



## Asian Longhorned Beetle Survey in Brooklyn and Queens, New York

**“Toto, I have a feeling we’re not in the Acadian Forest anymore.”**

A close-up photograph of an Asian Longhorned Beetle (Anoplopterus testaceicornis) clinging to a tree trunk. The beetle has a dark, metallic blue-black body with several white spots on its elytra. Its most striking feature is its extremely long, segmented antennae, which are also dark with white spots. The beetle is positioned vertically on the rough, brown bark of the tree.

## Asian Longhorned Beetle

- ▶ Detected in 1996 in Brooklyn and Amityville, NY
  - ▶ We were doing the Macarena\* and learned from Ms. Crow that “If it makes you happy, it can’t be that bad.”
  - ▶ Some guy in Brooklyn was wondering, “Who [the \*#\*%)@+!] shot at the trees?!?” (expletives assumed)
- ▶ Survives well on a lot of North American hardwoods; Maples of prime concern

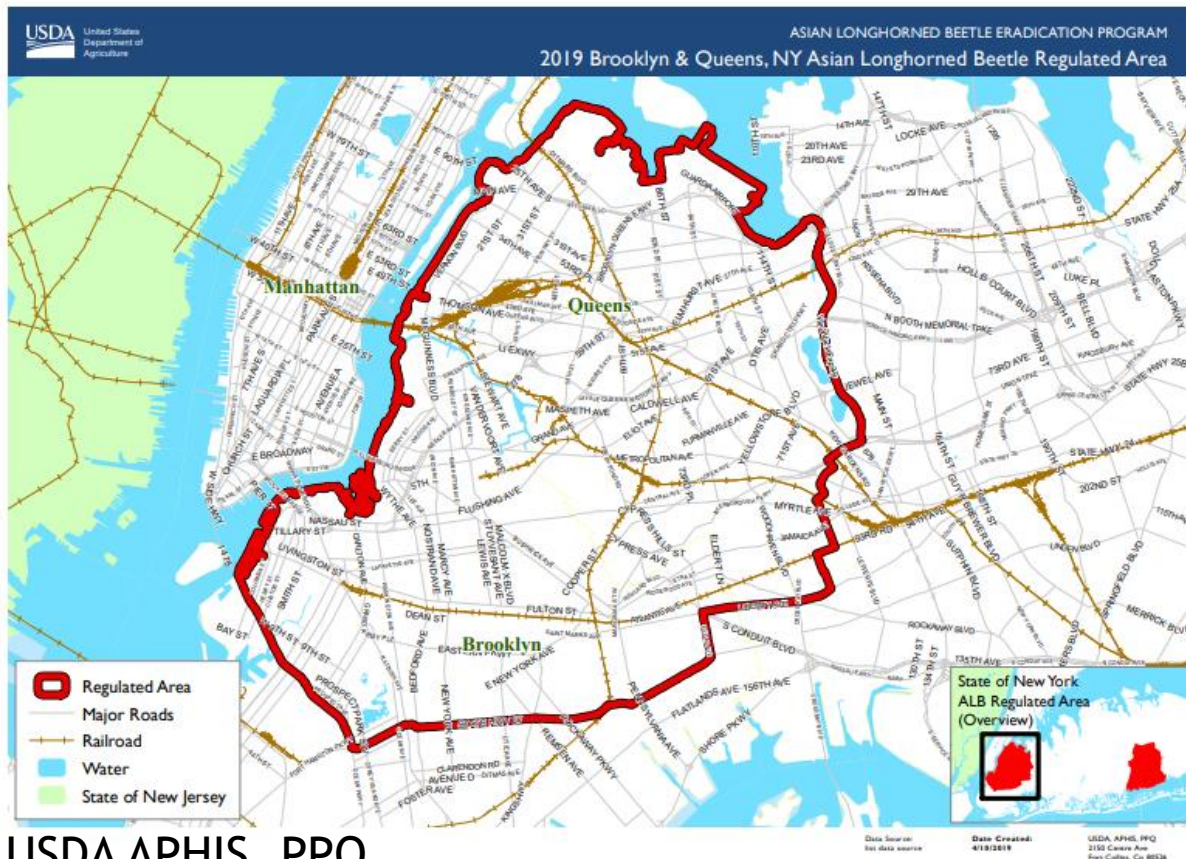




# Signs of Attack

(Dennis Haugen, USDA FS, Patty Douglass & Kenneth Law, USDA APHIS, [bugwood.org](http://bugwood.org))

# ALB in Brooklyn and Queens



▶ Deemed “Eradicable” by USDA APHIS and CFIA

- ▶ Eradicated from several areas
- ▶ Brooklyn/Queens one final survey away from eradication (2019-1996=23 years)...they needed people!





## Problem: USDA APHIS Staffing Shortages Made Survey Completion Unattainable

- ▶ Doubling of staff with already short resources
- ▶ Two-man teams to assure safety and accountability in and around high-rise residences



# Solution: ALB-targeted FHWT Grant from USDA FS to assist in surveys



- ▶ Incoming teams were given an orientation and brief on operational structure
- ▶ Each mobe member was teamed with an ALB NY staff employee
- ▶ Familiarized with field and data recording techniques particular to the assigned working environment (i.e. rooftops/high rises/pavement)

(That's a strange definition of "ground survey" you have in Brooklyn/Queens)

# Outcomes



- ▶ 4 States sent staff: CT, MA, ME, VT (13 Individuals)
- ▶ Mobilizations over 3, 28-Day periods
- ▶ 8,870 outstanding properties surveyed
- ▶ 4,354 host trees inspected
- ▶ Nobody bought a bridge



NEWS ▾ BROOKLYN BORO

## Beetlemania ends! Invasive Asian longhorned beetle banished from city

October 11, 2019 Mary Frost



Cupcakes decorated with pictures of Asian Longhorned Beetles were served at a party on Thursday celebrating the elimination of the pests in Brooklyn and Queens. Eagle photo by Mary Frost

The insect that threatened to [wipe out tens of thousands of the city's trees](#) has been squashed.

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OUTCOME:  
A victory for the ALB program and northern hardwood forests throughout the region

The extension of FHWT grants which allowed extra teams to be added, throughout this time, made a significant impact upon the rate of survey completions, such that they became a key component in reaching the PPQ ALB NY survey progression timeline goals, and subsequent quarantine closures in Brooklyn and Queens. PPQ sends its gratitude to the mobilization teams that made time to help eradicate this invasive pest.



## Credit where Due:

Special thanks and recognition to Don at Dispatch for handling the complicated details of this mobilization with bug people and staying positive in his dealings with state cooperators throughout!

And

Tom Parent for his guidance, patience and understanding