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Contact:

Jason Simcock, Director of Planning and Development
City of Gardiner
6 Church Street
Gardiner, ME 04345
Phone (207) 582-6888
Fax (207) 582-6895
econdev@gardinermaine.com
www.gardinermaine.com

**Gardiner Common Planning Continues;
Playground to be Removed**

Gardiner, ME, March 25, 2008 —Since January, residents and city officials have been working together towards finalizing a site plan for the Common. The public provided some great feedback on a number of issues at the last public workshop held on February 25th, including whether the playground should stay or go, concerns about public safety, and maintenance issues to name a few. In connection with this process, the City has determined it is necessary to remove the existing playground facility, as it has reached the end of its useful life.

Although the playground is getting removed in the near future, a comprehensive site plan for the Common will be presented in April, which will include information about a new playground among many other aspects for the park. Costs will be among the factors that determine how quickly the City can make park improvements. As with many of the City's community development projects, it is determined to keep costs to local tax payers at a bare minimum and seek grant funding to implement the site plan. Ultimately, the Common's action plan will provide a phased approach to future park improvements, based on the feedback heard during the public process. We appreciate all the feedback that has been shared!

The Common planning project is included in a group of 13 other City planning and design projects, referred to in the Bundled Projects RFP. If interested in learning more about the Common, or other planning projects, please contact Jason at 207-582-6888, or email to econdev@gardinermaine.com.