

# **Welcome to Gardiner Maine: A Guide for Newcomers and Residents Alike**

Centrally located in the heart of Maine and near both I-95 and 295, the City of Gardiner offers history, convenience, and a wealth of arts, entertainment, and recreational activities. Gardiner has the northern-most deep-water harbor on the tidal Kennebec River. Here, boaters and families can enjoy the waterfront park, the public boat launch, and a canoe and kayak put-in. Gardiner is an unspoiled, authentic New England community—our beautiful downtown district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Gardiner is located within an hour of Maine's famous coast and mountain regions, and is less than an hour's drive from Portland.

## **QUICK GUIDE**

### **Gardiner City Hall**

6 Church Street, Gardiner, ME 04345  
(207) 582-4200  
[www.gardinermaine.com](http://www.gardinermaine.com)

### **Gardiner Police Department**

6 Church Street, Gardiner, ME 04345  
(207) 582-5150  
Emergency—Dial 911

### **Gardiner Fire Department**

6 Church Street, Gardiner, ME 04345  
(207) 582- 4535  
Emergency—Dial 911

### **Maine School Administrative District #11**

150 Highland Avenue, Gardiner, ME, 04345  
(207) 582-5346  
[www.msad11.org](http://www.msad11.org)

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR**

[www.growwithgardiner.net](http://www.growwithgardiner.net)

# Gardiner Schools—RSU / MSAD #11

RSU/MSAD #11  
Superintendent's Office  
150 Highland Avenue  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Phone:** (207) 582-5346

**Website:** [www.msad11.org](http://www.msad11.org)

Our school district serves the City of Gardiner and the surrounding towns of Randolph, Pittston and West Gardiner.



Laura E. Richards School  
Gardiner, Grades Pre-K–2



River View Community School  
South Gardiner, Grades 3-5



....Pittston Consolidated School  
....Pittston, Grades K- 5



Teresa C. Hamlin School  
Randolph, Grades Pre-K- 5



Helen Thompson School  
West Gardiner, Grades Pre-K– 5



Gardiner Regional Middle School  
Gardiner, Grades 6-8

Gardiner Area High School  
Gardiner, Grades 9-12  
The Adult Education Program is located  
at Gardiner Area High School.



# Gardiner's History and Heritage

## Origins

The community of Gardiner first rose from the tremendous energy generated by the 130' drop in the Cobbossee Stream's final mile before it joins the Kennebec River. Several mills were built along the stream and, in 1754, "Gardinerston" was established. The Town of Gardiner was officially incorporated in 1803, and became a city in 1849. A thriving manufacturing center, Gardiner was home to multiple paper mills, shoe manufactories, and logging and saw mills, as well as being central to the booming ice industry in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Look for the illustrated heritage panels downtown and in the Waterfront Park to follow a Historic Walk through Gardiner's rich past, or find the panels at [www.gardinermainstreet.org/heritage-tourism/historical-perspectives/](http://www.gardinermainstreet.org/heritage-tourism/historical-perspectives/) As you stroll down Water Street, keep an eye out for the "If this building could talk" signs in many of the buildings. Also, stop by the Community Archives Room at the Gardiner Public Library to learn more about Gardiner's story.

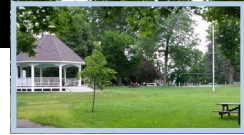
## Literary Heritage

Did you know that Gardiner was home to two Pulitzer Prize winners? Poet Edwin Arlington Robinson (1869-1935) won the Pulitzer Prize three times and the prolific author Laura E. Richards (1850-1943) received the Pulitzer for a biography of her mother, Julia Ward Howe who, herself, wrote The Battle Hymn of the Republic and was an esteemed civil rights activist.

Consider touring our historic town as the boyhood home of Edwin Arlington Robinson. Pick up a copy of the "Tilbury Town Walking Tour" brochure at the Gardiner Public Library or City Hall. You can also download a pdf copy at [www.gardinermainstreet.org/heritage-tourism/tilbury-town-walking-tour/](http://www.gardinermainstreet.org/heritage-tourism/tilbury-town-walking-tour/), where you will also find a multi-part podcast so you can experience the walking tour with a detailed soundtrack! For more information on Gardiner's own E. A. Robinson, visit [www.earobinson.com/](http://www.earobinson.com/).

More information about both of these authors can also be found at the Gardiner Public Library's Special Collections page on their website: [www.gpl.lib.me.us/special\\_collections.html](http://www.gpl.lib.me.us/special_collections.html) .

## Special Places in Gardiner



**THE GARDINER COMMON** – At the top of the hill, where Brunswick Avenue slows and curves around its edge, is the park we all share, the Gardiner Common. Originally known as Brunswick Square, it is one of Maine's earliest designed landscapes. It is home for Memorial Day ceremonies, special community events, the Farmers' Market, and games of all sorts. It has a great playground and a lovely and fully-accessible gazebo providing a beautiful spot for residents and friends to gather. With its charm and beauty, it is no wonder it has been the backdrop for many wedding, dance and prom pictures.

**GARDINER DOWNTOWN** – Gardiner is proud to be a Main Street Maine community with a downtown on the National Register of Historic Places. Gardiner's downtown displays the beauty of 19th Century architecture while embracing the City's motto "Where History and Progress meet". We have a wide selection of shops, art galleries, a performing arts center, a food co-op and café, restaurants, and our fabulous public library. Gardiner's downtown continues to evolve and welcome new businesses. Subscribe to our E-newsletter to keep you informed about local events by going to: [www.gardinermainstreet.org](http://www.gardinermainstreet.org)

**THE WATERFRONT** – The Kennebec River was central to the development and history of Gardiner because it provided a transportation route to ship goods produced in Gardiner to distant markets. Now, the Kennebec is central to our community because it is a natural source of recreation, entertainment, and relaxation. Through the efforts of local,

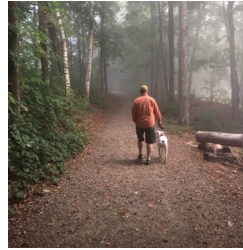


state and federal agencies and the citizens of Gardiner, we are proud to have the most beautiful waterfront in central Maine. Our waterfront has a boat launch and space to park your boat trailer. There is a long stretch of boardwalk for strolling or casting a line, and lovely green spaces for walking, jogging or having a picnic. The River supports many species of fish and abundant birdlife. It is very common to see bald eagles, osprey and aquatic

birds. Don't be surprised if you see sturgeon or striped bass leaping out of the water. It's a glorious sight. If you are going to be on the water, please look for information on the tides, as the strength of the tide can be a serious challenge.

## Special Places in Gardiner, cont'd

**STEAMBOAT LANE** – Starting at the southern end of the Waterfront Park, this quiet path through the woods takes you to another world nestled by the Kennebec River, and passes by our City's own village of fairy houses. This is a favorite place for early morning dog walks (with plastic bag in hand, of course).



**QUIMBY FIELD** – At the end of Lincoln Avenue are the baseball and sport fields which host games for Cal Ripken baseball, Youth Football, and many other youth sports. Walk down to see who is playing, see who's watching, or grab a hot dog at the shack.



**COBBOSSEE STREAM** – The Cobbossee Stream, also known as the Cobbosseecontee Stream, starts at nearby lakes and flows through Gardiner near the Middle School then drops for the next mile or so as it reaches for the Kennebec River. It is in this stretch that the power of the falling water served so many mills in Gardiner's early development. Now, it is the beauty of the Cobbossee Corridor and the abundant wildlife on its banks that enchants us.

This picture is where the Cobbossee flows into the Kennebec at the northern end of Gardiner's Waterfront Park.



## Special Events in Gardiner

### SUMMER



**GREATER GARDINER RIVER FESTIVAL** – Every June Gardiner hosts the kick-off to the Kennebec River Whatever Family Festival in our downtown and Waterfront Park. This community day includes food, arts & draft fair, live music, boat rides, demonstrations, contests, dance, arts, games and a very popular talent show on the waterfront. The night ends with an incredible fireworks display over the river.

**CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN NIGHT** – Every Thursday evening from the start of May to the end of September, owners of classic cars from all around Central Maine come to the Gardiner Waterfront to show off their cars, admire all of the other cars on display, and meet old friends and new. The Thursday Night Cruise runs from about 5 to 7 p.m.



**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE** – This community parade is organized by the American Legion and honors our Veterans' supreme sacrifice. It starts at the Armory on Brunswick Avenue and makes its way down to the Gardiner Common, where everyone gathers by the gazebo for the Memorial Day ceremony. (Psst. We know summer starts in

June, but May feels like the start.)

### **FRIDAY NIGHT FREE SUMMER WATERFRONT CONCERTS** –

Every Friday Night from the Greater Gardiner River Festival through the end of August, Johnson Hall puts on music and entertainment at the Gardiner Waterfront. Every night except the River Fest, then music kicks off at 6:00 pm and ends at 7:30 pm. You can enjoy good food and company along with some great music and epic scenery.

## Special Events in Gardiner, cont'd

### FALL

**BARKS IN THE PARK** – On a special Saturday in September, there is a day of fun at the Gardiner Waterfront Park for dogs and their “masters.” Gardiner is a dog-friendly community with many enthusiastic dog owners. This free event is filled with games, demonstrations, vendors, and a dog walk through downtown Gardiner. There are several fun contests (Best Dog Kiss, Best Costume and a Look-alike Contest) and education about animal health and welfare.



**SWINE & STEIN** – In mid-October, Water Street is transformed as Gardiner Main Street produces its version of a traditional Oktoberfest. The annual event promises an oompah band as well as succulent farm-to-table pork and other local offerings, delicious Maine craft beers, including small batch special brews, and a great line-up of local live music from Maine bands.



**OCTOBERFEST ON THE COMMONS** – Each year GEPTA, the Gardiner Elementary Parent Teacher Association, hosts a fall fair for children. It includes games, bounce house, food and lots of fun. And what would fall be without pumpkin decorating? Everyone is welcome, and the GEPTA always encourages community volunteers as well.

# Special Events in Gardiner

## WINTER

**DAYS OF LIGHT** – Gardiner’s month-long celebration starting right after Thanksgiving with a variety of events, including:

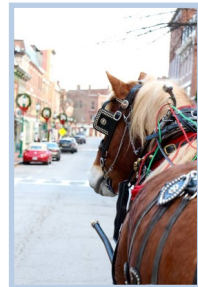
▶ **Small Business Saturday** – A nation-wide effort to support the local economy by encouraging shoppers to visit their local, small businesses on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Special deals for early shoppers !

▶ **Crafts Fairs** – On one Saturday in early December, there are crafts fairs galore. Nearly every church in central Gardiner has a craft sale, as does Laura E. Richards elementary school, Pittston Consolidated School, the Lions Club and other venues around town. It’s a great way to do some holiday shopping while meeting new friends and old.

▶ **Contests**, such as storefront window decorating, elf on the shelf, and ugly sweater contests.

▶ **Parade of Lights** – A beautiful display of lighted floats of all sorts to add some enchantment to the short days of December. Plus, lots of family-friendly activities at different (warm) locations before and after the parade.

▶ **Other events & activities**, like tree lighting & caroling, Wreaths Across America, cookie swap, latke party, and other family-friendly events.



**GARDINER FAMILY FEUD** – For our own type of March Mischief, Gardiner Main Street hosts a special version of the TV Show Family Feud with a Gardiner twist! Using residents’ survey responses to a series of unusual questions, 6 teams battle it out at Johnson Hall to see who can come up with the top survey answers. It’s not just knowing the correct answer, it’s all about getting the most popular answer.



# Special Events in Gardiner, Cont'd

## SPRING

**GARDINER MUSIC WALK** – Every April to celebrate Record Store Day, downtown Gardiner comes alive with music in several different locations at the same time. This is a family friendly opportunity to hear many talented local Maine musicians performing in stores, offices, studios and restaurants lining Water Street. Walk from performance to performance, from folk to rock to jazz and just hope that you can get a chance to hear them all! For more information about this event or to inquire about playing in it, contact Jason at Niche. Inc. on Water Street.



## ALMOST EVERY SEASON

**ARTWALK GARDINER** – Artwalk Gardiner is held on the first Friday of May, August and December. Artwalk Gardiner was formally launched in the Fall of 2005 by Artdogs Studios and a handful of artists in Gardiner. Our mission is to increase community awareness and appreciation of the visual arts, to encourage interaction and familiarity among local artists and the general public, to provide artists with a supportive network and to foster the creative economy through regular art exhibitions in downtown Gardiner. The event features art in exhibition spaces and at local businesses. Music, demonstrations and other community activities contribute to the festive evening. For more information contact The ARTDOGS (207) 582-6600 or email [dogs@theartdogs.com](mailto:dogs@theartdogs.com)

Find us on Facebook as Artwalk Gardiner



## Gardiner Public Library

152 Water Street  
Gardiner, ME 04345-2195

**Phone:** (207) 582-3312

**Website:** [www.gpl.lib.me.us/](http://www.gpl.lib.me.us/)

Or Find us on Facebook.



The Gardiner Public Library's responsibility is to identify community needs, promote the use of library services for all ages, and serve the community as a center for reliable information in various formats. In addition to current books and classics, the Library has reference materials, a large-print collection, audio books, music, movies, and newspapers, in addition to a wide variety of downloadable materials and online resources. We provide several public computers, laptops, and tablets, as well as printing, copying, and faxing capabilities and free Wi-Fi. With weekly story hours for children, after-school programming for teens, monthly book groups for adults, and many other special events throughout the year, there is something for everyone!

Library Hours	
Monday	10:00 – 5:30
Tuesday	10:00 – 7:30
Wednesday	10:00 – 5:30
Thursday	10:00 – 5:30
Friday	10:00 – 5:30
Saturday	9:30 – 12:30

## Finding Your Own Heritage

Whether you are interested in your family roots, tracing the history of a local building or business, or just want to learn more about Gardiner, the Community Archives Room at the Gardiner Public Library is here to help.

Our Archives Room has a fabulous collection of genealogical resources, and state, county, and local histories documenting the Kennebec Valley region. From historic newspapers and maps to cemetery records, photographs, and city directories (as well as free access to Ancestry.com Library Edition), there is something to help anyone step back in time and explore our rich history!



FMI, see the Special Collections page of [www.gpl.lib.me.us](http://www.gpl.lib.me.us), call us at 582-6890, or email us at [archive@gpl.lib.me.us](mailto:archive@gpl.lib.me.us) or VISIT the Library.

## Gardiner Library Association

The Gardiner Library Association, formed in 1881, owns the library building and the land, makes capital improvements, buys new equipment, and seeks to improve library services. More than half the new materials the library buys each year are purchased with income from the Association trust funds. The Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, not part of the city government.

Over the past few years we have restored the Hazzard Room from the foundation up, completed a major renovation of the Children's Room that included replacing and insulating the roof (assisted by a \$60,000 grant from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation), restored the main floor to its original luster, and renovated our Community Archives Room to a state-of-the art repository for our special collection of historic materials, which is used by researchers from around the country and available to all.



The restoration of the main floor to its original beauty with integrated modern technology.



## BUSINESS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Gardiner Main Street

149 Water Street  
P.O. Box 194 Gardiner, ME 04345

**Contact:** Patrick Wright, Exec. Dir.,  
[\(207\) 582-3100](tel:(207)582-3100)



**Website:** [www.gardinermainstreet.org/](http://www.gardinermainstreet.org/)

Gardiner Main Street is a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to strengthening our downtown as a regional hub for community, commerce, and culture. We put on large and small events downtown for area residents of all ages, such as **holiday celebrations, the Greater Gardiner River Festival, “Facetime” monthly networking events, and the Swine and Stein Oktoberfest.**

We work to connect downtown business with residents and to build the business community. We also undertake downtown beautification and historic preservation efforts. There are many opportunities for volunteering – from helping with single events to working on long term downtown revitalization projects.

Email [info@gardinermainstreet.org](mailto:info@gardinermainstreet.org), or call (207) 582-3100.

### Other Business Development Activities

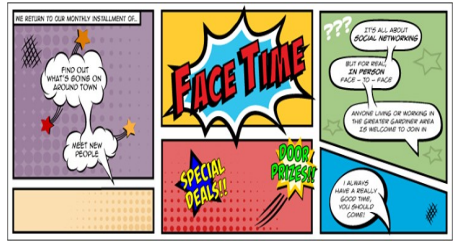
**SHOP SMALL ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY:** Small Business Saturday is a national movement started by American Express in 2010 to encourage shoppers to visit their local small businesses on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It’s a great way to support your friends and neighbors.

**DOLLARS TO DONUTS:** Gardiner Main Street coordinates a monthly business-to-business meeting for owners and managers in the Gardiner area (not just downtown). The meetings are no more than one hour long and address timely subjects of interest to local businesses.

## FACETIME Social Networking

Different Locations Every Month  
5-7 pm, 1st Wednesday

**Facetime** is free and fun and is open to anyone who works, lives, or volunteers in the Greater Gardiner community.



This “after hours” event always takes place from 5 – 7 pm on the first Wednesday of every month. Folks typically drop in for as long or as short as they would like. Facetime takes place at different spots each month to celebrate our community, hear about events and happenings, learn about local businesses, and network with others.

For more information, contact Gardiner Main Street:

[info@gardinermainstreet.org](mailto:info@gardinermainstreet.org)

## Gardiner Board Of Trade

P.O. Box 223  
Gardiner, ME 04345  
**Phone:** (207) 582-3100



The Gardiner Board of Trade works as an emissary between our government and the area’s private sector businesses to assist with business development in Gardiner and the surrounding area. It has been instrumental in land and real estate deals that have benefitted the Libby Hill Business Park, historic downtown Gardiner, and the Gardiner Area School District. Membership is open to businesses or organizations and meetings are held at 8:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at the E. J. Prescott headquarters office in Libby Hill Business Park.

For more information contact Patrick Wright at (207)582-3100, or email [econdev@gardinermaine.com](mailto:econdev@gardinermaine.com).

# Public Art: New Art, Old Art, Art For All to See

Robert Lash 2010



"Rising"

Norman Therrien 1976



"The Lady and the Birds"

Large wheat paste installations adorn the back of several buildings for a few months each year. This collaborative project involves several local artists, building owners, Artdogs Studio, Gardiner Main Street, with some start-up help from the Gardiner Creativity Fund.



Scott King 2017



Kerstin Gilg  
Peter Precourt  
2016



John Carnes 2017

# THE ARTS

## Johnson Hall Performing Arts Center

280 Water Street, P.O. Box 777  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Phone:** (207) 582-7144

**Email:** [info@johnsonhall.org](mailto:info@johnsonhall.org)

**Website:** [www.johnsonhall.org](http://www.johnsonhall.org)

Johnson Hall's mission is to promote, create and inspire artistic excellence through world-class entertainment and professional performing arts education and to drive cultural and economic growth for our community.



Johnson Hall opened in 1864 and is the oldest opera house in Maine. Originally used for Vaudeville shows and plays, it was a movie house from 1929 until it closed in the 1950's. In 1990, it re-opened with a new 117-seat performance studio on the ground floor. Since 2013, Johnson Hall has increased and diversified its programming, drawn larger audiences, and expanded outreach to schools and the community. Johnson Hall now presents 70 shows per year, including music of all genres, comedy, mime, improvisation, and classic films. Johnson Hall offers educational programs like *SPARK*, a youth theater training program, and *Artists in the Schools* to bring performers into local schools free of charge.



Johnson Hall plans to develop a state-of-the-art theater with 400 seats in the upper floors where the original performances were held in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Opera House. To learn more about upcoming events or to volunteer, please visit our website at [www.johnsonhall.org](http://www.johnsonhall.org) or email us at [info@johnsonhall.org](mailto:info@johnsonhall.org).

**WOW ! Free Outdoor Concerts every Friday from mid-June through August.**



## Artdogs

277 Water Street  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Phone:** (207) 582-6600

**Email:** [dogs@theartdogs.com](mailto:dogs@theartdogs.com)

**Website:** [www.theartdogs.com](http://www.theartdogs.com)

ARTDOGS is devoted to developing a core community of artists in downtown Gardiner Maine. 277-275 Water Street was purchased in June, 2004, and renovated to create and maintain a visual arts presence. The building houses one artist's studio-residence, five artists' studios and a cooperative fine art press.

ARTDOGS maintains ongoing studio practices, sponsors lectures and events, hosts art discussion groups, holds networking meetings with area artists, coordinates studio openings, provide workshops, and holds classes.

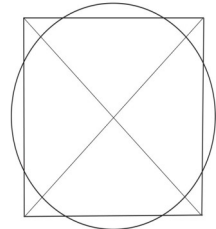


## Circling the Square Fine Art Press

275 Water Street  
Gardiner ME 043452

**Phone:** (207) 582-6600

**Website:** [www.circlingthesquarepress.com](http://www.circlingthesquarepress.com)



Circling the Square Fine Art Press, on the ground floor of Artdogs, is an open access press where key-holding artists can work independently, according to their own schedule. It is also a place to share ideas, techniques, information, and collaborate with other printmakers. The studio combines the best of the 500-year old traditions of printmaking with the safer modern technologies. Artists work in serigraphy, relief and intaglio, monotypes, print editions, books and sculpture. Members exhibit locally as well as participate in international print exchanges.



# Ampersand Academy of Dance and Performing Arts

293 Water Street, P.O. Box 121  
Gardiner ME 04345

**Phone:** (207) 415-5151

**Email:** [ampersand.dance@gmail.com](mailto:ampersand.dance@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.AmpersandDance.com](http://www.AmpersandDance.com)

Our mission is to provide a solid technical foundation for the developing performer while instilling a great love and passion for the performing arts and creating a respect for all its disciplines.

With our Dance Program, we appreciate that the heart of a dancer is born into many different bodies and the love of dance can take on many different styles. Whether you choose to pursue the arts professionally, in college or just for the love of it - we will prepare you.

We offer classes in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary, Acro, Theatre, Hip Hop & Bollywood. Ages 3-103. We also have several summer day camps for school-age dancers that are lots of fun.

Dance With Us!



## Open Book Players

In Residence at Johnson Hall  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Email:** [lucyrioux@gmail.com](mailto:lucyrioux@gmail.com)

**Find us on Facebook!**



Open Book Players is a readers theatre company using a performance technique that is a combination of oral interpretation and conventional theatre. Readers Theatre is presentational in nature, with minimal use of sets and costumes, and actors are able to assume multiple roles. The Open Book Players are young and old and in between and all are reading from scripts. Each actor is creating characters with the pitch of their voice or their accents and gestures. Open Book Players performs regularly at Johnson Hall. Notices of auditions are on the Open Book Players Facebook page.

## SpinOff Studio

252 Water Street  
Suite # 1

**Phone:** (207) 588-7297

**Website:** [www.spinoffstudio.org](http://www.spinoffstudio.org)



SpinOff Studio and Gallery is a nonprofit studio & gallery for adults with disabilities, providing mentoring from working artists, studio & gallery space, and art supplies. Through workshops, visiting artists and an environment of constant learning and exploration, SpinOff Studio supports more than 35 artists who use drawing and painting, sculpture, textile arts, music, multimedia, audio art, poetry and printmaking to express themselves. We connect with nearby cultural resources such as museums and galleries, and offer plein-air opportunities.

Independence Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded by area families in 1966 to assist adults and children with disabilities in obtaining full and inclusive lives in their chosen community. IA works throughout the region to open new doors, push boundaries and create opportunities while celebrating every individual's ability.

## LOCAL FOODS & GARDENING

### Caring Community Gardens

63 Washington Ave  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Phone:** (207) 582-7716

**Email:** [pierre222@gwi.net](mailto:pierre222@gwi.net)



Caring Community Gardens (CCG) was started in 2009 to grow local, organic vegetables for people in need while involving the community in a fun, educational way. We use donated land to grow a variety of crops that we then donate to the Chrysalis Place food bank.

CCG's garden is on Cottage Street near the end of Dresden Ave. We need your help! Volunteers can assist with garden prep, planting, weeding, harvesting and putting the garden to bed for the winter. Come to learn more about gardening and help families in need! Simply email us at the address above and we'll get you set up with a garden orientation.

### Gardiner's Gardeners

At Large, Gardiner

**Contact:** Dorothy Washburne, [just.me.d56@gmail.com](mailto:just.me.d56@gmail.com)

Or Robert Abbey, [ribrob2007@gmail.com](mailto:ribrob2007@gmail.com)



Gardiner's Gardeners are volunteers who have committed to tending one or more of the many public flower gardens in the City of Gardiner. Most (but not all) of the gardens are located in the downtown area or on the Gardiner Waterfront. In addition, the Gardeners tend 24 planters placed all along Water Street in our downtown. While some of the volunteers are experienced gardeners, others are just there ready to work to make Gardiner more beautiful. So, when you stroll down Water Street, around the Library, through the Waterfront Park, or in along parts of Cobbossee Stream, admire the handiwork of your friends and neighbors, Gardiner's Gardeners.

If you would like to help, contact Dorothy or Robert at the emails above.

## Gardiner Farmers' Market

The Gardiner Common  
Dresden Avenue  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Email:** [gardinermainefarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gardinermainefarmersmarket@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.gardinermarket.org](http://www.gardinermarket.org)



The Gardiner Farmers' Market is a collaborative initiative to provide all members of the Gardiner community access to fresh, local foods; support local farmers, fishermen and food producers; educate the public about food and agriculture; foster connections between farmers and consumers; and support the local economy.

Find us on Wednesdays late May through late October on the Common

Holiday markets in November & December at Johnson Hall.

May-August, 3 pm to 6:30 pm; September & October, 3 pm to 6 pm.

Debit/ Credit/ EBT Accepted.

## Gardiner Food Co-op & Café

269 Water Street  
Gardiner, ME, 04345

**Phone:** [\(207\) 629-3663](tel:(207)629-3663)

**Website:** [www.gardinerfood.coop](http://www.gardinerfood.coop)



The primary mission of the Gardiner Food Co-op & Café is to grow the edible economy in the greater Gardiner area. The vision of the Co-op is to preserve Maine's agricultural heritage by offering a vibrant community-owned market in which people have access to, are invested in, and reap the benefits of locally-produced and healthy foods and through which small farmers and food producers can make a living.

The Co-op is a community organization that operates through a store-front located in downtown Gardiner. The store is open to anyone seven days a week and has a wide range of offerings.

## Food For Thought

First Baptist Church of Gardiner/MSAD #11

**Email:** food4thoughtmsad11@aol.com

**Find us on Facebook:** food4thoughtmsad11

Food For Thought is a non-profit backpack program aimed at supporting the ending hunger initiative. With the help from staff at the schools, FFT provides food on the week-ends to needy students in the MSAD #11 school district throughout the school year.



During the 2016-2017 school year, Food for Thought provided 100 bags of food each week to all 7 schools, and raised \$22,500 with the help and support from our community. Looking ahead, the need is expected to increase, not decrease.

Please help support Food for Thought and the kids in our community! "Like Us" on Facebook and check for updates! If you would like to donate your time filling backpacks or helping us raise money, contact us through the First Baptist Church of Gardiner, 47 Church St., (207) 582-4747 or use the contact information above.



**Bags ready to go to schools & into backpacks.**

## Chrysalis Place, Gardiner Food Center

576 Brunswick Avenue  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Phone:** (207) 582-5507



Chrysalis Place is a local food bank serving Gardiner and the towns of West Gardiner, Randolph, Pittston, Chelsea and Farmingdale. Thanks to contributions from many individuals and organizations throughout the community, we are able to provide food (including fresh produce in season!) to those in need.

We are located on Route 201 about 1/4 mile past Ainslies' on the left. The Center's hours are Tuesdays from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. & Thursdays from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. If you need to make an appointment outside of these hours, please call and leave a message.

## Faith Food Pantry

280 Brunswick Ave.  
Gardiner, ME 04345.  
**Phone:** (207) 582-5432



Faith Food Pantry's mission is based on compassionate giving to others as we respect the dignity of each person we serve. We open once a week and will open for emergencies.

- the first and second Friday of the month from 12:00 - 2:30 pm;
- the third Wednesday of the month from 6 - 8 pm; and
- the fourth Saturday of the month, 9:00 - 11:00 am.

Goals of Faith Food Pantry:

- Enhance the well-being of the people in the Gardiner area
- Supply food and other products individuals may not be able to purchase with food stamps
- Supplement food and clothing needs
- Encourage independence in self-care
- Offer fresh and frozen food as available
- Provide opportunities for community service.

## OUTDOOR MATTERS

### Gardiner Sportsmen's Club

154 Cobbossee Avenue, P.O. Box 1173  
Gardiner, ME 04345

Phone: (207) 582-3223

[edgeofthestream@roadrunner.com](mailto:edgeofthestream@roadrunner.com)



Website [www.edgeofthestream.org](http://www.edgeofthestream.org)

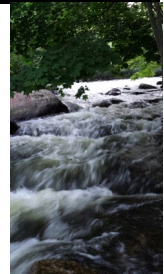
Since its beginning in 1946, the Sportsmen's Club has been host to community events such as boating regattas, fishing tournaments, hunter safety courses & hunters breakfasts, and even Saturday night dances. The Club has also sponsored youth recreational activities, baseball, softball & football teams; bingo games, pool, horseshoe and cribbage tournaments—a little something for everyone.

Members can enjoy the wonderful swimming and picnic area, access to the beautiful Cobbossee Stream through the use of the facility's boat launch, horseshoes and other amenities.

### Fishing

Rumored Spots  
Gardiner, ME

Gardiner has the Cobbossee Stream and the Kennebec River. That is easy to verify. We also have it on good authority that the following species of fish can be caught in Gardiner by experienced fishermen: Small and largemouth bass, perch, catfish, the occasional brown trout, smelt in the winter, and stripers, shad and alewife at the right time of year. You might even see a sturgeon leap out of the river. We can't really verify any of that, but we always believe everything our fishermen friends tell us.



We have had no luck in finding anyone willing to tell us exactly *where* to go to catch these fish. Don't let that stop you.

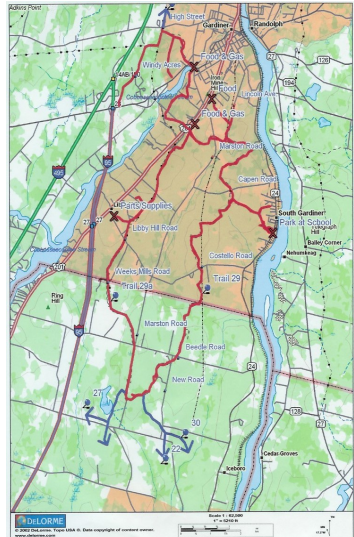
## Gardiner Ridge Riders

P. O. Box 64  
South Gardiner, ME 04359-0064

Find us on Facebook !

The Gardiner Ridge Riders is a snowmobile club and part of the Maine Snowmobile Association. It is a group of volunteers that maintains 24 miles of snowmobile trails in the Gardiner area. The trails connect to neighboring ones in Richmond and Farmingdale, and from there to trails throughout Maine.

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm at locations announced in advance on [Gardinerridgeriders.com](http://Gardinerridgeriders.com). To join, contact one of the officers listed on the website, [www.Gardinerridgeriders.com](http://www.Gardinerridgeriders.com)



## Upstream

Upstream  
23 Central St.  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Phone:** (207) 582-0213

Find us on Facebook

Upstream is a local non-profit working to restore fish passage and ecological health to Cobbossee Stream in our gem of a city. We are a vibrant group providing educational and recreational activities and artistic expression focused on the marvel, mystery and science of sea-run fish that inhabit our beautiful Kennebec River and Cobbossee Stream.

Please join us for our migration walks, community paints and fish passage workshops throughout the year. We would love for you to join us!





# Kennebec Land Trust

331 Main St,  
Winthrop, ME 04364

**Phone:** (207) 377-2848

**Website:** [www.tkl.org](http://www.tkl.org)

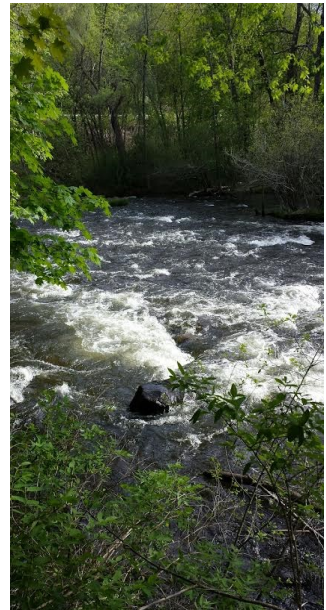
Find us on Facebook



The Kennebec Land Trust works cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve the forests, shorelands, fields, and wildlife that define central Maine. The KLT protects land permanently, offers opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy the natural world, and works with partners to support sustainable forestry and farming.

KLT owns the Rolling Dam Brook Preserve in South Gardiner and holds the conservation easement on the Cobbossee Stream Conservation Area (see map above.) The KLT also holds the conservation easement on the Joseph R. and Dorothy M. Donohoe Preserve in South Gardiner.

Follow us on Facebook for birding events, nature walks and bike tours.



## The Friends of the Kennebec River Rail Trail

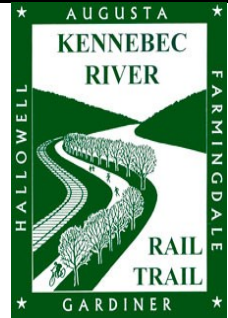
P.O. Box 2195  
Augusta, ME 04338

**Website:** [kennebecriverrailtrail.org](http://kennebecriverrailtrail.org)

**Email:** [railtrailnews@krrt.org](mailto:railtrailnews@krrt.org)

The 6.5 mile Kennebec River Rail Trail welcomes locals and visitors alike for walking, running, cycling, skateboarding, rollerblading, and dog walking. The Gardiner end of the Rail Trail starts by the corner of the Hannaford parking lot and the trail goes to Farmingdale, Hallowell and Augusta. The Trail parallels the Kennebec River, and provides users with a beautiful and safe scenic path to use that literally connects the four Capital area towns together.

The Friends of the Kennebec River Rail Trail was formed as a non-profit to assist in the construction, maintenance and promotion of the trail. The Friends relies on its members for financial support and volunteering to assist in the maintenance of the trail as well as financial contributions from businesses and foundations.



## Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed

51 Sewall Street, P.O.Box 5003  
Augusta, ME 04333-5003

**Phone:** (207) 621-4100

**Website:** [www.watershedfriends.com](http://www.watershedfriends.com)



The mission of our organization is to engage individuals, businesses and communities in protecting and improving the lakes, ponds and streams of the Cobbossee Watershed. We do this by promoting public awareness of water quality issues, educating the public about strategies to protect water quality, enlisting citizen, community and municipal involvement, and supporting many initiatives and programs benefiting the Cobbossee Watershed. See our website for details of our erosion control efforts, our invasive plant eradication programs, and our extensive education programs for school-aged kids.

# YOUTH

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley

**Phone:** (207) 582-8458

**Follow us on Facebook**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF KENNEBEC VALLEY**

**Teen Center:** 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Teen Center membership fee is only \$50 for

the school year! We provide a safe place where teens can come and spend time with peers while enjoying various activities, such as photography club, Game Room, computer lab and gym activities.

**21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC):** A great tutoring and enrichment program for middle school students. Tutoring provided by certified teachers and high school honor students.

**Early Childhood:** The infant, toddler, early preschool and preschool programs are all full-time, 5 days a week. We are licensed by the State and provide high-quality care for our youth of tomorrow.

**Before & After School Program:** K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The before-school care provides breakfast before the MSAD #11 school bus pick-up. After-school students are dropped off by the school bus, receive a small meal, and can participate in planned activities such as Power Hour (homework time), art projects, free play and gym or outside activities. Families can choose both before & after care or just one.

**Summer Camp:** Preschool through Teen Center all offer 8 weeks of summer programming. Field trips to fun places across Central Maine are planned for each week. Can attend from 1 week up to all 8 weeks. United Way sponsored scholarships are available for Summer Camp.

**Youth Sports:** The Club offers a variety of youth sports throughout the year, as detailed on the next page.

**Rentals:** Space is available to rent for parties, meetings, and sporting events.

**Summer Food Program:** Free Meals for Kids 18 years and under during 8 weeks of the summer. Breakfast 7:00 to 8:00 a.m., Lunch 11:30 to 12:30.

## Youth Sports at Boys & Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley

14 Pray Street  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Phone:** (207) 582-8458



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF KENNEBEC VALLEY

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley runs several youth sports programs.

### **Year round Basketball for kids.**

**FALL**--In House Youth **Soccer** for age 3 - 6th grade starts in early August. Registration forms are sent out through the schools in June.

**FALL**--Youth **Cheering** for K - 5. Teams cheer for the Gardiner Youth Football teams.

**SPRING** --Youth **Lacrosse**. Instructional "Little Stickers" for boys and girls K-2. Youth Boys Teams for Grades 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8. (If enough girls sign up, Girls Teams can be formed.)

**SPRING** -- Youth **Softball** currently has teams for age 6 & under, age 8 & under, and age 10 & under. (12 & under could form if enough girls sign up.)

**SUMMER** -- Youth **Track & Field** for boys & girls age 6-14. Travel required to USA Track and Field track meets which are on Thursdays starting the end of June. Individuals may qualify for Regional or State meets in August.

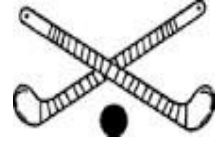
For More Information, Call (207) 582-8458 or Follow us on Facebook.

## Gardiner Youth Field Hockey

Find us on Facebook

Youth field hockey is open to students from K-6th grades. It ranges from an initial introduction in Kindergarten, skill development and weekly games for Grades 1 to 4, and a travel team for Grades 5 and 6.

Sign ups are at the beginning of September during the Youth Clinic. Information goes home with each student at the end of the school year and again when they return. It is in the newspaper and on the Gardiner Field Hockey Facebook page. FMI contact Jody Mertzell.



## Gardiner Youth Basketball

Find us on Facebook

Youth basketball is open to boys & girls in grades 1-9. Sign-ups are announced at school and in the newspaper, and take place in the fall. All students make a team. Gardiner Youth Basketball provides an organized and structured environment that promotes fairness, good sportsmanship, teamwork and a sense of community. Teams will have one practice during the week and one game on the weekend.



## Gardiner Sports Clinics

Many of the Gardiner Area High School sports teams put on skill-development clinics for elementary and middle school students. The clinics are usually one week long (half-day sessions) and are in the summer. The clinics are taught by the coaches with assistance from the high school team members. The funds raised through the clinics help support the varsity and junior varsity teams. They are also fun.

## Gardiner Youth Football

P.O. Box 144  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Website:** [www.gardineryouthfootball.org](http://www.gardineryouthfootball.org)

**Email:** [gardineryouthfootball@gmail.com](mailto:gardineryouthfootball@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook



GYF works in conjunction with the Gardiner Area High School to prepare and develop our youth to play football for GAHS. We teach the love of the game, instilling in our players teamwork, responsibility and good sportsmanship. Contact us if your child wants to play football! We have many volunteer opportunities and encourage the entire family to get involved.

## Gardiner Youth Hockey Association

P.O. Box 291  
Gardiner, ME 04345

Find us on Facebook

**Website:** [www.gardinerhockey.com](http://www.gardinerhockey.com)

GYHA is the local youth hockey program for middle school students and for high school students outside of the GAHS team's season. Our mission is to develop teamwork and the skills necessary to play high school hockey and beyond. For more information Find us on Facebook or see our website.



## Cal Ripken Baseball

P.O. Box 474  
Gardiner, Maine 04345

**Email:** [gardinercalripen@gmail.com](mailto:gardinercalripen@gmail.com)

Find Us on Facebook: Gardiner Cal Ripken



From T-ball through baseball for ages up to 12 years old, Cal Ripken baseball is about excellence on and off the field, it's about teamwork and community, and it's about having fun. Stop by Quimby Field in May or June to see what it's all about or find us on Facebook for the latest news.

## Summer Music Camp at RSU/MSAD #11

Mr. David Walker, Director  
690 Hallowell-Litchfield Road.  
West Gardiner, ME 04345

**Phone:** (207) 724-2025 or 242-5456

**Email:** [dwalker@msad11.org](mailto:dwalker@msad11.org)



During one special week in late July, music classes taught by MSAD #11 music teachers are offered to students from any school district. Classes are 90 minutes long and meet mornings Monday through Friday.

**Band Instruments:** Beginning Lessons for students going into the 5th or 6th grade who have never taken an instrument.

Continuing Lessons for students who have been playing in 5th Grade or Middle School band.

**Guitar 1** (Age 9 - Adult): for beginners with little or no experience playing the guitar. Grouped by age. (Students do not need to bring their own guitar) **Guitar 2** (Age 9 - Adult): for advanced beginners with some formal experience playing the guitar. Class sizes are limited.

**Voice Lessons** (Ages 8 and up): previous experience singing in a chorus is not required, but is helpful.

**Beginning Piano** (Ages 7 and up): group class for beginners (grouped by age) with little or no experience in playing the piano. Keyboards will be provided during the class. Class size is limited.

**Cost for each week session (five 90-minute lessons) is \$70.**

## And Don't Forget!

There are many classes, shows and activities for kids and teens at:

**Johnson Hall Performing Arts Center:** SPARK Theater Day Camp during the summer and a 4-day session during February vacation. ( [www.johnsonhall.org/spark-theater-day-camp-kids](http://www.johnsonhall.org/spark-theater-day-camp-kids) )

**Gardiner Public Library:** The “Babies Love Babies Play Group” and “Story and Craft Time” meet weekly. ( [www.gpl.lib.me.us/events.html](http://www.gpl.lib.me.us/events.html) )

**Open Book Players:** Auditions are open to readers of all ages. Check out page 18 for more information or Facebook.

**Ampersand Academy of Dance and Performing Arts:** In addition to many classes, Ampersand has several summer day camps for dancers. See page 17 for more information or Facebook.



## FRATERNAL & CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

### Gardiner Lions Club

Curtis D. Lovell Lions Community Center  
25 Lions Ave.  
Gardiner, ME 04345



**Phone:** (207) 582-9827

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 25, Gardiner ME 04345

The mission of the Lions Club is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding. There are sight programs, such as vision screenings and eyeglass recycling, programs aimed at hearing loss and preventing diabetes, and youth programs to develop the next generation of leaders. The Gardiner Lions Club also provides scholarships to local high school seniors, sponsors a student to Dirigo State, and provides other forms of assistance where needed. Bingo every Tuesday night.

### Elks Lodge

Elks Lodge 1293  
148 Cobbossee Avenue  
Gardiner, ME 04345



**Phone:** (207) 582-6520

**Website:** [www.bpoe1293.org/](http://www.bpoe1293.org/)

The Gardiner Elks pride themselves on meeting the needs of veterans and youth through multiple projects and events. The Elks donate to the Maine Children Cancer Program, the Elks National Foundation, local food banks, and provide scholarships to local high school seniors. Volunteer opportunities are wide open for both members and non-members to be active in the community. Meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursday, except July & August, then only 3rd Thursday. Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m.

## Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

BAGLEY-GARDINER-FOSTER POST 9  
59 Libby Hill Road  
Gardiner, ME 04345-3521

**Contact:** Commander Roger McLane  
(207) 376-6821



The VFW exists to foster camaraderie among veterans who have served in a war zone and to advocate for all veterans. The VFW works to ensure veterans are respected for their service and receive their earned entitlements. Funds raised through the local sale of poppies made by disabled veterans are used locally to help veterans who are in a crisis situation, such as being unable to pay for a wheelchair ramp or needing assistance in winter.

Membership is open to combat veterans and meetings are held every month.

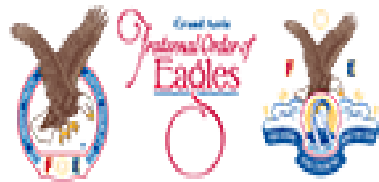
## Fraternal Order of Eagles

#4330 COBBOSSEE  
21 Eagle Drive  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Phone:** (207) 582-1117

Meets every first and third Wednesday.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles is an international non-profit organization uniting fraternally in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope. Throughout the country, the F.O.E donates more than \$100 million every year to local communities, fundraisers, and charities.



## American Legion

American Legion Smith-Wiley Post #4  
46 Griffin Street  
Gardiner, ME  
**Phone:** (207) 582-9868



**Website:** [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)  
[www.facebook.com/pages/American-Legion/122558521134151](https://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Legion/122558521134151)

“Still Serving America” is the American Legion’s motto. Legionnaires are veterans who continue their service to America by serving their communities. At Smith-Wiley Post #4, we do this by organizing the annual Memorial Day Parade, giving a scholarship to a Gardiner Area High School senior, granting Gardiner Regional Middle School Outstanding Student Awards, sponsoring a student to Dirigo State, as well as contributing to local needs like the food bank, the Maine Blind Camp, and the Pine Tree Society.



# Gardiner Rotary Club

P.O. Box 365  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Email:** [gardinerrotary@gmail.com](mailto:gardinerrotary@gmail.com)

**Website** [www.gardinerrotary.org/](http://www.gardinerrotary.org/)



The Rotary Club of Gardiner is a business ethics and service organization with members representing a cross section of our community from various backgrounds and professions. We are local business people and service-minded professionals working together to help create positive, lasting change in our community and to promote understanding and goodwill through various projects and activities.

Our projects include scholarships for area youth, donations to the local food bank and other organizations, Cobbossee trail development, and sponsorship of the Greater Gardiner River Festival. We raise money with a golf tournament, by selling Christmas trees & calendars, and volunteering at e-waste collection events.

We meet Thursday mornings at 7:30 at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley on Pray Street. All are welcome to join us for breakfast, fellowship, and current events speakers.



## PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

### Gardiner Area Music Boosters

40 West Hill Road  
Gardiner, ME 04345

Email: [gardinerareamusicboosters@gmail.com](mailto:gardinerareamusicboosters@gmail.com)



The Gardiner Area Music Boosters' mission is to support, promote, and enhance the Music Program in MSAD #11. We provide volunteers, celebrate successes and fundraise to support the talented students of our school district, grades K-12. Our largest undertaking is to help fund a trip for the Gardiner Area High School Band to Washington DC every four years. Look for us at school concerts, following the band in parades, and in our shack at the football games!

The Boosters typically meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the High School band room. All are welcome. Like our Facebook page or ask to be on our email list to learn about music department events.

### Gardiner Sports Boosters

We are everywhere!

Find us on Facebook.

The Sports Boosters provides support and financial help to Gardiner Area High School sports teams for items that cannot be fully funded by the school's sports budget, such as help in purchasing new uniforms and equipment and food for athletes making it to playoff or championship games. The Boosters also provides scholarships to graduating seniors.



The Boosters raises funds through the snack shacks located at each sports field and other fundraisers like selling bumper stickers and decals to show your team support.

The Sports Boosters welcomes new volunteers. To get involved, contact your team's Boosters representative or Like us on Facebook.

## Gardiner Elementary Parent Teacher Association

Gardiner Elementary Parent Teachers Association

**Email: [geptanews@gmail.com](mailto:geptanews@gmail.com)**



The mission of the Gardiner Elementary Parent Teacher Association is to support academic enrichment and social learning, encourage community and parental involvement, and utilize ideas, energy, and financial support for the benefit of the children, families, teachers, and staff of the Gardiner Elementary Schools.

To find out more about us and how to volunteer, look for GEPTA on Facebook.

## Gardiner Regional Middle School PTO

Gardiner Regional Middle School PTO

**Email: [grmspto@gmail.com](mailto:grmspto@gmail.com)**



The GRMS Parent Teacher Organization's mission is to support the students, teachers and staff at the Gardiner Regional Middle School. We are strong advocates for academic enrichment and social learning, and we work to encourage parental involvement in the education of their children and participation in school events. We welcome all parents of GRMS students and their teachers to join us.

To find out more about us and how to volunteer, find the Gardiner Regional Middle School PTO on Facebook.

## SENIORS

### Oldies but Goodies Seniors' Group

Meets at the ELKS Lodge  
148 Cobbossee Avenue  
Gardiner, ME 04345

**Contact:** c/o Boys & Girls Clubs, (207) 582-8458

Meets every Friday at the Elks Club to play games & socialize. Open to anyone age 50 or over. No membership fee. We have occasional speakers and helpful classes for Seniors. Eventual goal is to serve as a resource center for Seniors. Sponsored by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley.

### Four Leaf Clover Senior Citizens Club

Meets at the Lions Club  
25 Lions Street  
Gardiner, ME

The Four Leaf Clover Senior Citizens Club has been in existence for at least 30 years. It meets at the Gardiner Lions Club every Tuesday from 1:15 until 3 p.m. The attendees generally play cards, games, and have fun socializing. Each year, the Club organizes a Fall Foliage Tour, and the Club has a luncheon or dinner 3 or 4 times a year.

Meetings are listed under Tuesday Events in the Local section of the Kennebec Journal.

### Free Senior Dinners 4 Times a Year

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley puts on a FREE DINNER for Senior citizens four times a year. A great time to meet old friends and new.

Notices are posted on the Club Facebook page or keep a lookout for an "Events" listing in the Local section of the Kennebec Journal.

# Walking Around Gardiner

There are many walking routes in Gardiner, including:

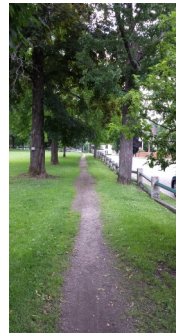
**Historic Walking Trail.** There are several illustrated signs around Gardiner's historic district that provide a detailed account of many facets of the history of our community. Covering such topics as the Native American Presence to the Ice Industry, Poets & Musicians, and Logging & Sawmills, you'll finish the walk enriched by history. Go to the Waterfront Park and you'll see the large sign and map shown above.



**Steamboat Lane.** A quiet path through the woods that starts at the southern end of the Waterfront Park.

**Tilbury Town Walking Tour.** A tour of the historic neighborhood of Edwin Arlington Robinson. See the description in this book's first section, Gardiner's History and Heritage.

Also, you can go to the site [healthymainwalks.com](http://healthymainwalks.com) to find **walking loops** in the residential parts of Gardiner, such as the loop down Dresden Avenue, onto Cottage Street and back on Lincoln Avenue to School Street and the Gardiner Common Loop.



As part of its "**Healthy Main Streets**" initiative, Gardiner Main Street began a "walking train" on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, starting at 11:45 a.m. in front of Reny's Department Store downtown. The loop takes just 15 to 20 minutes. Everything is informal and anyone who shows up can join us for exercise and socializing.

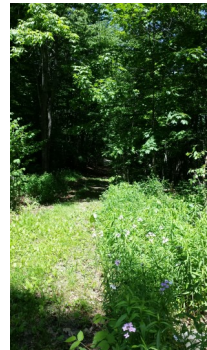
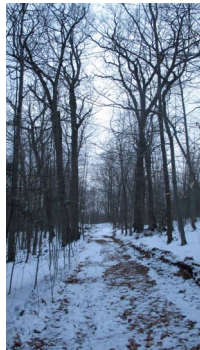
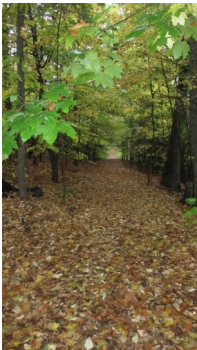


## Walking In Gardiner, Walking in Nature

**The Harrison Avenue Nature Trail.** Created in 2016, the Harrison Avenue Nature Trail is one of the newest city-sanctioned walking trails in Gardiner. About 2/3 of a mile long, it hugs the northern bank of the Cobbossee Stream from the New Mills Dam to the Northern Paper Dam. The trail features abundant wildlife, picnic tables, and 3 of the many dams that harnessed the stream's energy since the first dam in 1754. Enjoy watching osprey, eagles, and other birds feast on alewives in the early spring, and see beaver and other wildlife during the summer. The fall colors are beautiful and the trail is great for snowshoeing in the winter! This family friendly trail, spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Gardiner, was truly a community effort - enjoy!

There are three access points on Harrison Ave. Follow Route 9/126 (Water St./Cobbossee Ave.) and turn onto Harrison near the west end of the bridge over the water. Look for the trail signs on your right.

**The Cobbossee Corridor Multi-Use Trail.** Near the construction stage at the time of printing this booklet, the trail traverses the Cobbosseecontee Stream via the old railroad trestle bridge and continues on winding through Gardiner before connecting with the Kennebec River Rail Trail, which ends in Augusta. The trail will be accessed off of Route 9/126 east (downstream) of the bridge crossing the Cobbossee Stream at New Mills Dam. With state, local and private funding, this project is a widely anticipated addition to Gardiner's recreational opportunities .



## CHURCHES

The following are churches located in Gardiner. There are many other places of worship of all faiths in the surrounding communities.

First Baptist Church of Gardiner  
47 Church Street, Gardiner

[www.firstbaptistgardiner.org](http://www.firstbaptistgardiner.org)  
582-4747

Winter Street Baptist Church  
32 Winter Street, Gardiner

[www.wstbc.org](http://www.wstbc.org)  
582-2818

Christ Church  
2 Dresden Avenue, Gardiner

[www.christchurchgardiner.episcopalmaine.org](http://www.christchurchgardiner.episcopalmaine.org)  
582-3354

Calvary Four Square Church  
109 Old Brunswick Road, Gardiner

[www.gardinerfoursquare.org](http://www.gardinerfoursquare.org)  
582-5728

United Methodist Church  
31 Highland Avenue, Gardiner

Email: [highlandavenueumc@gmail.com](mailto:highlandavenueumc@gmail.com)  
582-2303

Gardiner Church of the Nazarene  
6 Nazarene Way (Route 201), Gardiner

[www.gardinernazarene.org](http://www.gardinernazarene.org)  
582-5107

Faith Christian Church  
280 Brunswick Avenue, Gardiner

[www.faithchristianchurch.me](http://www.faithchristianchurch.me)  
582-5432

St. Joseph's Parish Hall  
Lincoln Avenue, Gardiner

582-2051

South Gardiner Baptist Church  
641 River Road, South Gardiner

[www.sgbchurch.com](http://www.sgbchurch.com)  
582-3751

Gardiner Free Methodist Church  
134 Highland Avenue, Gardiner

582-2546

Apostolic Faith Ministry Church  
284 Brunswick Avenue, Gardiner

Email: [teresbfree@gmail.com](mailto:teresbfree@gmail.com)  
582-5467

Riverview Congregational Church  
Riverview Drive, South Gardiner

Life Community Church

Find us on Facebook

## GLOSSARY

**Alphabet soup**: “**GAHS**”, “**LER**” and “**GRMS**”. Gardiner Area High School, Laura E. Richards Elementary School, and Gardiner Regional Middle School.

**The Arcade**: This is a passageway with a set of stairs that takes you directly down from Water Street to the public parking area between the Cobbossee Stream and the buildings on Water Street.

**Cobbossee Lot**: Sometimes called “the Arcade lot,” this is the parking lot located along the Cobbossee Stream behind the downtown buildings on Water Street. There is easy access on foot from this lot to downtown through the Arcade passageway.

**Cobbossee Corridor**: Refers to the land along the Cobbossee Stream from the Kennebec River upstream to the New Mills Dam.

**Cobbosseecontee Stream**: Another name for the Cobbossee Stream..

**The Common**: Up at the top of the hill next to Brunswick Avenue is Gardiner’s Common, which is a nice park with a playground and a beautiful gazebo.

**Depot Square**: Located downtown, at the intersection of Church Street and Main Avenue, where there is a really, really big crosswalk to enter the waterfront park.

**Hoch Field**: This is the field at the GAHS where the high school football team plays, usually under lights on a Friday night.

**Pray Street**: It’s a street that runs between Harrison Ave. and Pope Street not far from Highland Ave., but usually “Pray Street” means a building. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley now owns and occupies what used to be the Pray Street Elementary School. Some groups listed in this booklet hold their meetings there, and it is often the place where Gardiner citizens **VOTE** in elections. Also, the field next to the building is where many lacrosse and soccer games are played.

**Quimby**: This refers to Quimby Field which is about a half a mile down Lincoln Avenue from the Common. It is actually several sports fields—for Cal Ripken baseball and numerous youth football games. It’s a busy and fun place to be.“

## WHAT'S WITH ALL THE STURGEON, ANYWAY?

Well, the sturgeon has served as the official symbol of Gardiner since the City's bicentennial in 2003.

Why a sturgeon? The sturgeon is one of the oldest species of bony fish still in existence. Sturgeon are huge and powerful fish and serve as a potent and visible reminder of our community's fishing heritage. When a sturgeon leaps out of the waters of the Kennebec, it is a sight you won't forget.

The Cobbosseecontee's name is derived from the native Abenaki name "Cabbassaguntiag," which means "the place where sturgeon abound."

So that is why you see painted sturgeon around town and on houses and on the Historic Walking Trail.

Scott Minzy 2016

