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**Gardiner's Waterfront Receives Earmark  
Senator Collins and Senator Snowe Secure \$147,000 in U.S. Senate**

*Gardiner, ME, January 29, 2008* — Gardiner's waterfront redevelopment project received a major boost this past December thanks to some new federal funding. With the support of Maine's Congressional delegation, Congress approved the City's FY '08 Earmark request, which will provide \$147,000 in funding for the completion of the waterfront project.

"Gardiner is very appreciative of the legislative support provided by Senator Collins, Senator Snowe and Congressman Allen's offices. Without their leadership and support, completing the waterfront project could not be possible. This is a great resource that will benefit the City and region for generations to come," said Mayor Andy MacLean.

Gardiner's Kennebec River waterfront park is a great source of recreation and economic development. In 2006, the City stabilized over 525' of shorefront and constructed a timber boardwalk over newly-installed timber crib sections. Construction of the project was made possible thanks to over \$850,000 in grant support from a variety of funding agencies, including the Land for Maine's Future, Department of Economic Development, Department of Conservation, and the Robinson's Trust fund. The project has received tremendous local support and leadership from local citizens and organizations, including the Waterfront Task Force, City Council, and the Gardiner Rotary Club among many others.

While a major step in the project was taken in 2006, there remains some significant work to be done in 2008. It is anticipated to add approximately 250' of timber boardwalk along the finger dock and boat launch area as well as complete parking, landscaping, lighting and green space areas. Once completed, the waterfront park will become an even greater destination for residents and visitors.

One of the aspects that makes Gardiner's waterfront park so unique, is its location. It is literally a part of the City's historic downtown and is an important part of overall downtown revitalization efforts. The park is also a popular recreation location destination for boaters and fishermen alike. With the completion of the 6.5 mile long Kennebec River Rail Trail in 2007, pedestrians have the opportunity to walk, run or bike from Augusta to Gardiner which increases opportunities to connect with Gardiner's waterfront. While at the park, visitors can enjoy a scenic riverside trail which starts just beyond the newly-installed kayak launch area. New federal funding will help complete the highly anticipated site plan and further multiply the potential for economic development for downtown.

The \$147,000 Earmark was funded in the Senate as presented by Senator Collins and Senator Snowe. Without Senator Collins and Senator Snowe's support on this request, this funding would not be possible and the City would not likely be able to complete the project in 2008.

U.S. Senator Susan Collins said, "I was pleased to assist the City of Gardiner in obtaining funding for this important project. The Waterfront Redevelopment Project will add to the beauty and economic vitality of the city, and promises to become a destination for community members and visitors alike. With a new boardwalk, public park areas and fishing platforms, there will be something for everybody to enjoy. Congratulations on creating such a well-designed and successful project."

U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe said, "The City of Gardiner is undergoing an exciting renovation that will enhance the community character and quality of life for all residents. The waterfront is in essence the front porch of the city and this project will undoubtedly have a revitalizing effect on the entire region."

U.S. Representative Tom Allen said, "The Gardiner waterfront is the gateway to the City's downtown and key to its revitalization. I am very pleased that this federal investment will help to supplement the commitments made by the City, the State of Maine and local businesses to this effort. I will continue to work with local interests to find ways federal assistance can advance this exciting initiative."

Gardiner's Waterfront Task Force, led by Jack Fles, will work with Kent Associates and Wright-Pierce Engineering to see the project through its final completion in 2008. Jack says that he looks forward to finishing this phase of the project and the future opportunities the waterfront will bring to the community.

For more information, please contact Jason at 207-582-6888, or email to [econdev@gardinermaine.com](mailto:econdev@gardinermaine.com).