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

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