

**Goal Statement**  
**FY 2007**  
**Proposed February 9, 2006**

The Gardiner City Council adopts a statement each spring to establish its goals for the next fiscal year. The statement for fiscal year 2007, which begins on July 1, 2006, includes a set of related goals that are designed to foster a vibrant and growing community – a community that people want to stay in or move to and where businesses want to grow.

City government is essentially a service organization, and the efficient, effective delivery of those services is our highest priority. Therefore the strategic direction of our human resources is a key element for success. It is vital that we think creatively to analyze current and future needs, and act imaginatively to meet those needs.

Furthermore, it is critically important that projects, initiatives, priorities and operations be fully integrated to create a comprehensive vision and plan for strengthening the community and improving the lives of residents. Local government is very diverse in its activities, yet a high level of coordination will create significant added value to the community. The sophistication necessary to design and implement holistic, comprehensive solutions is an exciting challenge for our relatively small and lean organization.

Education is a vital element in fostering a strong community. The City Council applauds the efforts of MSAD # 11, its faculty, students, administrators and staff for their important contributions and service.

For FY 07, the Council has adopted the following goals which are designed to make living and conducting business in Gardiner affordable, to preserve the city's sense of community and neighborliness, to promote economic development, and to improve the city's streets, sidewalks, and other public infrastructure.

1. **The City Council is strongly committed to the LD 1 Tax Cap and tax relief.** The political environment regarding property tax policy remains unstable and volatile. Voter concern remains high. The TABOR initiative will likely be on the November 2006 ballot. The Legislature seems interested in further attempts to mitigate the property tax burden. Municipalities are still learning to work and to understand the dynamics of LD 1.
  - It is imperative that we keep the local property taxes as stable as possible, and to the extent possible stabilize the cost of services supported through user rates.
  - Continue to institute the tax cap legislation, LD 1, over the long term while minimizing disruption to local services.
  - Position ourselves for possible fiscal and programmatic changes in state programs we rely upon, while minimizing impact upon local services.

**2. The City Council is determined to provide efficiencies in government operations, in the delivery of services and in meeting future demands for services:**

- Resources for delivery of services continue to dwindle while demand rises. Local government must creatively re-engineer service delivery.
- The Water District and the City have adopted strong principles to guide further cooperation. Redundancy in the administrative and field operations seem to exist. Further work to maximum efficiency of services is vitally important.
- Maximize the impact of technology investments on the efficiency and quality of service delivery including regular assessment of operational and human resources.

**3. Community and Economic Development Projects are critically important to the ongoing improvement of our community.**

- Move the Libby Hill Business Park expansion to fruition by developing a strong financial plan and funding options, finishing design and beginning construction.
- Complete phase one of the Waterfront Park redevelopment. Develop funding for phase two.
- Develop alternative funding for the housing rehabilitation program, re-fund the administration of the housing program, and further implement the Housing Action Plan.
- Continue implementation of the Cobbossee Corridor Master Plan. This includes designing the Cobbossee Trail project, advocating for the construction deferral to be lifted and seeking funding for further improvements
- Continue to support the Johnson Hall Renovation Partnership. Feasibility and strategic planning results will become available. It is imperative that the momentum and excitement for this project be maintained into the next very challenging phase.
- Develop a green space master plan to address currently unused city property, and future plans for the Common playground.
- Develop master plan that addresses walking/biking linkages among neighborhoods and destinations within the community, builds upon current natural and infrastructure assets, identifies necessary additional linkages and is integrated with appropriate elements of the Cobbossee Corridor Master Plan.

**4. Develop another project to improve city streets, sidewalks and other public infrastructure utilizing the Northwest Quadrant model:**

- Overlay all infrastructure needs and target priority areas in common.
- Determine other planned or likely public/private investments that such a project will catalyze or capitalize upon.

**5. Increase the sophistication and comprehensive nature of financial management.**

Municipal government exists in an increasing complex operational environment. Resources continue to shrink. Our own organization has developed a trend of increasing levels and sophistication of activity. Keen financial management, planning and information for decision making is becoming more and more crucial to long term health of the organization.

- Improve control and management of purchasing through dramatic new software functionality.
- Utilize new banking services to their potential to better manage cash and investments.
- Provide managers with vastly improved financial data through new software enhancements.

**6. Continue to integrate the Capital Improvement Plan and Development Funds into routine budgeting and operational systems.**

The City has made great strides in just a few years incorporating capital planning and development revenue to strengthen budgeting and service delivery. This positive trend is worthy of support and further encouragement.

**7. Reinforce and continue grow a healthy organizational culture:**

- The City has successfully created a culture of fiscal constraint and frugality. Very significant savings have been realized through this consistent effort and can be a source of containing costs in the future if we nurture this principle.
- City government has developed a strong history of reinventing the delivery of services. Asking both fundamental and routine questions has become the norm, not the exception. Future pressure to build organizational capacity can build successfully upon this experience.

**8. Investigate new services that capitalize upon existing service delivery infrastructure or provide significant value to the community and economic development efforts - such as municipal WI-FI or cable TV.**

**9. Reinforce and continue to foster our successful fundraising strategies:**

- Over the past seven years the City has matched property tax dollars on a one-to-one basis with external funding.
- A robust strategic planning process is a significant element contributing to our success.
- Creating and supporting strategic partnerships, leveraging funds and long range planning will create an environment for future successes.