

# A MAIN STREET MAINE SUCCESS STORY: Revolving Loan Fund Improves Key Parking Access Space



Gardiner Main Street  
A MAIN STREET MAINE COMMUNITY

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First Quarter  
2013



A worker paints the “new and improved” walkway

## Private capital and business investment boosted by public trust is key to long overdue projects.

Alex Parkers Steakhouse, which has recently completed an investment of about \$100,000, utilized the City of Gardiner’s USDA revolving loan fund with an amount of \$40,000 to transform an area mid-block that has been a long identified eyesore and uninviting public space, fraught with vandalism. Since the space is the only entrance to the restaurant, they transformed the space to bring the upscale feeling of a steakhouse out of doors. The city’s Economic Development committee granted the loan that was denied by a local bank. Local banks seldom loan to startup restaurants.



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# A MAIN STREET MAINE SUCCESS STORY: Gardiner Main Street Leads Effort to Improve Wayfinding/ Parking Signage.



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Second Quarter  
2013



Wayfinding Signage

**It is critically important to provide leadership and support when creating a partnership with a municipality.**

The City of Gardiner adopted a master signage plan in 2009, but has struggled to prioritize funding and administrative efforts to complete plan. Gardiner Main Street's design committee took a lead role in requesting funding during a very difficult budget year, designing, and ordering signage, working closely with the city's public works department. Not only have the signs been well received, but Council has budgeted an additional \$25,000 in this fiscal year to complete the signage plan, which GMS will help administer, also. The sign incorporates the City's new logo, and provides clear direction to parking and other important locations in our Downtown District.

# A MAIN STREET MAINE SUCCESS STORY: Replacing a cherished community icon – The Gardiner Gazebo



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Fourth Quarter  
2013



The Gardiner Gazebo underway

Last year, one of the iconic public structures in Gardiner, known as “The Gazebo” or “The Bandstand” was demolished due to its condition. This was not an historic structure, but historically, there have been no less than three Gazebos at this site. At the center of the Gardiner Common, a focal transitional point between our historic downtown and historic neighborhoods, the community became committed to rebuilding, and most importantly, fundraising to rebuild. A Gardiner Main Street Volunteer created a cast pewter Christmas ornament depicting the Gazebo for GMS to sell as part of our annual ornament fundraiser. The Gardiner Rotary Club would lead the fundraising effort. GMS sold ornaments for \$25 per piece, with \$15 going towards the Gazebo Fund. We ended up donating \$1065 dollars toward the fundraising goal of \$50,000.



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