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Gardiner's New Playground Opening!

Gardiner, ME, October 9, 2009 — Gardiner's new playground, located on the Common, is about to be opened to the public! Please join Mayor Andy MacLean and others as we celebrate the opening to the long-awaited playground on Wednesday, October 14th, at 1 PM. The opening of the new playground marks the beginning of a new and exciting outdoor recreation destination for families and young children at Gardiner's most popular and historic city park. The new playground will feature swings, climbing equipment, slides and much, much more!

Final design and selection of the playground resulted after a few years of public participation and planning. Interest in the Common peaked in 2007, as a group of citizens called "Citizens for the Common Good" presented a summary of a survey that was conducted on the need to improve/replace the playground. In 2008, the public participated in several workshops, facilitated by Kent Associates, and provided feedback on a number of issues, including whether the old playground should stay or go, concerns about public safety, and maintenance issues to name a few. Final approval came with the Council's adoption the Common Master Plan on July 30th, 2008.

In late 2008, the Maine Department of Conservation awarded the City a \$25,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to replace the old wooden playground. In addition, the City received a generous donation from Gardiner's Professional Firefighters Local 2303 for this project. With the financial support in hand, the City was able to move forward with the project in 2009.

Over the past few weeks, Reggie Grant and the Public Works crew have been working on preparing the site for the installation. Site work included removal of the old playground and base material, installation of sonotubes, pouring concrete, hauling and leveling wood chips and other activities. Eric Welzel, from Miracle Recreation Equipment, helped put all of the equipment together, while David Cichowski coordinated various aspects of the job. Overall, it was a great community project to pull together! Please feel free come and visit the new playground when you can!



New Gardiner Playground Under Construction-Oct, 2009

If interested in learning more about the Common, or other planning projects, please contact Jason Simcock at 207-582-6888, or email to econdev@gardinermaine.com.