

Fitchburg, Gateway Park Gateway City Parks Grant: \$500,000

The **Gateway City Parks** Program provided a grant to purchase roughly five acres of land along the Nashua River at 41 Sheldon Street. The parcel will help protect water quality, provide flood storage, and – most importantly – create a recreational amenity for the neighborhood. It will also serve as a catalyst for commercial and residential growth in the area, helping to revitalize the city of Fitchburg. This project involves many partners including the city, The Trustees of Reservations, **North County Land Trust**, Fitchburg Greenways Committee, and the Nashua River Watershed Association. Work is underway, also with Gateway City Parks Program funds, to conduct visioning and produce park design and construction documents.



COMMONWEALTH WORKING LANDSCAPES

The Patrick Administration also supports conservation of prime agricultural and forest land that is critical to ecological integrity and supports local sustainable agriculture and forest industries, contributing more than \$1 billion annually to Massachusetts' rural economies. More than 92 million board feet of timber are sustainably harvested annually in Massachusetts, creating a large market for locally grown forest products that are harvested, produced, and sold in Massachusetts. These lands are also critical to the character and scenic beauty of many rural Massachusetts cities and towns.

FY09 Highlights:

- Thousands of acres of working landscapes, including lands actively managed for forest products, were permanently protected through EEA expenditures.
 - The Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program invested \$10.6 million to protect 1,927 acres on 33 farms.
 - The Farm Viability Program secured five- or 10-year restrictions on an additional 1,626