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**MAINE
DOWNTOWN
CENTER**

Dover-Foxcroft
Connecting the Mayo Dam and
Downtown

March 16, 2023

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Help inform the committee's
eventual decision that will contribute to
the vitality of downtown as well as
recreation on and restoration of the
Piscataquis River

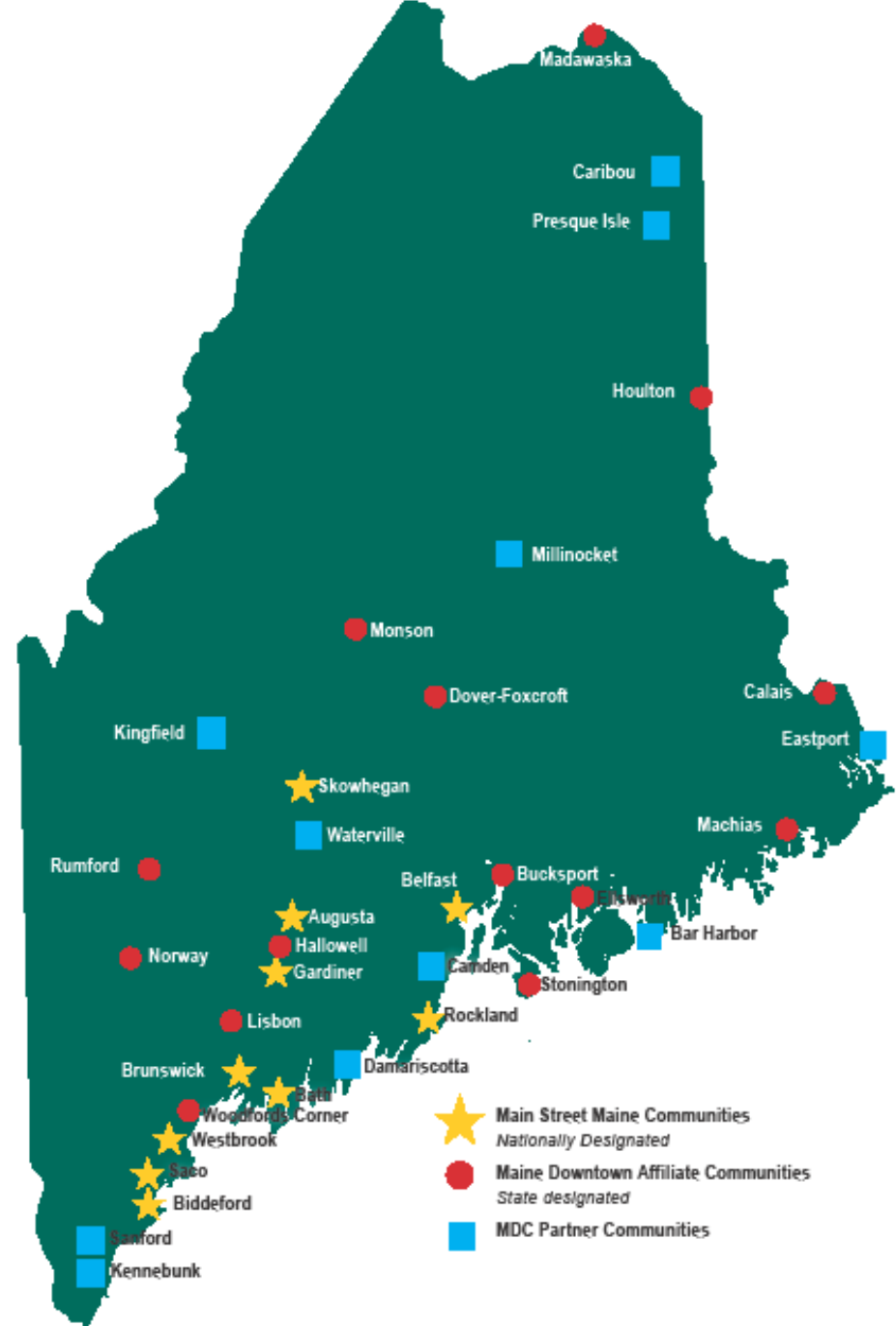
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MAINE DOWNTOWN CENTER

Community based and
preservation based economic
development



- Bucksport
- Calais
- Dover-Foxcroft, 2010
- Ellsworth, 2020
- Hallowell, 2019
- Houlton
- Lisbon
- Machias
- Madawaska
- Monson, 2022
- Norway
- Rumford
- Stonington
- Woodfords Corner, Portland



Current as of January 2022

Downtown Affiliate Membership Benefits

- Events and Trainings
- Resource Sharing
- Technical Assistance
- Rapid Response (specialized technical assistance)
- Opportunities for Funding & Support

- Access to MDC administered initiatives and sub-grant opportunities ie National Park Service RevitalizeME Center Theater, Healthy Maine Streets
- CDBG Bonus Point for Downtown Revitalization Fund applications

What Are the Four Points?



Downtown Affiliate Membership Requirements

- Letter of Agreement
- Paying an annual membership fee of \$750
- Conducting a goal setting session with MDC every three years
- Completing an annual reporting form
- Participating in the MDC Annual Awards Celebration
- Participating in at least 4 MDC trainings per year
- Sharing stories and information with the network



Things to consider

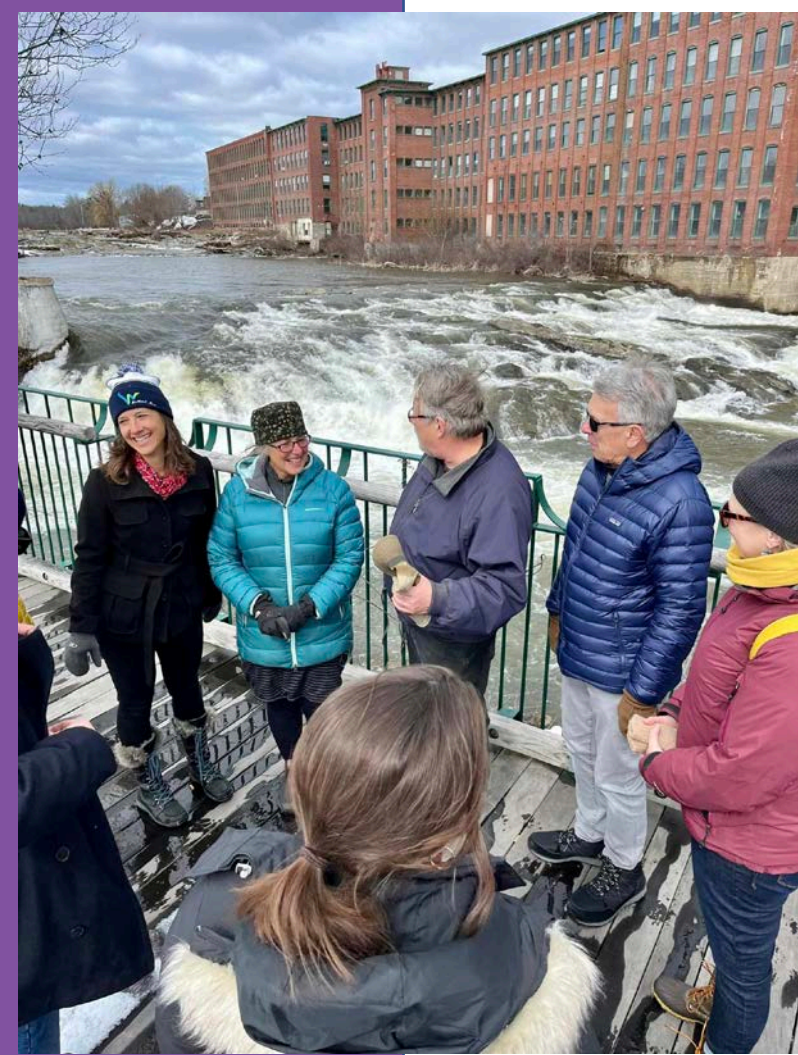
- How does the Dam and river connect to the downtown?
- Your website says, Options will consider:
 - education
 - public/recreational access and activity
 - historical acknowledgement
 - economic development potential

= All of these are what our Main Street and Affiliates do!

Westbrook and the Presumpscot River

- Dam removed
- Focus on the river as an asset for econ dev't
- Effort lead by Friends of the Presumpscot
- Opening up access to the river for recreation, white water, views, interpretation, fish ladder
- Fish ladder is becoming a viewing destination
- Funding- federal funding
- Connecting to other outdoor recreation assets (trails, etc)
- Downtown is becoming a destination

Challenge: everyone wants to do things on the river (pedestrian bridge, boat launches, etc) – too much?





Ellsworth and the Union River

- Cleaning up the banks of the river
- Providing interpretation
- Funding sources include: King Foundation, Brookfield, T Mobile
- Sharing the river via a river walk, walking trail and connection to other walking areas

Challenge: easement and landowners, but not stopping the project



Skowhegan and the Kennebec River

- Transformational idea for the economy and the community
 - Redeveloping an industrial downtown corridor as an accessible outdoor recreation asset w/expanded trail network and enhanced whitewater
 - Will be free to residents
 - Will bolster the regional economy by attracting visitors, businesses and new residents
 - Federal Funding \$2million
- Challenge:** permitting and time

Wrap up and Questions



Thank you



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