

NORWALK

THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT SUCCESS STORIES

No.
298



FODOR FARM Norwalk, CT

Open Space
Acquisition



A combination of innovative land and historic preservation approaches coupled with generous **Community Investment Act (CIA)** and other grants have allowed Norwalk's once derelict **Fodor Farm** to emerge as a vibrant community green space with a promising future.

In 2008, two of the property's historic houses were sold under the condition that the new owners restore them. The revenue from these sales funded the restoration of the third historic house and the creation of a community garden.

An additional \$529,500 in grants from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Commission on Culture and Tourism, the CT Department of Public Health, and the City of Norwalk, made the Fodor Farm Community Garden possible.

By integrating obesity prevention, historic preservation, and urban green space revitalization, Fodor Farm serves as a successful model of CIA funds in action. The project proves that CIA monies go a long way towards building community by providing opportunities for exercise, access to fresh, local, healthy food, and gardening, cooking, and nutrition education.

All work to create this vibrant community garden was done by local companies,

including the installation of water lines and spigots, fencing, and electrical work. A barn, recycled asphalt millings, and 40 apple trees were sourced locally. Two greenhouses were purchased from nearby Cheshire, two sheds from Stamford, and restoration construction was completed by a Greenwich company.

Garden construction was completed by the city, which now provides tools, top soil, compost, and mulch to community members to grow fresh, local food in 300 plots.

During the growing season a Sunday farmers' market is held to showcase and support local Connecticut farmers. Gardening, cooking, nutrition, and recreational classes are provided to the community and sponsored by the volunteer group "Friends of Fodor Farm." The City has donated pottery supplies, including a potters wheel, for "Clay Works," a program designed to engage 5-12 year-old children in art classes.



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The Community Investment Act, enacted in 2005, stimulates private investment to protect our natural, agricultural, and historic resources, and to assist affordable housing. CIA funds come from a surcharge on real estate document recording fees. They are then invested in agriculture viability, dairy farm support, historic preservation, open space, farmland, affordable housing, Local Capital Improvement Projects and Town Clerk records management.