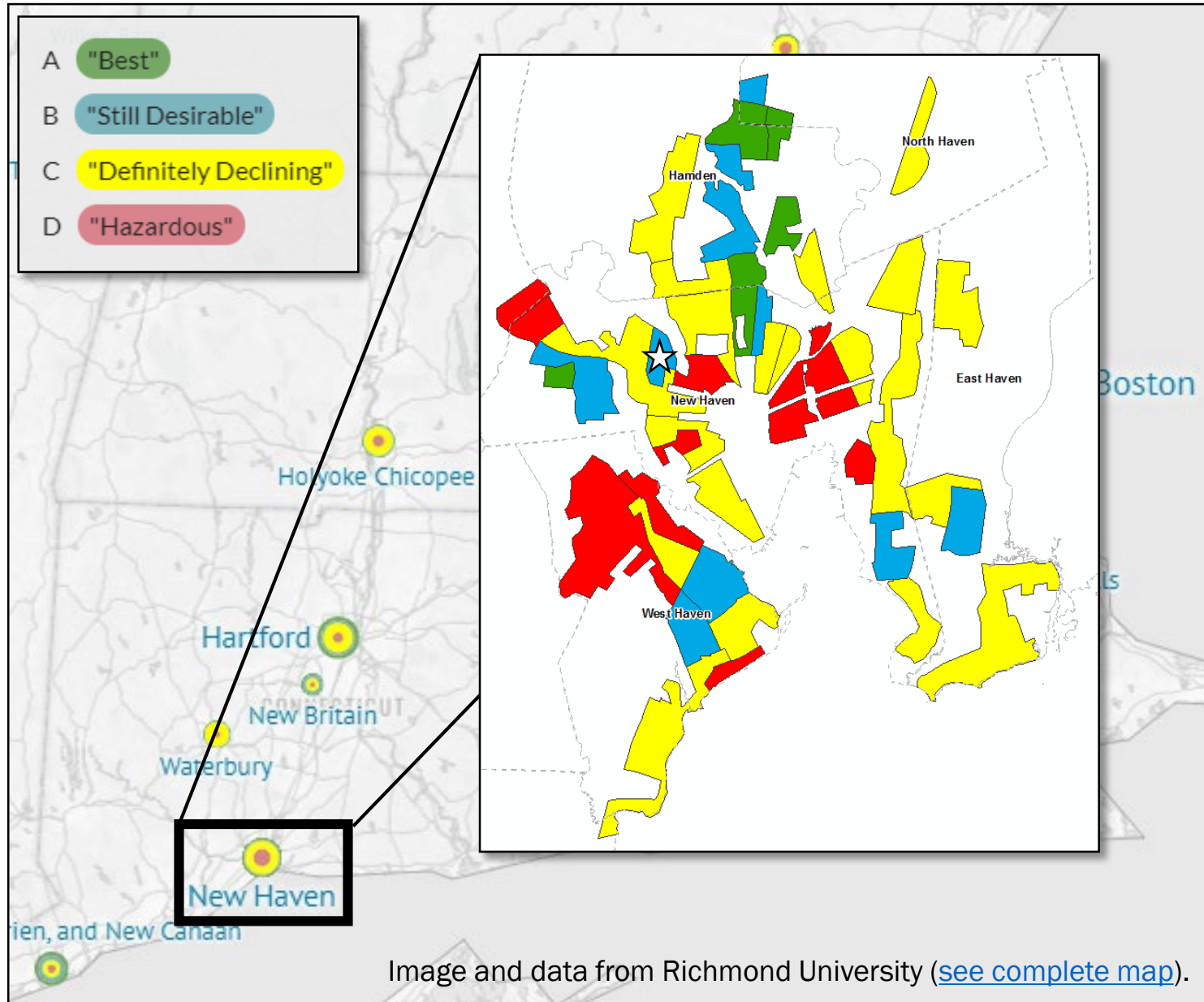
Relief families: None

Foreign-born: Jewish;70

Negro: No;0

Type: Minor executives
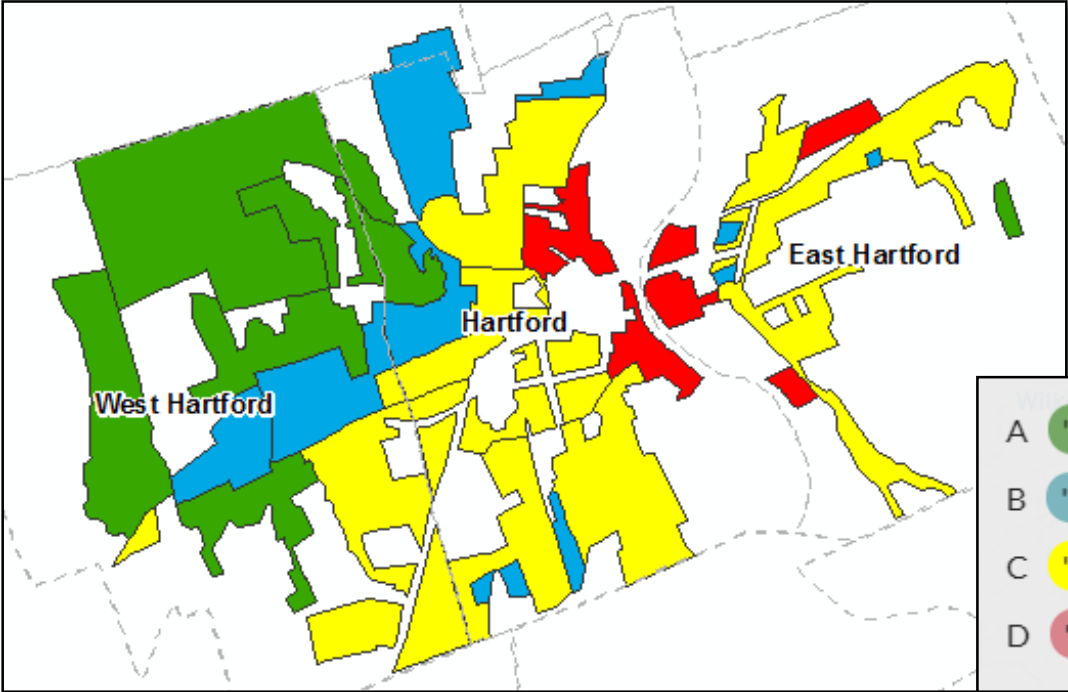
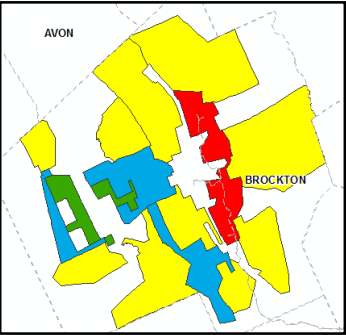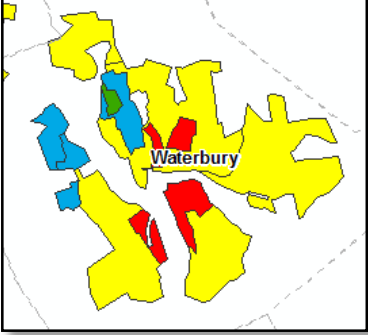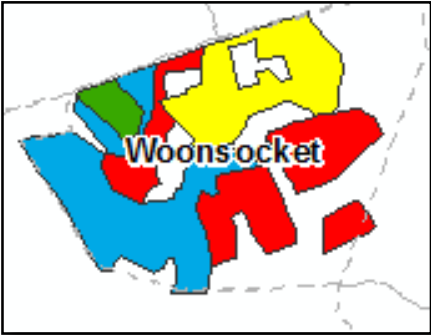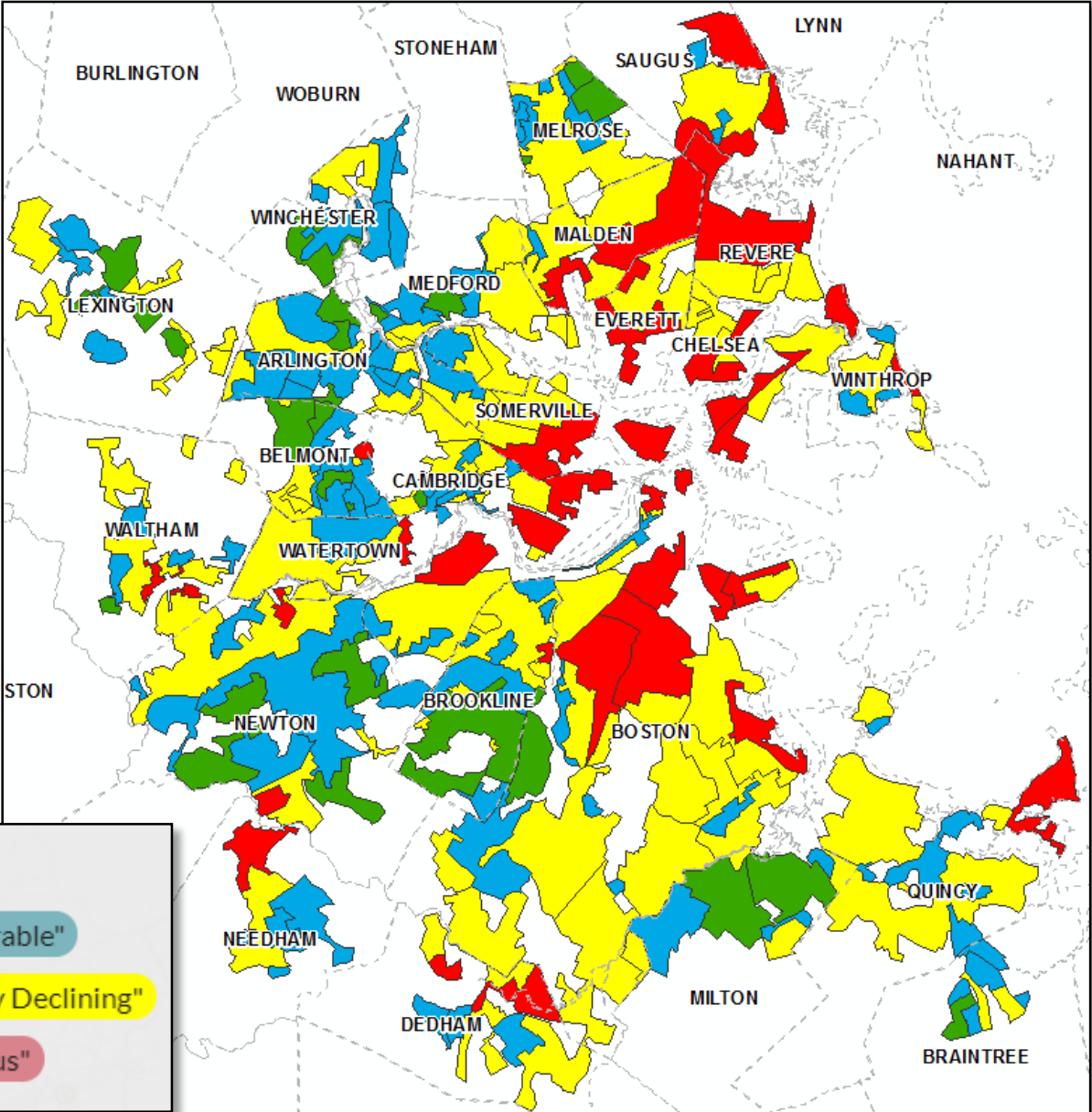Estimated annual family income: 5000

Detrimental Influences

Type of inhabitants

A "Best"
B "Still Desirable"
C "Definitely Declining"
D "Hazardous"

Image and data from Richmond University (see complete map).

What impacts of redlining do we see in New England cities?

Patterns within redlining maps

Legend:
- A "Best" (green)
- B "Still Desirable" (blue)
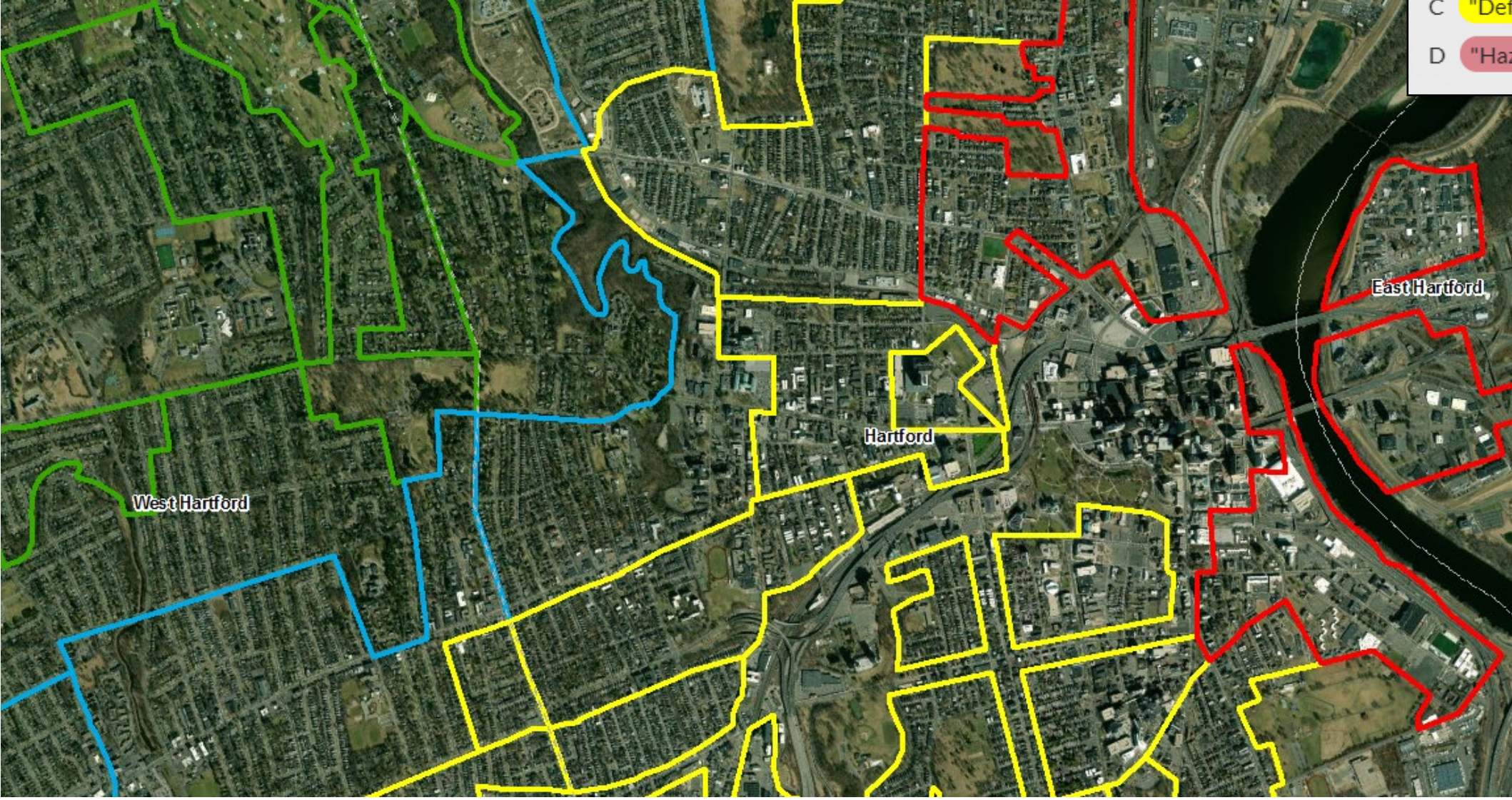- C "Definitely Declining" (yellow)
- D "Hazardous" (red)
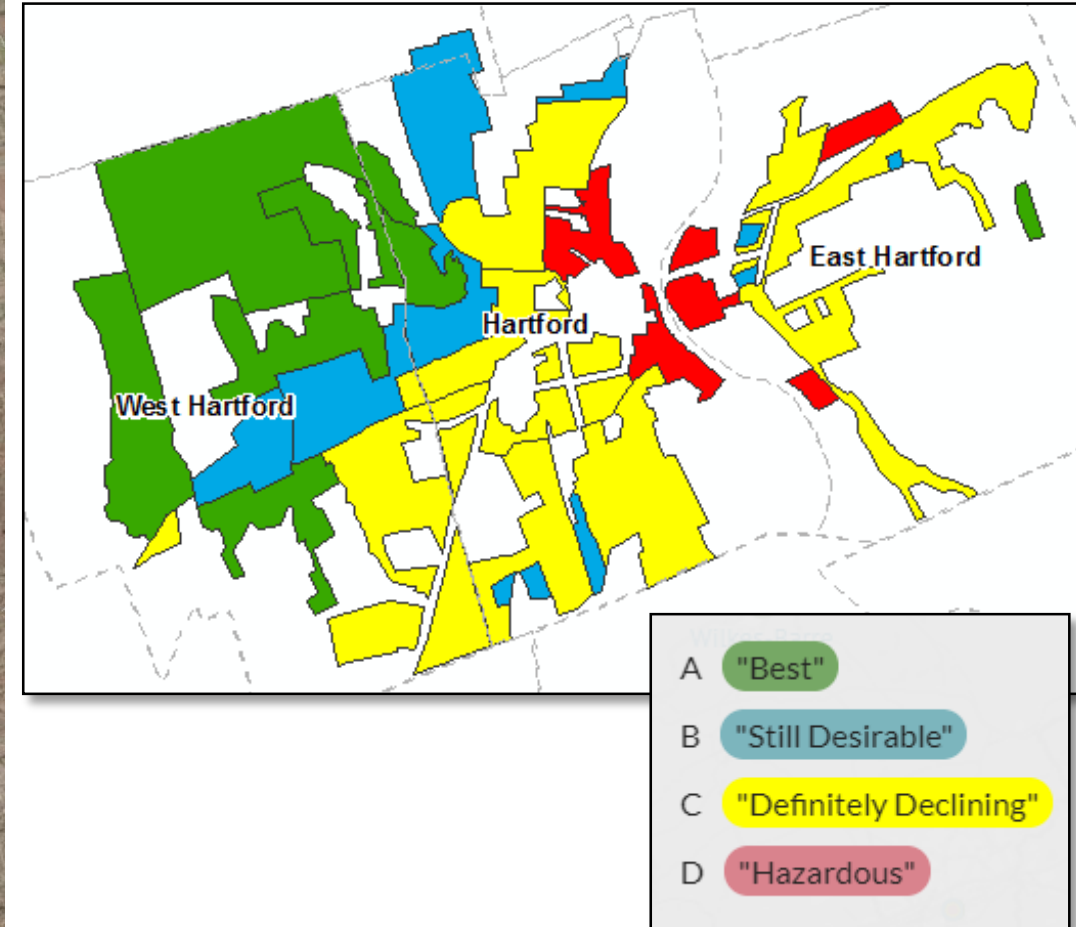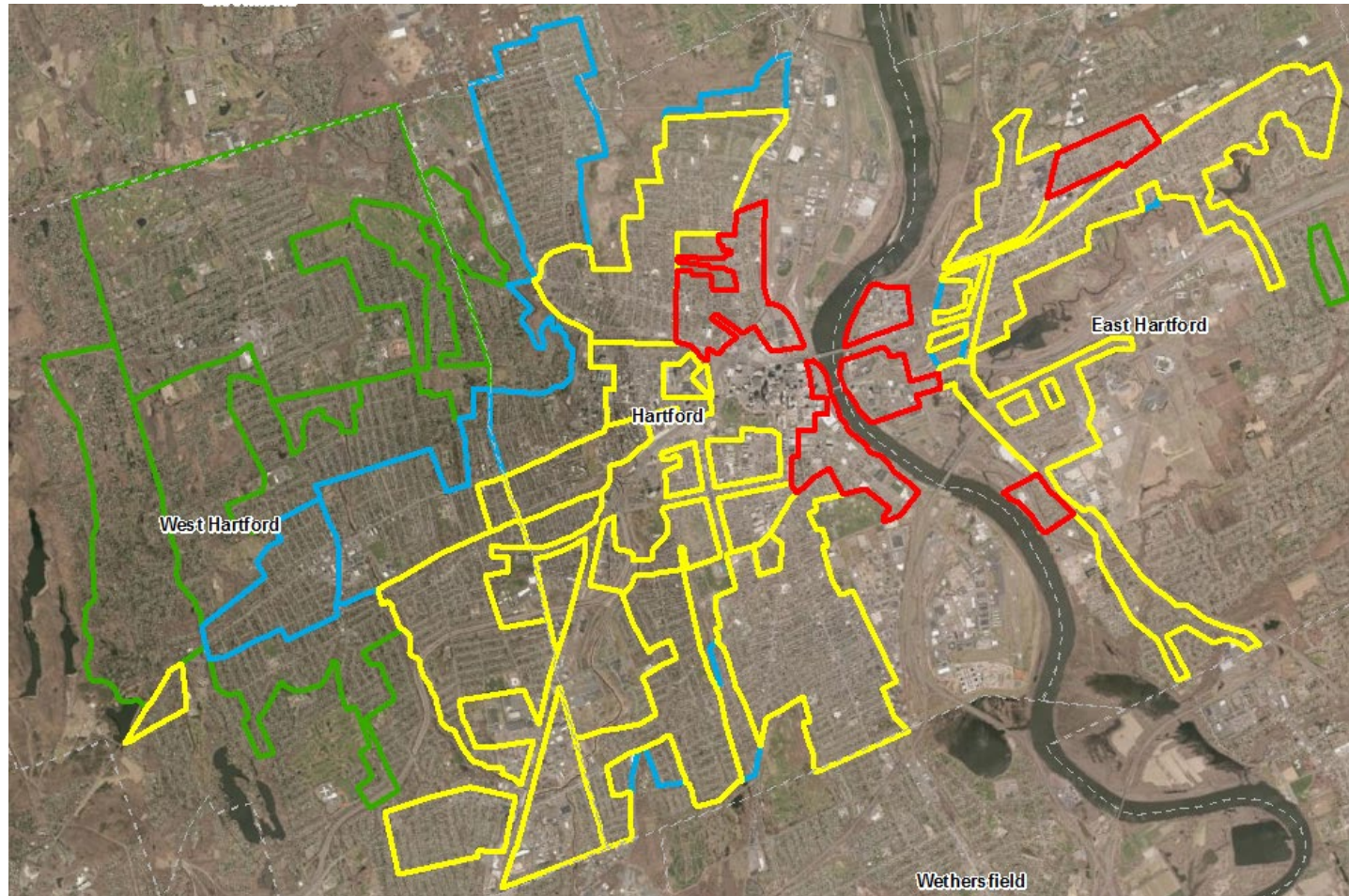
Map labels: Woonsocket, Waterbury, Avon, Brockton, East Hartford, Hartford, West Hartford, Burlington, Woburn, Stoneham, Saugus, Lynn, Winchester, Melrose, Malden, Nahant, Medford, Revere, Arlington, Everett, Chelsea, Lexington, Somerville, Winthrop, Belmont, Cambridge, Waltham, Watertown, Brookline, Boston, Newton, Needham, Dedham, Milton, Quincy, Braintree

Tree cover & redlining: Hartford, CT

A		"Best"
B		"Still Desirable"
C		"Definitely Declining"
D		"Hazardous"

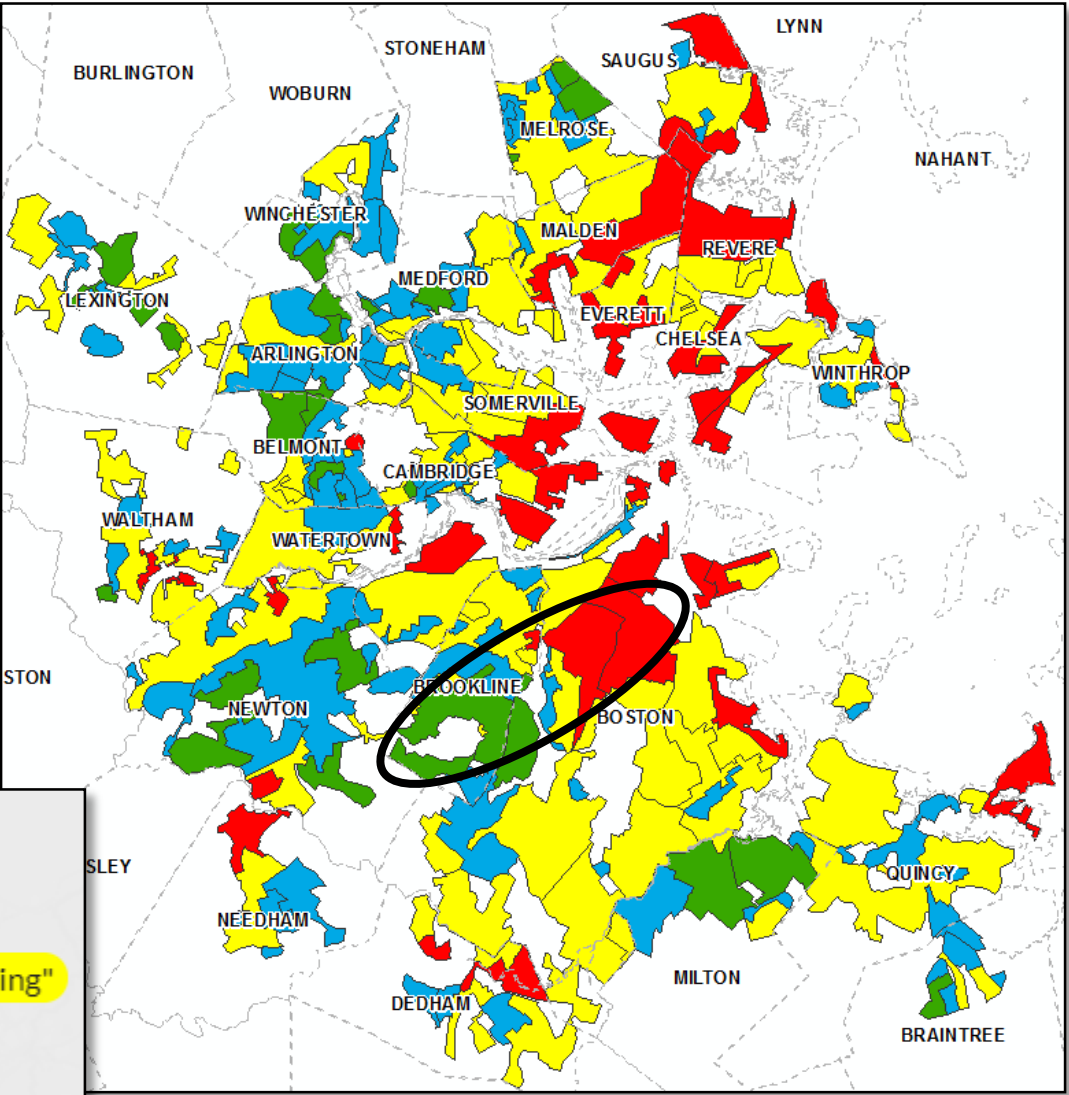# Tree cover & redlining: Hartford, CT
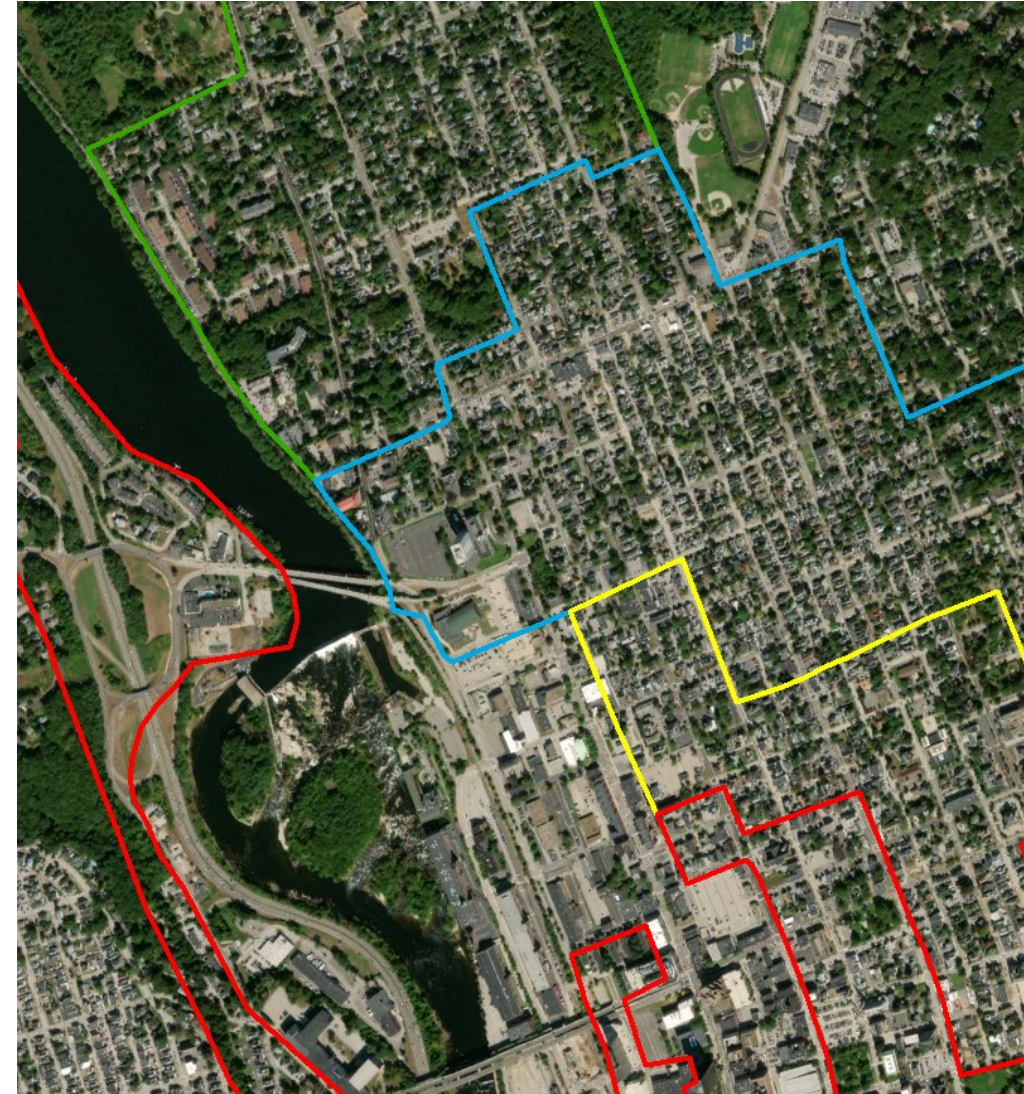
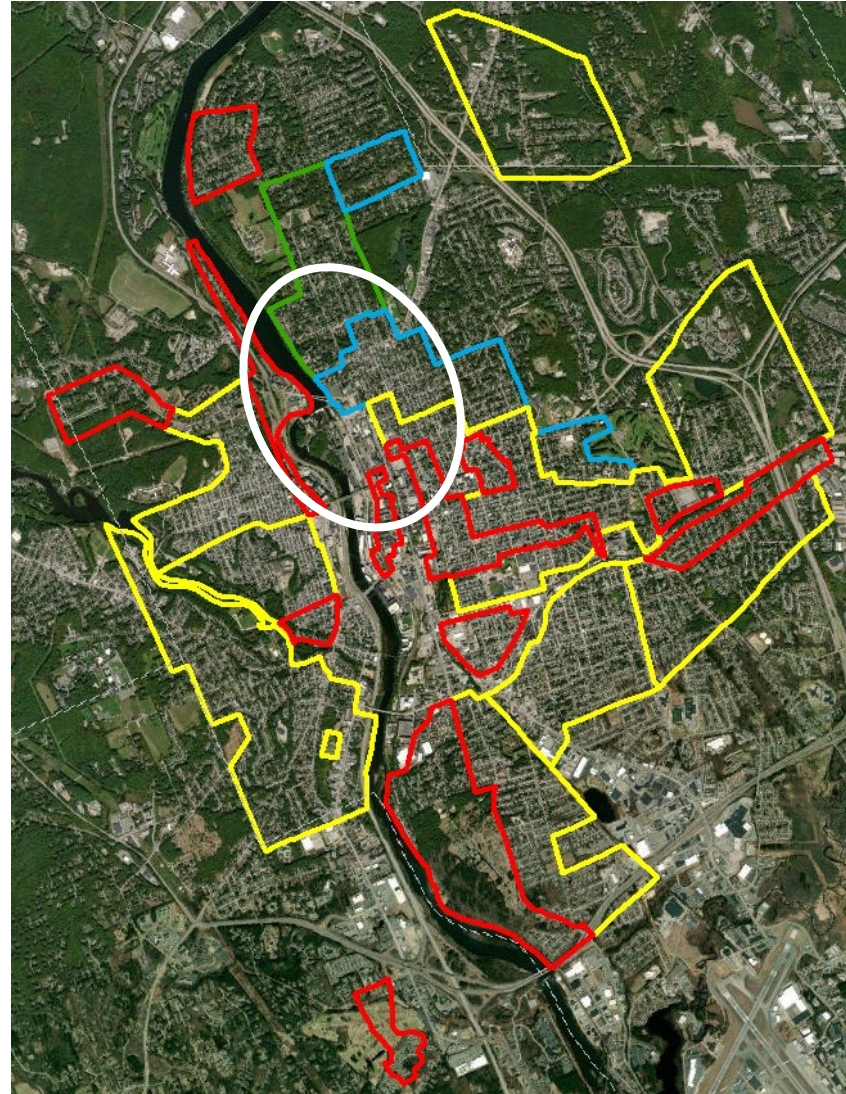

A "Best"
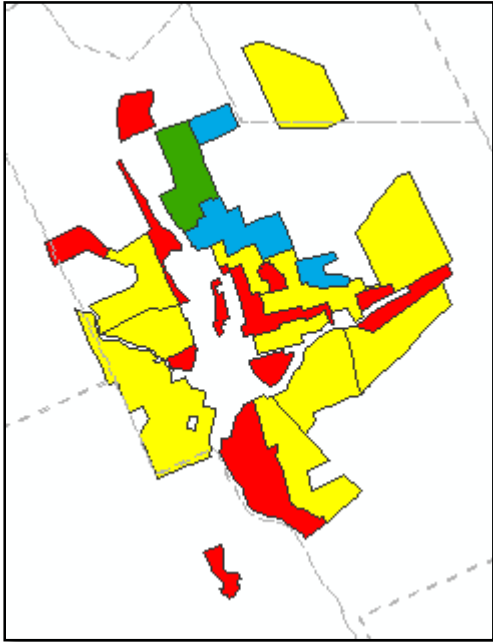B "Still Desirable"
C "Definitely Declining"
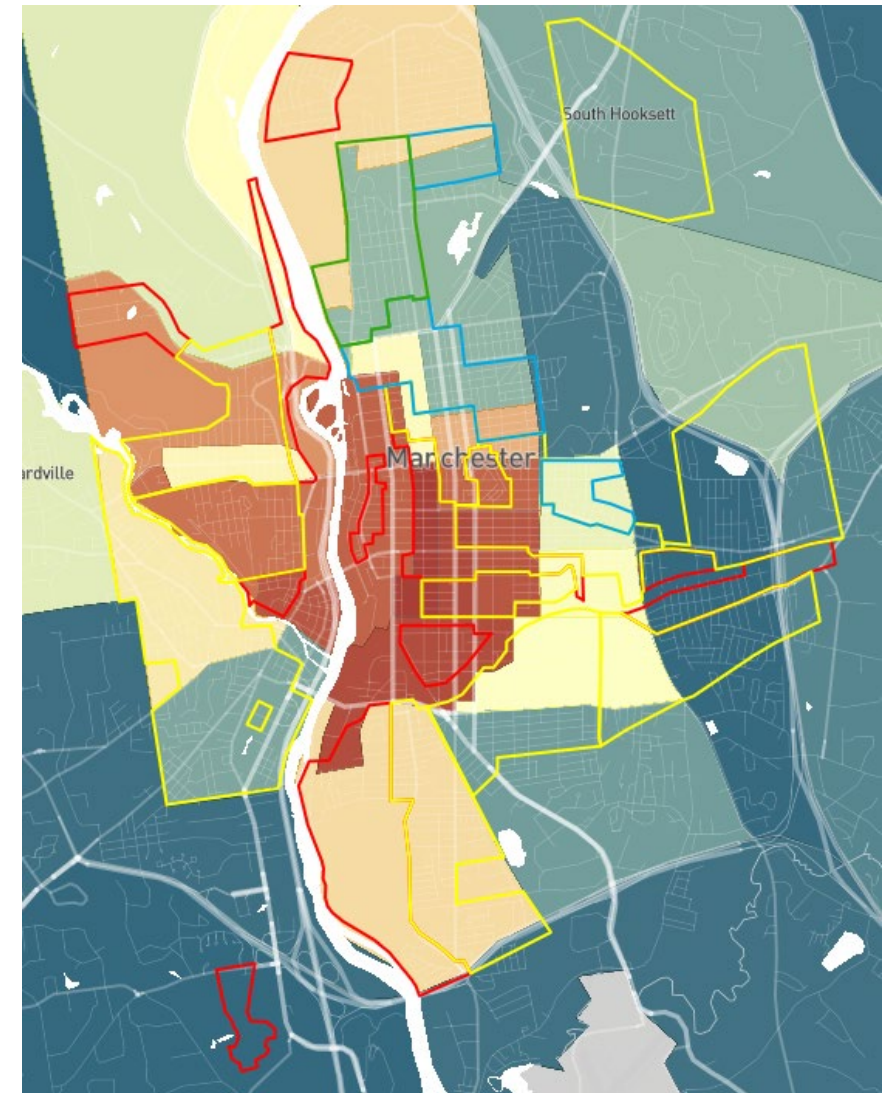D "Hazardous"

Tree cover & redlining: Boston Metro

A "Best"

B "Still Desirable"

C "Definitely Declining"

D "Hazardous"

Tree cover & redlining: Manchester, NH

A "Best"
B "Still Desirable"
C "Definitely Declining"
D "Hazardous"

Poverty & redlining: Manchester, NH

http://opportunityatlas.org

A "Best"

B "Still Desirable"

C "Definitely Declining"

D "Hazardous"
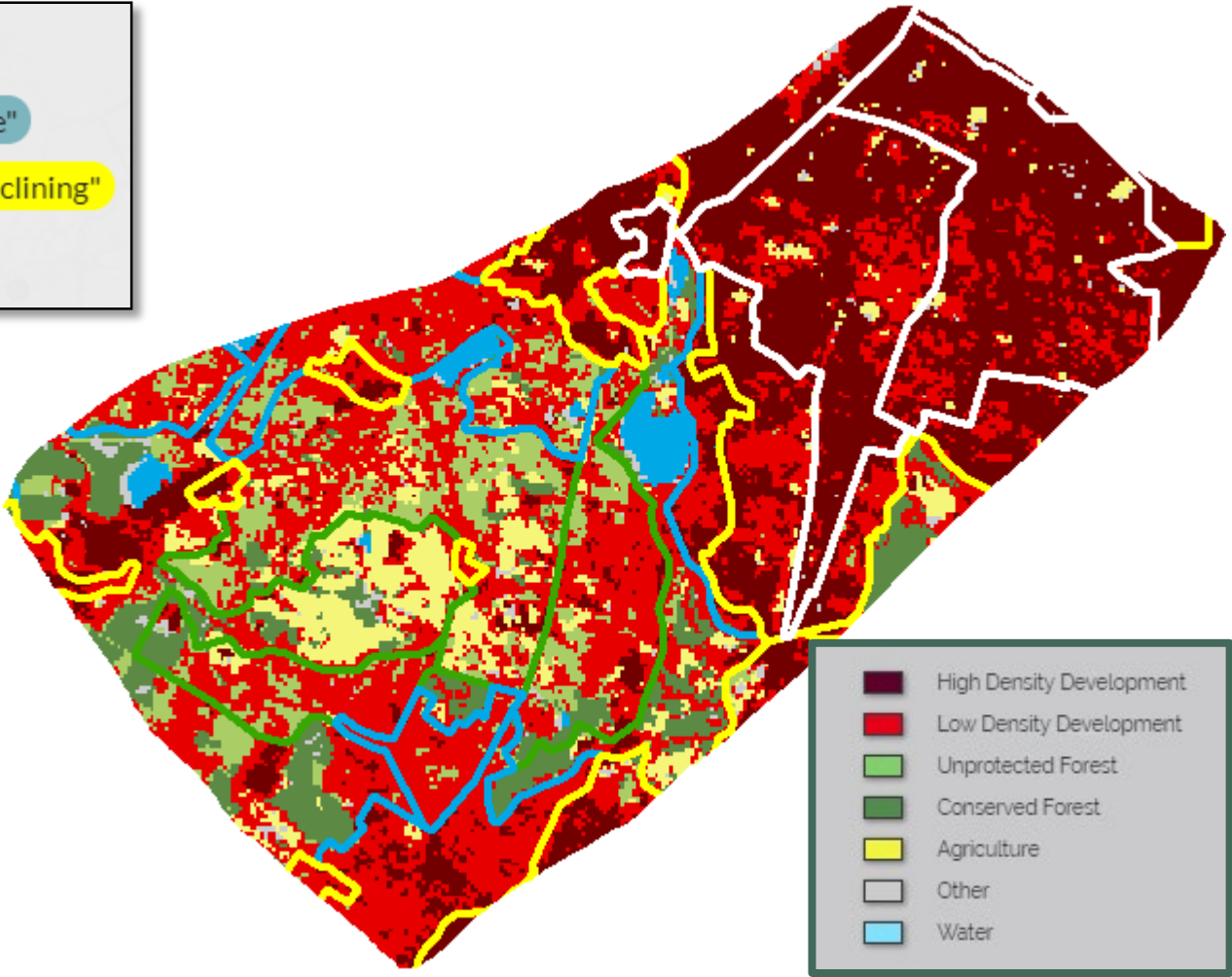
Manchester
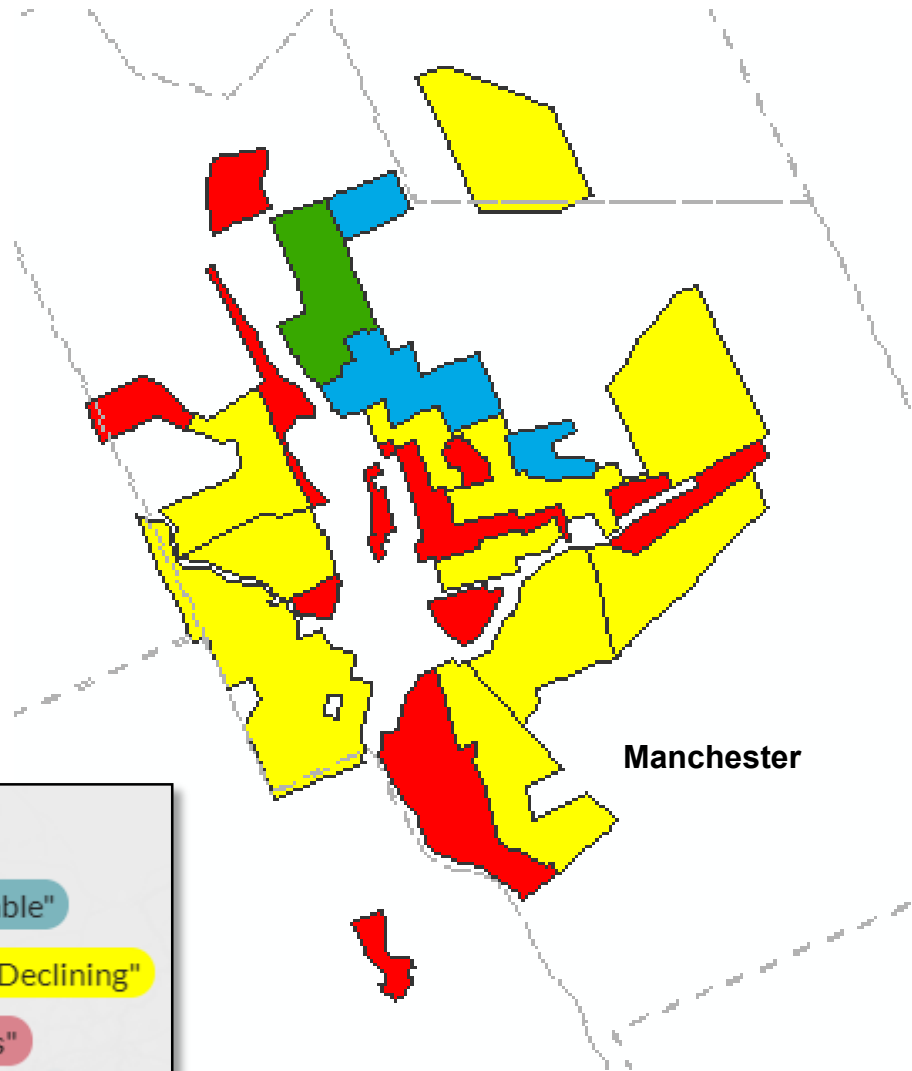
0% 3.9 6 8.2 10 13 16 20 26 35 >60%

Does legacy of redlining "show up" in NELF maps? If so, how?

Greater Boston
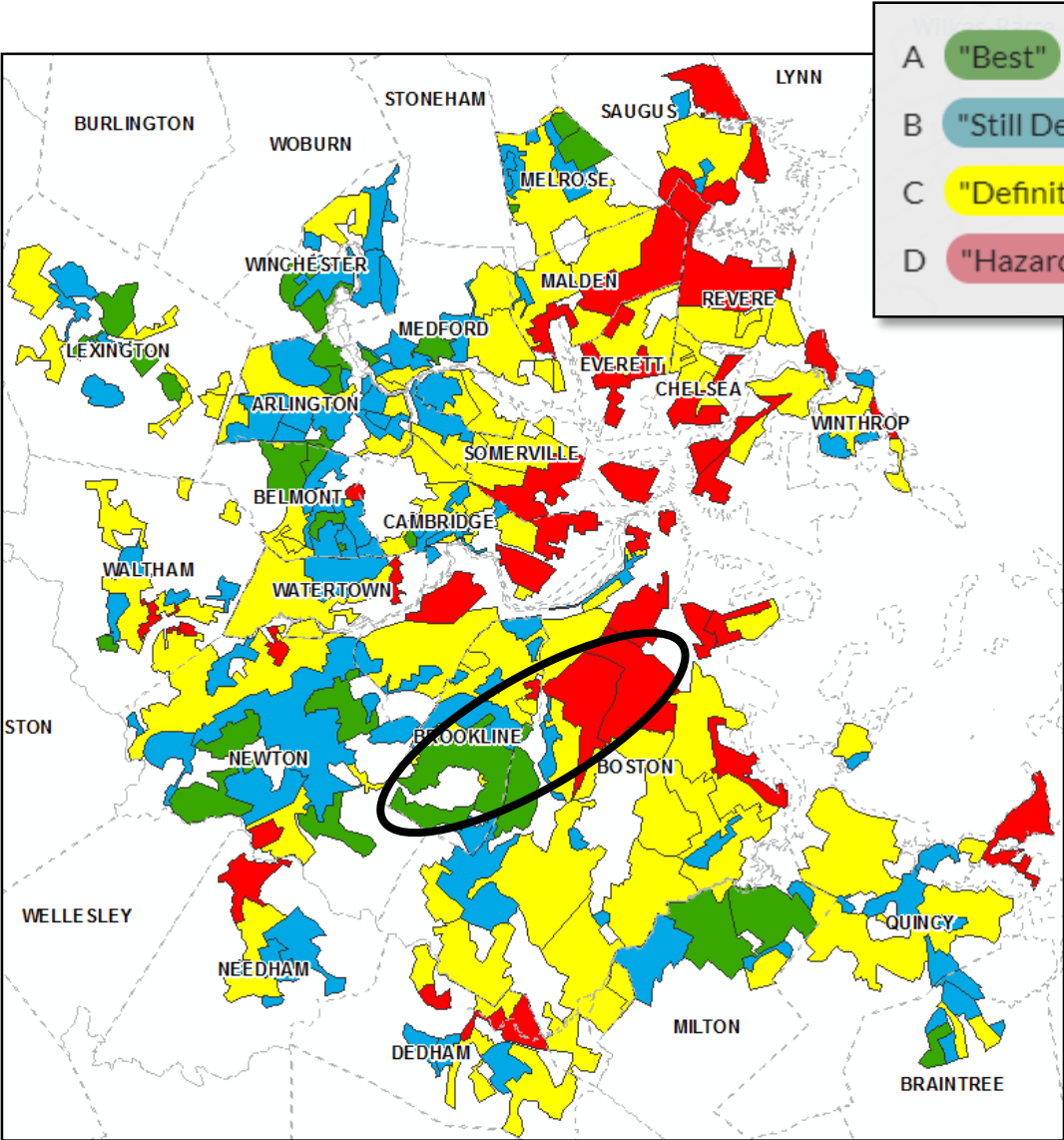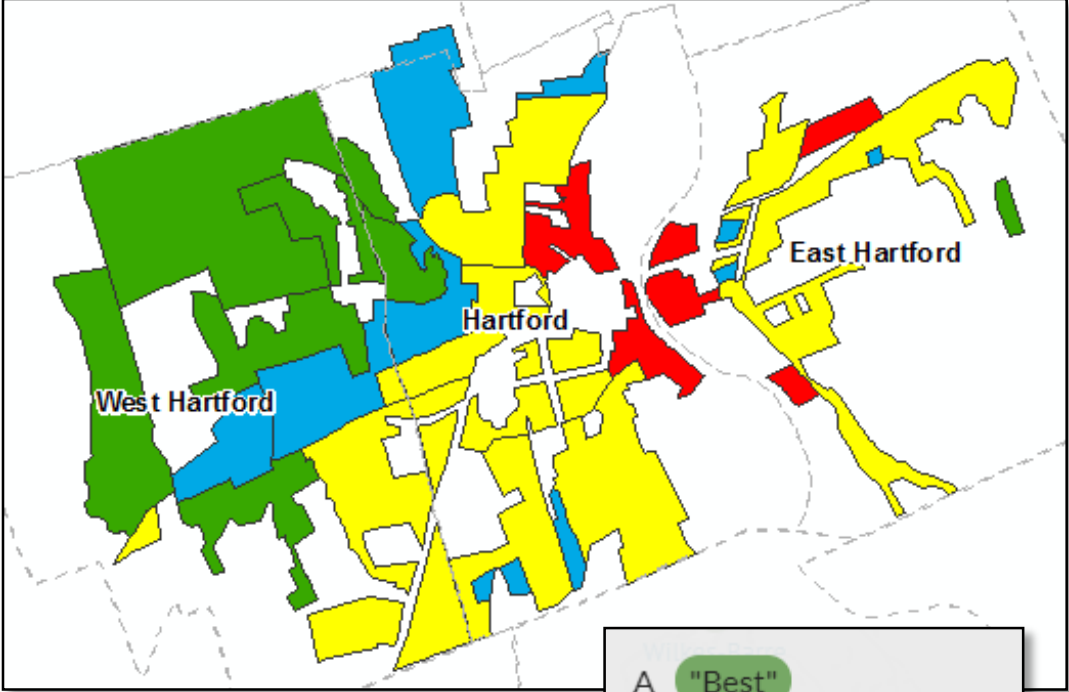
A	"Best"
B	"Still Desirable"
C	"Definitely Declining"
D	"Hazardous"

2010 actual conditions

Legend:
- High Density Development
- Low Density Development
- Unprotected Forest
- Conserved Forest
- Agriculture
- Other
- Water

Hartford, CT

Legend (left map):
- A — "Best"
- B — "Still Desirable"
- C — "Definitely Declining"
- D — "Hazardous"
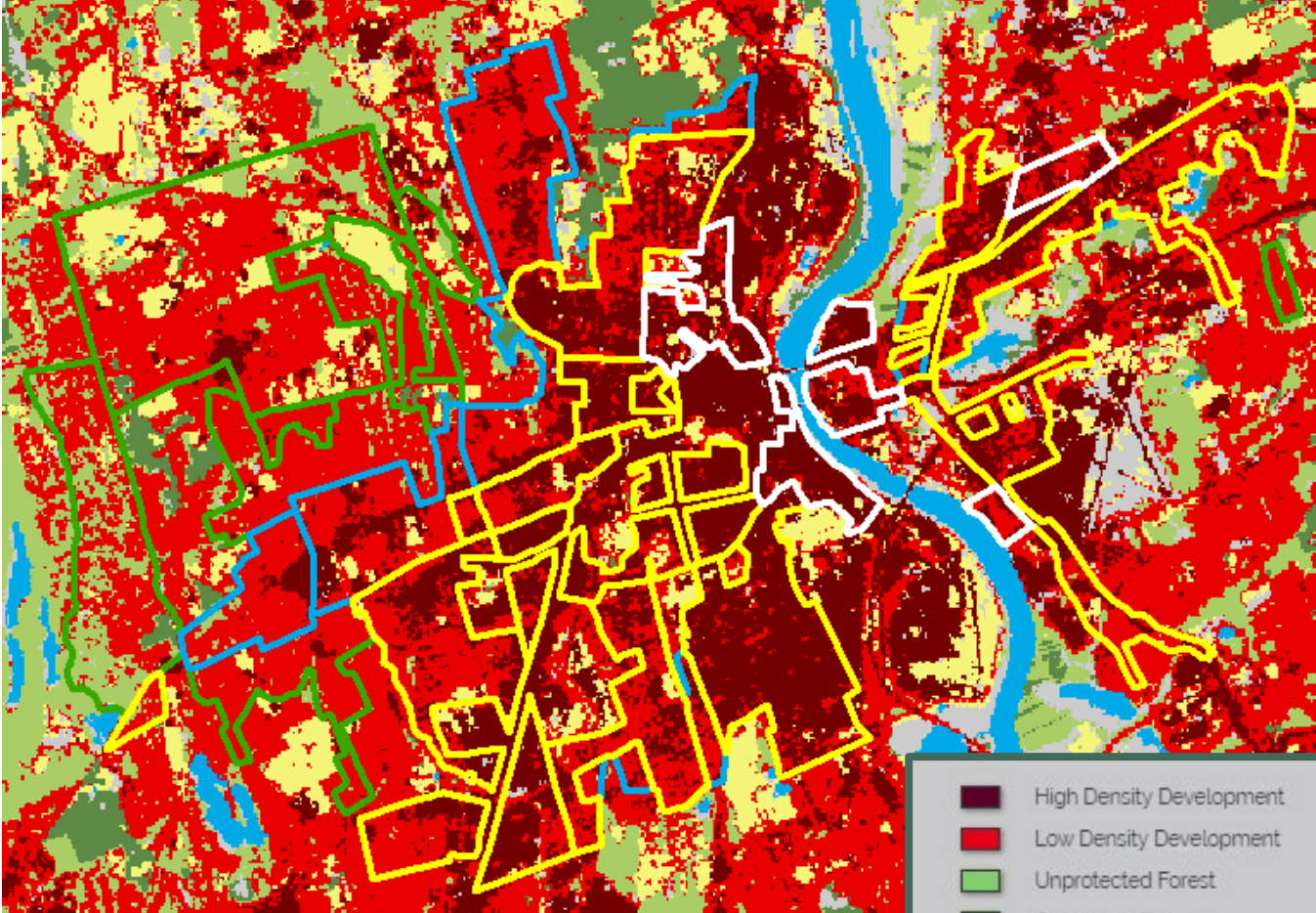
2010 actual conditions

Legend (right map):
- High Density Development
- Low Density Development
- Unprotected Forest
- Conserved Forest
- Agriculture
- Other
- Water

Hartford, CT

Recent Trends 2060

Connected Communities 2060
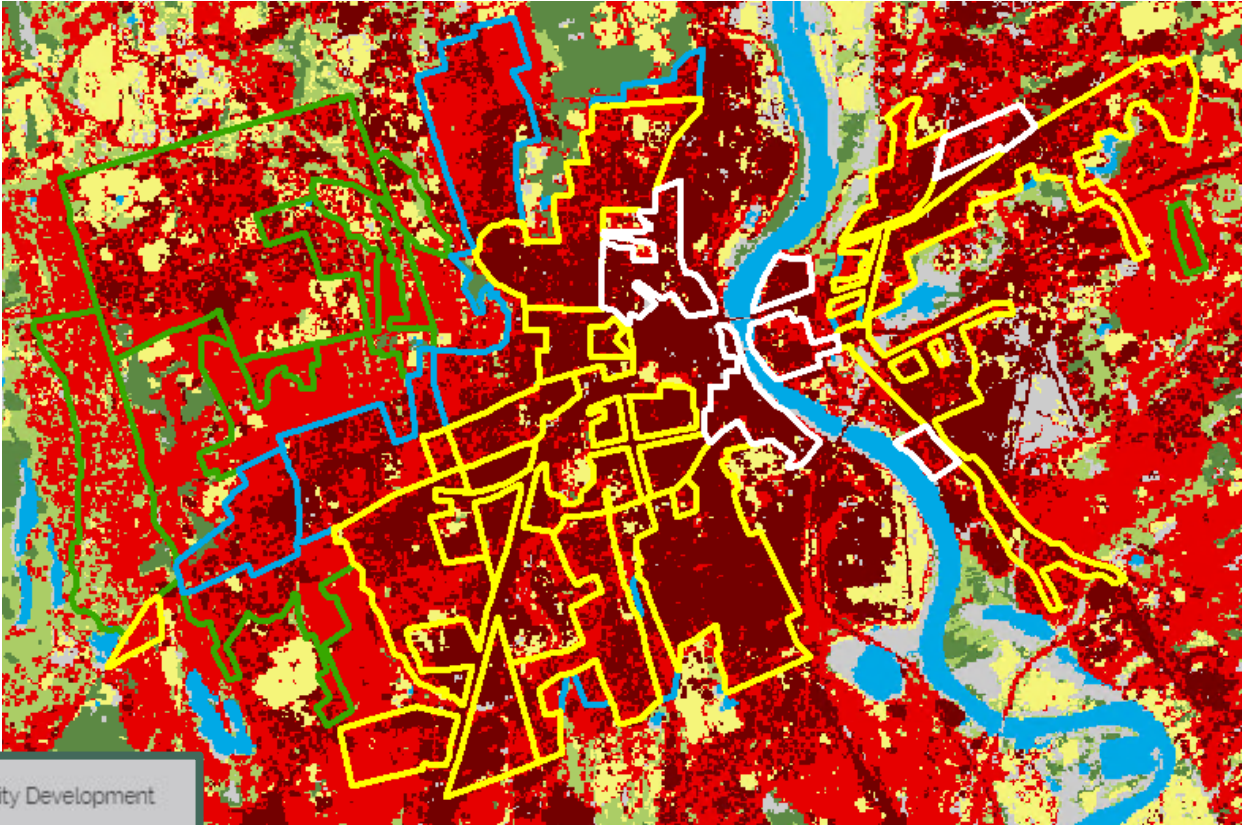
Legend:
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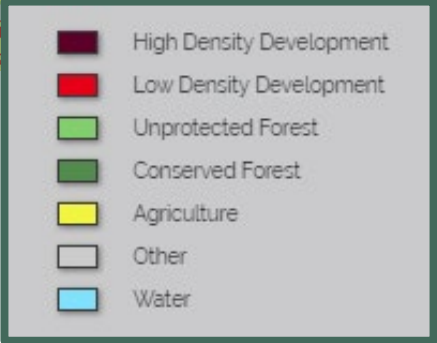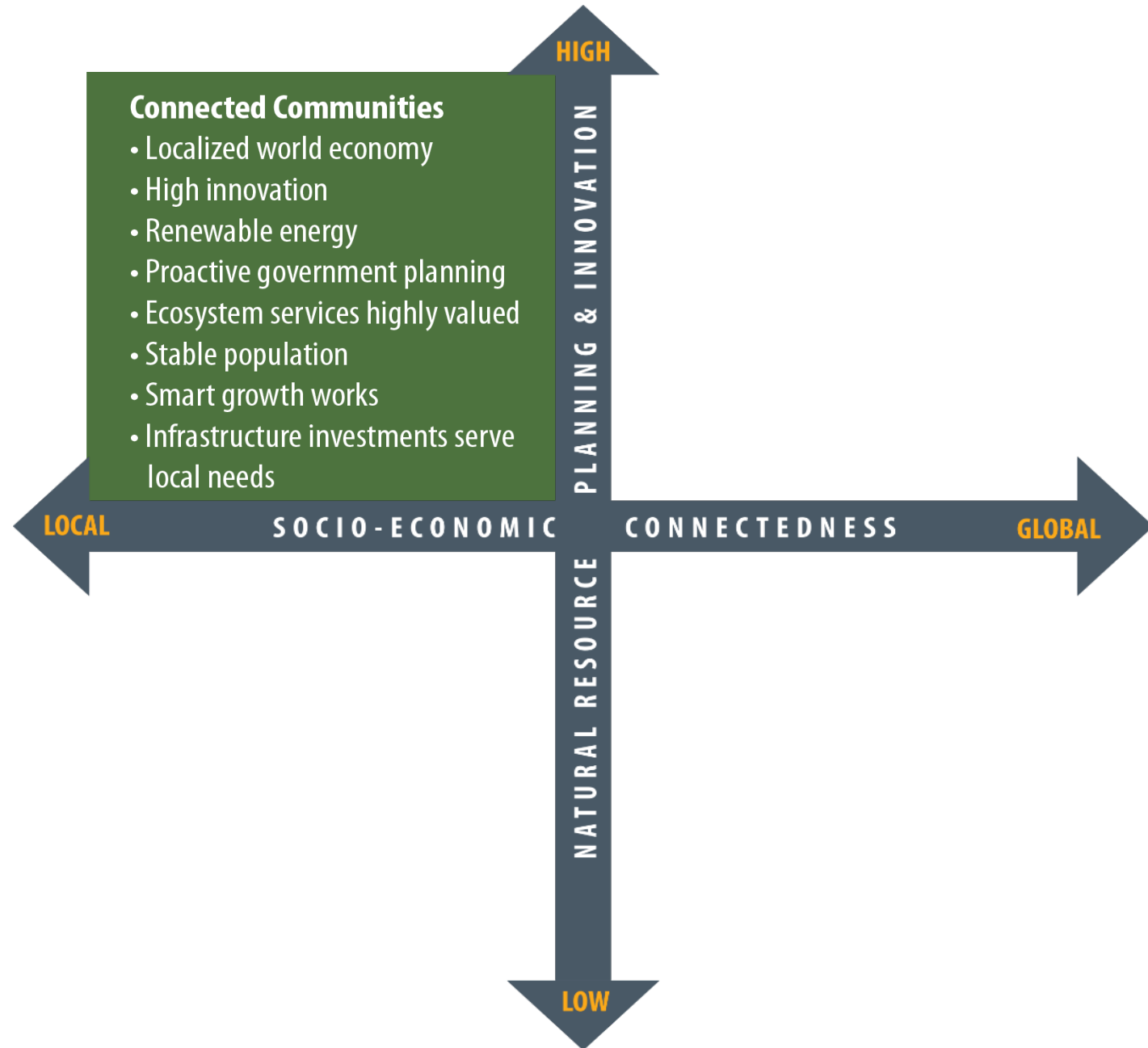# Takeaways: redlining & NELF maps

- There is variation across redlined cities. Different scales & specifics of NELF models further muddle the signal

- Redlined areas are frequently devoid of large forested areas
  - At least 30x30 meters

- Disproportionately *high density* development
  - Often is or is adjacent to industrial development

Connected Communities represents one possible future rooted in valuing the land and centering local community needs.

What potential does Connected Communities have to exacerbate or alleviate impacts of redlining?

What other considerations are needed or are relevant?

Connected Communities
- Localized world economy
- High innovation
- Renewable energy
- Proactive government planning
- Ecosystem services highly valued
- Stable population
- Smart growth works
- Infrastructure investments serve local needs

HIGH

LOW

PLANNING & INNOVATION

NATURAL RESOURCE

LOCAL   SOCIO-ECONOMIC   CONNECTEDNESS   GLOBAL

Sources

New England Historical Society, 2020. [The Secret History of New England's Sundown Towns](#).

University of Richmond. [Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America](#).

US Census Bureau, R. Chetty, N. Hendren, and J. Friedman. [Opportunity Atlas](#).