



THE MAINE DOWNTOWN COALITION

The Maine Downtown Coalition is an alliance of nonprofit organizations, town and city officials, Main Street programs, business people and others dedicated to revitalizing Maine communities and fostering redevelopment of some of our most unique assets: our historic Main Streets and downtown districts.

We strive to provide resources and tools to help protect and enhance town & city centers, and to reach out to a diverse group of allies including conservationists, businesses, government, and many others.

Whether you live in Maine or you're a visitor, you know that one of the things that makes this state unique is the proliferation of historic downtown districts, Main Streets, villages, and our small-town character. From Fort Kent to Kittery, these jewels are the centers of economic, cultural and social activity, and the very heart of the community.

The Challenge

Over time, we've built up a proliferation of rules and regulations that discourage investment in these special areas, and increasingly people, investment and development are being pushed to surrounding rural and suburban communities.

This presents several challenges for Maine:

- Empty storefronts and vacant Main Street buildings can mean a loss of community vitality and economic activity.
- It costs more to serve a dispersed population because we are forced to build redundant infrastructure and provide services to a larger area. The cost of government in fast growing rural and suburban communities tends to rise as population increases- particularly when a town passes the 2,500-3,500 mark.
- Increased driving from the proliferation of auto-dependent development outside our town centers increases greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change.
- Sprawling development and the loss of community vitality both threaten the quality of this place – our natural landscape and unique livable communities – that are part of our unique competitive advantage: the Maine 'brand.'

See reverse side

What are we working for?

We have joined forces to help protect and enhance our unique communities across the state. Our goals are:

- Build a broad-based coalition to advocate for Maine's historic downtowns, Main Streets, village centers and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Remove barriers to successful redevelopment of our downtowns and Main Streets;
- Promote investment in these special places to preserve and enhance the Maine 'brand';
- Address emerging threats to the vitality of our towns & cities;
- Educate, advocate and train citizens to incorporate historic preservation tools and techniques into downtown vitality efforts;
- And make it easier for people to live, work, go to school, visit, shop, and worship in our town and city centers.

What can you do?

Join us! Please sign on as a supporter of our coalition, add your voice to the growing chorus for the revitalization of Maine's towns, Main Streets, and cities! Email info@growsmartmaine.org

Members of the Downtown Coalition:

- Maine Preservation, Portland
- Maine Downtown Center, Augusta
- GrowSmart Maine, Portland
- Coastal Enterprises, Inc, Wiscasset
- Mattson Development, Winthrop
- The Service Center Coalition, Augusta
- Saco Spirit
- The Heart of Biddeford
- Waterville Main Street
- Gardiner Maine Street
- The National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Greater Portland Landmarks
- Friends of Midcoast Maine, Camden
- Maine Center for Economic Policy, Augusta
- Sealander Studio, Ellsworth
- Tom Niemann, Niemann Capital
- Paul Boghossian, Hathaway Creative Center
- Mary Kate Reny, R.H. Reny Inc
- Jonathan Edgerton, Wright-Pierce
- Skowhegan Main Street
- Maine Street Bath
- Dana Totman, Avesta Housing, Portland
- Portland Trails
- South Portland Land Trust
- Barba + Wheelock, Architects, Portland
- Lewiston/Auburn Economic Growth Council
- Denis Lachman, Lachman Architects & Planners, Portland
- Androscoggin Land Trust, Lewiston
- Developers Collaborative, Portland
- David Flood, Developer, Biddeford
- Sanford Downtown Legacy
- Van Buren Chamber/Maine Street
- Maine Development Foundation
- Maine Community Development Association, Augusta
- Preservation Planning Associates, Buxton
- City of Lewiston
- Maine Audubon, Falmouth
- State Planning Office
- Andrea Burns, Norway Downtown
- Sue Inches, North Yarmouth
- Jeff Ryan, 19 Oaks LLC, Portland
- Shay Bellas, 19 Oaks LLC, Portland
- Shannon Haines, Waterville
- Ted Koffman, Portland
- Chris Glass, Architect, Camden
- Catherine Renault, Director, Maine Office of Innovation
- Rockland Main Street, Inc.
- Capital Riverfront Improvement District, Augusta

Maine Downtown Coalition Steering Committee

- *Greg Paxton, MDC Spokesperson & Executive Director, Maine Preservation: greg@mainepreservation.org or 775-3652*
- *Lock Kiermaier, Advocacy & Outreach Coordinator, GrowSmart Maine: lock@growsmartmaine.org or 446-0651*
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Maine Downtown Coalition website: www.growsmartmaine.org/downtowns/index.asp