

WETHERSFIELD



THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT SUCCESS STORIES

No.
379



WILKUS FARM Wethersfield, CT

Open Space
Acquisition

The Town of **Wethersfield** once boasted an extensive network of farms, including 62 dairy farms as of 1972. Over the years, many of these farms were sold to make way for residential subdivisions that now blanket much the town.

In 2009, the Town of Wethersfield had a unique opportunity to permanently protect the 81-acre **Wilkus Farm** – one of the town's few remaining farms and some of the last open space remaining in this densely developed community.

With the assistance of a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection Open Space & Watershed Land

Acquisition program, funded by the **Community Investment Act (CIA)**, Wethersfield voters approved the purchase of this historic farm in May 2009, demonstrating the value of special places like Wilkus Farm that define our communities.

The total cost of the purchase was \$3,445,000 and the CIA funding will reimburse the Town for \$490,000.

The purchase ensures that this farm will not be developed and will remain as a symbol of the agricultural history of the community.

The Wilkus Farm will be used for active agriculture, passive recreation, and educational opportunities for students. Most importantly, the investment in this land improves the quality of life for residents and Connecticut families, while also creating an estimated six local jobs in the process.



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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.