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TURI AWARDS COMMUNITY GRANT TO SPRINGFIELD, NORTHAMPTON, AND HOLYOKE FOR ORGANIC LAND CARE MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL PARKS AND FIELDS

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The City of Northampton is pleased to announce that UMass Lowell's Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) has awarded the City of Springfield as the Lead agency and the City of Northampton and Holyoke as community partners a \$20,000 grant to fund staff training and technical assistance on organic land care practices for municipal property.

Earlier this year, Mayor David J. Narkewicz announced that the City of Northampton would adopt organic methods of land management at the newly constructed Florence Fields Recreation Area to pilot and test organic turf management for potential use citywide. "This grant-funded training collaboration with Springfield and Holyoke comes at a perfect time," said Mayor Narkewicz, "as it will provide our staff professional training to help us achieve our organic management goals for Florence Fields and beyond."

Under the grant, a team of City of Northampton staff from the Department of Public Works, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Health Department, together with comparable staff teams from the cities of Springfield and Holyoke, will receive training and technical assistance on a "systems approach" that utilizes a series of preventative steps to mitigate potential pests and other turf problems through organic land practices. "Our overarching goal in moving away from synthetic fertilizers is to protect the environment and ensure that our parks and athletic fields are safe for children, families and the city employees who maintain them," said Mayor Narkewicz.

More information about the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) and the grant are available at:

[http://www.turi.org/News/Press Releases/TURI Funds 65 000 in Community Grants to Reduce Toxic Chemical Use](http://www.turi.org/News/Press_Releases/TURI_Funds_65_000_in_Community_Grants_to_Reduce_Toxic_Chemical_Use)