## COASTAL COMMUNITY GRANTS: Public Access



# Town of Camden River to Harbor Walk (Megunticook River)



"We were able to engage hundreds of community members and create a road map that will guide us for years to come."

Martin Cates, Camden Select Board Chairman 2013

## PARTNERS

Camden/Rockport Pathways Commission; Coastal Mountains Land Trust; Camden Downtown Business Group; Camden Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee; Camden Parks & Recreation;

## **ISSUE AREA**

Megunticook River to Camden Harbor

# **PROJECT DESCRIPTION** (completed December 2013)

Produce a conceptual design and feasibility of constructing a 2.25-mile multi-use pedestrian pathway along the Megunticook River linking Shirttail Point Park with downtown and Camden Harbor's Public Landing. The project leverages the natural assets of the river and harbor and improves access from residential areas to the coastline. It also seeks to enhance the sustainability of the community by offering an added attraction for visitors, employees and businesses.



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#### RESULTS

Ty-Lin International and Terrance J. DeWann Associates were retained as consultants for this project. The thorough final report included detail according to input. It exceeded expectations and was very well received by constituencies. The requested economic impact analysis substantiated the benefit of constructing a river walk resulting in confidence among businesses and potential funders. Estimated construction costs \$1.22 million (2013).

#### NEXT STEPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Review and prioritize phases and elements for presentation to the Camden Select Board. Review privately owned parcels and determine how to best approach for access, easements and other strategies. Identify funding sources and work toward piecing together a funding package.

#### NEEDS

Funding for construction, signage, amenities, easement and land acquisition, maintenance education and public relations efforts and materials.

#### LESSONS LEARNED

Thoroughly identify and work with potentially impacted parties. Find a way to be open and inclusive.

## APPLICABILITY FOR OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

Examine the layout of the community to identify areas connected/disconnected. Use natural elements to connect people and places. Use grant money designed to obtain the services of professionals to ensure designs are sound and phased.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

FEMA flood map rezoning; additional funds for construction and implementation; facilitation between municipal and local organizations with trails to the East Coast Greenway to benefit Maine overall.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

3.10.17. http://www.camdenmaine.gov/index.asp?Type=B BASIC&SEC=%7BE71D0F60-9581-4CC5-933F-7811A3BE3CE3%7D

## CONTACT

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