

# WINDHAM

## THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT SUCCESS STORIES

No.  
147



In the fall of 2010, the Town of **Windham** was awarded over \$22,000 in **Community Investment Act (CIA)** funds through the Department of Environmental Protection Urban Green and Community Garden grant program to expand and improve Recreation Park.

**Recreation Park** currently provides seasonal athletic fields and scenic wooded walking paths along the Willimantic River. While still in the preliminary stages, the CIA funded grant will be spent to



connect a currently neglected five acre parcel to the existing park. Transforming the parcel into a valuable community greenspace will require the removal of garbage, invasive species, and trees in poor health as well as the creation of walking paths. In addition, the town



plans to hire a local fence contractor to replace and restore the park's fencing.

This proposed restoration, made possible by the CIA, will allow the community greater access to the Willimantic River for fishing and to historical textile mill landmarks dating back to the 1700s. By turning this once underutilized land into an accessible, productive area to recreate, the Town of Windham is able to invest in the preservation of its natural resources, as well as improve the quality of life for its residents.

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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.