MDC's Vegetation Management Program

Town of West Hartford Community Planning and Economic Development Committee (CPED) Meeting

January 21, 2026



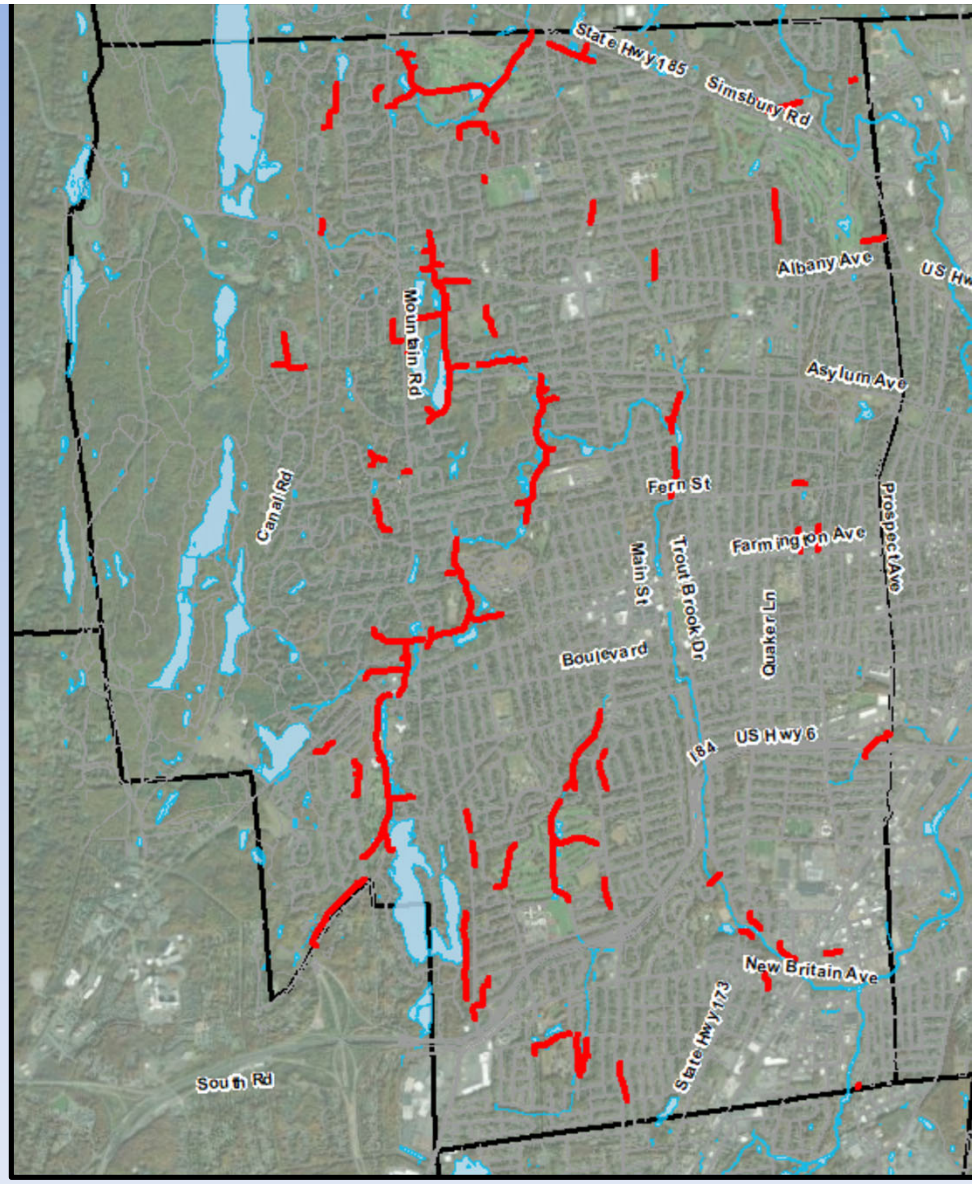
Program Intent

- The intent of the MDC Property and Easement Vegetation Management program is to remove all undesirable vegetation, trees, vines, and any other unwanted or hazardous organic material inside the area(s) being treated to provide MDC access to its infrastructure and simplification of long-term maintenance of the area(s). The MDC owns, operates, maintains, and repairs the public water distribution and sanitary sewer systems in the City of Hartford and the Towns of Bloomfield, East Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, Wethersfield, West Hartford, and Windsor. The MDC also owns and maintains various facilities and land within Connecticut, in towns including: Avon, Barkhamsted, Burlington, Canton, Colebrook, Collinsville, East Granby, Glastonbury, Hartland, and New Hartford.

- The District is responsible for over 1,500 miles of water pipe, over 1,250 miles of sewer pipe, approximately 220 miles of Easements within Rights-of-Way (ROW), 17 Facilities, and approximately 31,500 acres of real property in the State of Connecticut and the western portion of Massachusetts. In Easement treatment areas, a minimum of a 15' wide open area at any single location along the alignment of the ROW, which are typically 20' in width along the existing sanitary sewer or water main alignments, is acceptable. On all District-owned or maintained properties, the Contractor will perform vegetation management work to an acceptable level as necessary to allow MDC to perform routine and emergency maintenance and repair activities to its utilities. Special precautions will be exercised by Contractor during treatment and clearing operations when working in "sensitive areas," near critical care facilities, schools, farms, water supply wells, reservoirs, watersheds, and the like, to ensure the impact to towns' communities is minimal.

MDC Collection System (West Hartford)

- Total Mileage = 223 Miles
- Total Quantity within Easements = 19 Miles
- Required Length of Easement Clearing = 11 Miles
- Easement Sewers (red):
  - Average age of install: 1969
  - Pipe Materials: Primarily PVC, Concrete, or Already CIPP Lined (68%)

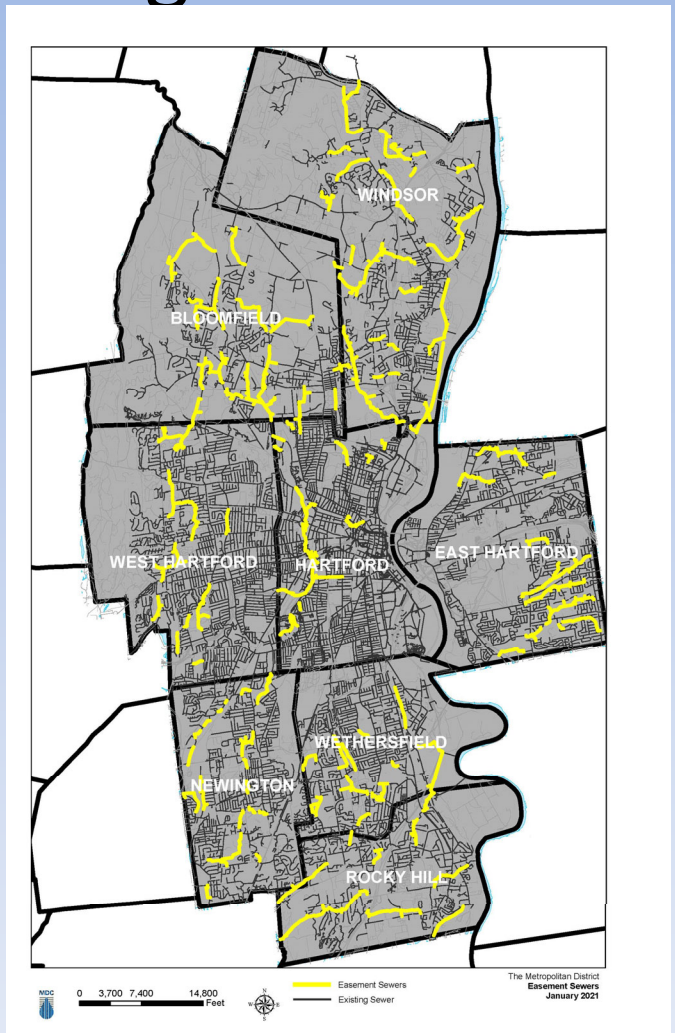


Program Drivers

- MDC Consent Decree (August 2006)
- Capacity, Management, Operation & Maintenance (CMOM)
  - Primary Objective is elimination of Maintenance Related Sanitary Sewer Overflows
  - Typical CMOM Activities
    - Sewer Inspection via Closed Circuit TV (CCTV)
    - Manhole Inspections
    - Sewer Cleaning
    - Sewer Lining
      - Structural and/or Infiltration/Inflow (I/I)
  - MDC has CCTV Inspected approximately 97% of entire collection system
    - Remaining 3% is primarily sewers in “cross-country” areas

MDC Easement Clearing Program

Town	Easement Length (feet)
Bloomfield	98,000 (completed)
Rocky Hill	59,100 (completed)
East Hartford	66,200 (completed)
Windsor	132,300 (completed)
Newington	51,300 (completed)
Wethersfield	59,200 (2025-2026)
West Hartford	**54,300 (2026-2027)**
Hartford	55,800 (Future)
Total (feet)	**576,200**
Total (miles)	**109**



Easement Program







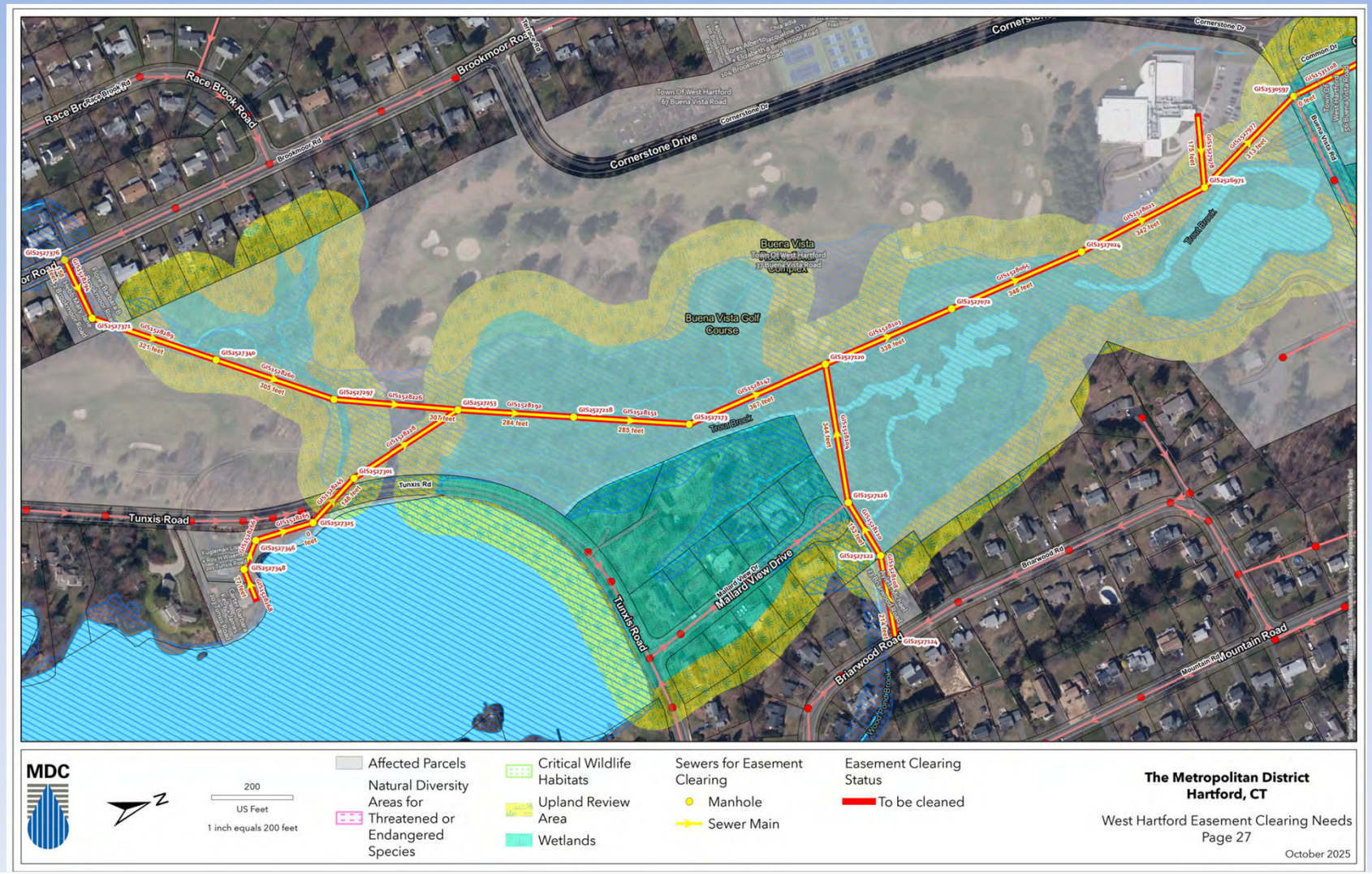


Easement CCTV Set-up

- Increased accessibility to remote locations
- MDC Purchased UTV & Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) Equipment and began use in 2019
  - UTV has a very small footprint and high maneuverability
  - Only requires a 12’-15’ wide clearing within existing 20’ sanitary sewer easements
  - Allows MDC to conduct CCTV inspection in-house



Example Map Area



Typical Easement Clearing Sequence

- MDC sends notifications to property owners and abutters of pending easement work
- MDC personnel completes initial survey to locate Sanitary Sewer Manholes and lines of site
- MDC Contractor conducts assessment on each “Map Area”. Assessments include:
  - Site Access Locations
  - #/Type of Properties
  - Stream Crossings
  - Unique Features (i.e. fences, structures, or steep grades)
  - Quantity of Larger Trees (12” and greater)
  - Duration of Work
- MDC notifies property owners via door hanger in advance of work
- Contractor completes clearing in phases:
  - Initial clearing and cutting of debris
    - Primarily Hand Cutting
    - Small Equipment for Chipping and Stump Grinding/Cutting
    - Removal of wood (if accessible) or construction of “habitat piles” in wetland areas
    - https://portal.ct.gov/deep/wildlife/fact-sheets/brush-piles-for-wildlife
  - Flush cutting of stumps
  - Seeding
  - Selective Herbicide application for invasive plant species using approved aquatic/wetland safe herbicides

Herbicide

- MDC Contractor is a Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) certified Commercial Pesticide Application Business and Applicator
- Triclopyr-3 is the CT DEEP approved herbicide used to control invasive plants in the easements (including wetlands).
- For more information: https://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/triclopyrgen.html

Example Outreach Notifications

Property Owner Notification

MDC
The Metropolitan District
water supply • environmental services • geographic information

June 18, 2025

RE: Easement (Sewer) Clearing

Dear Owner/Current Occupant:

This is an update to inform you that the Metropolitan District (MDC) and their contractor, Lavoie Horticulture, are currently working on a project in your neighborhood to perform preventative maintenance on a critical easement that crosses your property. To create and maintain access to our sewer pipe, located in the right of way, it is necessary that crews clear brush, debris and trees (as needed) to maintain access.

In the event that trees, fences or structures need to be removed or relocated due to the clearing, MDC staff will meet with each property owner affected to discuss our plan and address any concerns. Additional notification will be provided in advance of the tree/debris clearing work.

The clearing work is expected to last approximately 14 working days, weather permitting. Due to the nature of the work, work may take place intermittently over the course of the next 1-2 months. In addition, we will be spraying for invasive weeds and seeding new grass later this fall. Work hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. MDC Staff and contractors must be properly identified and present ID upon request.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at (860) 278-7850 ext. 3387 dagibson@themdc.com.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan District

Daron C. Gibson
Construction Manager

cc: Communications

Wethersfield Easement Clearing OWNER Area 1

555 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut 06103 telephone: 860-278-7850 fax: 860-724-2679
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Abutter Owner Notification

MDC
The Metropolitan District
water supply • environmental services • geographic information

June 18, 2025

RE: Easement (Sewer) Clearing – Abutter's Notice

Dear Owner/Current Occupant:

This is an update to inform you that the Metropolitan District (MDC) and their contractor, Lavoie Horticulture, are currently working on a project in your neighborhood to perform preventative maintenance on an easement in areas that abut your property. No work is planned on your property. To create and maintain access to our sewer, located in the right of way, it is necessary that crews clear brush, debris and trees (as needed).

The clearing work is expected to last approximately 14 working days, weather permitting. Due to the nature of the work, work may take place intermittently over the course of the next 1-2 months. In addition, we will be spraying for invasive weeds and seeding new grass later this fall. Work hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. MDC Staff and contractors must be properly identified and present ID upon request.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at (860) 278-7850 ext. 3387 or dagibson@themdc.com.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan District

Daron C. Gibson
Construction Manager

Cc: Communications

Wethersfield Easement Clearing ABUTTER Areas 1

555 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut 06103 telephone: 860-278-7850 fax: 860-724-2679
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Pre-Work Door Hanger



Easement Clearing to Begin in Your Neighborhood

This is a reminder that the **Metropolitan District (MDC)** and their contractor will be starting work to perform preventative maintenance on a critical easement (right of way) that crosses your property.

To create and maintain access to our sewer pipe, located in the right of way, it is necessary that crews clear brush, debris and trees (as needed) to maintain access and thus maintain our sewer.

In the event that trees, fences or structures need to be removed or relocated due to the clearing, MDC staff will meet with each property owner affected to discuss a plan and address any concerns.

The clearing work is expected to last approximately 30 working days, weather permitting. Work hours are generally Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. MDC Staff and contractors will be properly identified and shall present ID upon request.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact **Daron Gibson, Construction Manager, at (860) 278-7850 Ext. 3387 or dagibson@themdc.com.**

Thank you.

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