



**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**



Meeting Date	03/20/2024	Department	Planning/Economic Dev
Agenda Item	4m. Advise and Consent for an application for a CDBG Grant for Dearborn Park		
Est. Cost			

Background Information

After submitting a letter of intent to apply, the Maine Office of Community Development has qualified the City of Gardiner to apply for a Community Development Block Grant Community Enterprise Grant for improvements to Dearborn Park (aka the Johnson Hall mini-park).

The Economic & Community Development Committee has discussed this grant opportunity, and agree that improvements to Dearborn park will help address the safety concerns as well as maintenance issues are often brought up by businesses, residents, and building owners. Enhancing the safety and usability of public spaces was identified in the Downtown Master Plan.

Preliminary project scope has begun with landscape architect Tom Farmer, who has given a very rough estimate project cost of \$175,000. A open meeting for the community to discuss the potential project was held on March 13 to involve the public in concerns and desired improvements for the park. Public feedback will continue as the project develops, and the City Parks Committee will also be involved. A more complete design and budget is expected the developed by the application deadline. The final park design would come to the council for approval before processing on the project.

The grant request would be for the maximum amount of \$100,000. There is a minimum cash match requirement of 25%, which must be committed and secured by the application deadline of April 12. An FY25 TIF budget proposal will be presented at an upcoming council meeting and will include allocating funding for this project.

Critical Deadline: This meeting

Requested Action	"I move to Direct the Economic Development Director to apply for funding for Dearborn Park from the CDBG Grant program"
City Manager and/or Finance Review	
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

City Clerk Use Only	1 st Reading _____	Advertised _____	EFFECTIVE DATE _____
	2 nd Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____