



News About Town

Gray, Maine – July 2020

Closures:

Friday, July 3rd

(Independence Day Observed)

All Municipal Offices Closed

Saturday, July 4th

(Independence Day)

Transfer Station Closed

Monday, July 13th

(Absentee Ballot Processing)

Municipal Offices Closing At

Noon

Tuesday, July 14th

(Election Day)

Municipal Offices Closed

Gray - Music In the Park

Music in the Park will take place on Saturday, August 8th at Pennell Municipal Complex, 24 Main Street, Gray (*in place of the 5th annual Gray Blueberry Festival which will return again for next year*). The 2020 (festival) Committee is excited to be able to offer Gray residents this special event! *For the safety of our community due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, social distancing precautions have been set in place and pre-registration is required, no walk-ins allowed.*

Please see the registration form for more event details; to download the form, go to <https://www.graymaine.org/blueberry-festival> (*form will be available soon*)

[Read more on the next page...](#)

Music in the Park features ~ 60 minutes live performance during each 90 minute time slot:

Seagrass from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

The Sofa Kings from 12:30 to 2:00 PM

The Sofa Kings from 2:30 to 4:00 PM

Firefly Performing Arts plus Mocking Birds @ Moonlight – ukulele, rock bands from 4:30 to 6:00 PM

The Northern Grey Band from 6:30 to 8:00 PM



- Music in the Park offers each “drive-in” time slot: approx. 60 minutes live music, delicious ‘Taco the Town’ tacos for sale, G-NG 4H Club’s blueberry lemonade for sale, kids’ craft & activities, and goodie bag and/or door prizes (one per vehicle).
- Bring your own folding chairs & picnic blanket OR listen to the live music from your vehicle parked outside of Town Hall.
- Thanks to the financial support of our 2020 Gray business Sponsors, there are five different time slots to choose from. Please contact us if you would like to help sponsor this year’s event. And, if there is enough interest, we may be able to offer Music in the Park again in September. Stay tuned for more info.
- Each 90 minute time slot accommodates approx. 12 pre-registered vehicles (car, SUV, minivan, or pickup truck). Each registration form allows a Gray resident over the age of 18 to bring up to 3 other people in his/her vehicle. For 2020, there is a \$5 per person pre-registration fee. Any portion of your registration fee that is not needed to cover costs for this (new) August 8th event will be donated to one of four local groups serving our community.



Time slots will be filled on ‘first come, first serve’ so be sure to **register by July 15, 2020**. Please complete and return only one registration form per vehicle along with a check for \$5 per person attending. Confirmed registrations are non-refundable. **After July 17**, we will post online if there are any time slots still available and accept a second round of registrations.

Contact the Committee if you have any questions, suggestions, or feedback
BlueberryFestival@Graymaine.org

Follow, Like, Share, Message their Facebook Event Page
www.facebook.com/GrayBlueberryFestival/



New! GRAY TOWN PUBLIC EMERGENCY ORDINANCE - LOCAL FOOD AND COMMUNITY SELF-GOVERNANCE

Read More Here:

<https://www.graymaine.org/home/home/news/gray-town-public-emergency-ordinance-local-food-and-community-self-governance>



TEMPORARY OUTDOOR USE PERMITS

The Gray Town Council Approved on 6/16 Temporary Outdoor Use Permits.

Read More Here:

<https://www.graymaine.org/home/home/news/temporary-outdoor-use-permits>



*Election Information
July 14, 2020*

GRAY TOWN ELECTION & PRIMARY ELECTION INFORMATION — JULY 14, 2020



[Detailed Election Information](#)

[can be found here.](#)



HANNAFORD HELPS REUSABLE BAG PROGRAM



Support A Local Non-Profit

GRAY REC DEPT

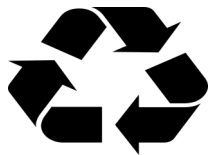
will receive a \$1 donation when you buy a \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Hannaford located at

GRAY HANNAFORD

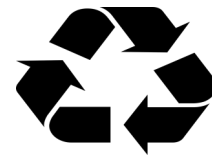
in the month of

JULY

Learn more about the Hannaford Helps Reusable Bag Program at hannaford.bags4mycause.com



Welcome to the July Recycling Corner!



Thank you everyone for holding on to your recycling during the pandemic closures. We are happy to report no significant increase in our waste volume for April 2020 when we reopened the facilities.

All that Glass

There has been a turn in the market for our glass waste material. The town is not able to continue to recycle it because it is too heavy and will cost us even more in fees to do that.

This surely presents as a disappointment to avid recyclers among us but there is an opportunity presented by it. That opportunity is to move away from disposable glass use at the household level. Glass is better than plastic for the atmosphere and water supply. Glass is highly reusable, sanitizable and lasts a lot longer than plastic. So what to do with all that glass?

Ten Ways to reuse glass jars and bottles:

1. **Vases.** Display cut flowers in glass bottles and vases. You can decorate them too, (so crafty ideas on Pinterest)
2. **Make Pickles** When the pickles are gone, add some fresh veggies to the brine and top it off with vinegar and put it back in the refrigerator. You can also learn to lacto ferment foods in them.
3. **Mix Salad Dressing.** Homemade dressing is easy and a jar with a tight lid, and some elbow grease, is a great tool for doing it. Pro Tip: Add a little mustard to help with emulsification.

Here is a recipe:

Classic French-inspired vinaigrette

2 cloves garlic, minced
2 Tbsp Dijon mustard
juice of 3 lemons
1 tsp grated lemon zest (optional)
2 Tbsp light-colored vinegar (I prefer champagne, but white wine vinegar is fine too)

Put all ingredients in a clean jar with a tight-fitting lid. Close the jar and shake well. Taste and adjust; does it need more salt? more acid? a little more oil? You can't ruin it, so don't be afraid to play with the proportions.

This dressing will keep for at least a month in the refrigerator. Let it warm up before you use it, as the oil will congeal when it's cold.

4. **Feed your Neighbors.** Pack up a little of your famous stew and share it with your neighbors in them.
5. **Mix a Drink.** Whether it's mocktails or cocktails, a jar with a tight lid is a great shaker.
6. **Stay organized.** Bits of kitchen twine, or garden jute, tacks and pencils, corks, plastic caps, curious bits and useful bobs of all kinds can be stored and stashed for later in jars.
7. **Doggie bags jars.** When you have friends and family over for dinner, send them home with left overs in a jar! Pro Tip: Use the canning funnel to help fill them with no mess.
8. **Pantry Containers.** Jars are great for storing rice, oats, grains and beans in the pantry. Especially if you are buying these items in bulk.
9. **Make a Refrigerator jam.** Simmer ripe fruit with sugar and a few strips of lemon peel until it's sticky and delicious. Pour it into a clean jar, put on the lid, and stick it in the refrigerator. It will keep for 30 days but it has to be refrigerated.
10. **Salad.** Salad jars are beautiful and fun. Layer put dressing on the bottom. Layer veggies, from crunchy to leafy. Shake before eating.

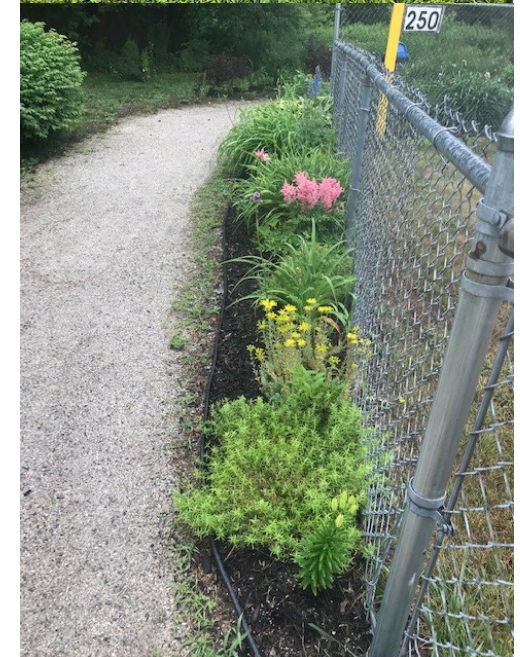
Before reusing glass jars remove the label. Usually a soak in hot water will do the trick. For stubborn glue, dribble on a little olive oil or vegetable oil and use a scrubby sponge. After that, sterilize the jars and lids in the dishwasher.

Be careful using jars for picnics and avoid sending them in kids lunches to avoid accidents.

If you already have enough glass containers for reuse, and cannot donate them, then consider purchasing aluminium cans or plastic jars for now - for example - when buying spaghetti sauce. Otherwise you can save them until the market shifts. We will keep you posted.

- Recycling Committee

IT'S SUMMER ! ENJOY THE OUTDOORS AT ANY OF THESE GREAT FACILITIES





The Town of Gray is pleased to Congratulate Rachel Lyn Rumson for receiving a 2020 EcoMaine Eco-Excellence Individual Leadership Award from EcoMaine.

Rachel Lyn is a permaculture designer, educator and facilitator and along with her partner, Mike Joyce, runs the George Perley Homestead B&B in Gray. Her passion for the environment is evident in her every day life and something she shares with her guests. Her website states "as a Maine Environmental leader, we aim to eliminate our input into the landfill. We compost food waste and separate recycling materials such as plastics and paperboard.

We ask guests to please refrain from bringing single use plastic water bottles as well as non-recyclable packages such as polystyrene." Rachel installed an edible landscape and raises ducks and chickens. She enjoys cooking foods they grow and forage and enjoys sharing her knowledge of permaculture through classes and events.

Rachel Lyn was passionate about incorporating a goal of zero waste-waste reduction for the 2018 & 2019 Gray Blueberry Festivals and worked with an outside company to help the Committee run this effort in 2018. She created a Zero Waste brochure which was shared with food vendors in the spring of 2018 so they would understand the concept and what would be allowed at the event (e.g. serving containers). She and other Committee members helped monitor/sort the contents of trash & recycle bins at the 2018 festival. In 2019, the festival saw a reduction from 8 trash/recycling stations to 6 trash/recycling stations even though the festival grew in size. Participants and visitors were asked to help sort to increase the educational effect of the effort.

Rachel Lyn is also very passionate about converting (public and private) space into better use of green space for parks/pollinator gardens/community gardens, etc. through Community engagement in all aspects (from the beginning, to installation, to sustain & maintain the green space) and educating folks who want to learn more about it. She utilizes her knowledge and experience in permaculture design as a member of the Community Economic Development Committee and is working on beautification efforts in Gray focusing on the first beautification garden project in the Gray Village.

Rachel Lyn is also the newly appointed Chair of the Recycling Committee and has brought new energy to the group. She is leading the charge on the Committee's primary goals to increase communication with, and education of, Gray residents, challenging them to reduce their own plastics usage by 10%. Rachel Lyn is collaborative, generous with her knowledge and truly believes if we work together locally, we can make a huge difference globally to reduce production and usage of plastics, increase recycling and reduce food waste entering the trash stream. It is for all these reasons and more, Rachel Lyn is an eco-Champion.

For immediate release – June 29, 2020, Gray, Maine.

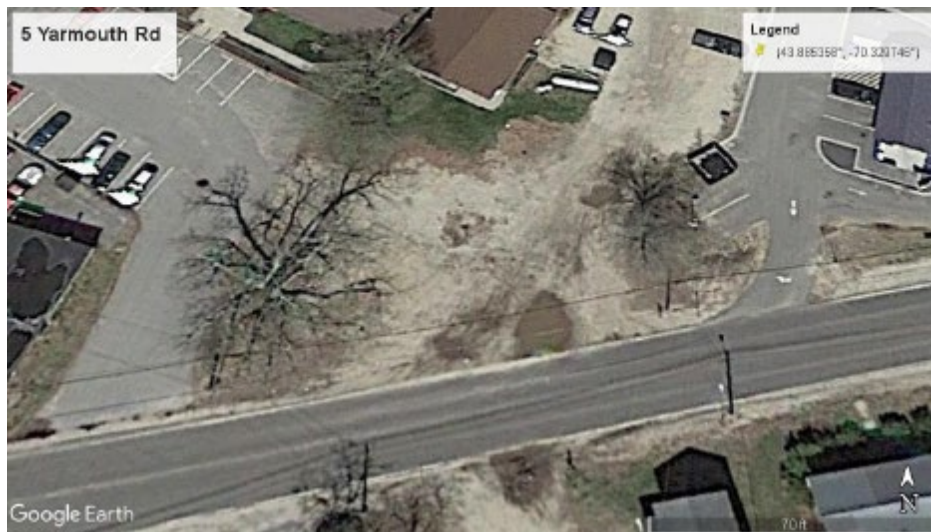


Every day Public Sanctuary

The Town of Gray's Community and Economic Development Committee are happy to announce that the town is to create a place of natural and local interest in the middle of Gray Village at 5 Yarmouth Rd.

The Micro-park will have a common gathering space for the community and travelers alike. The design of the space was donated to provide a conceptual plan for a positive outdoor space with a shelter, community food forest and gardens, and a historical marker. This project has been funded by the Community Development Block Grant and is part of the committee's goal to beautify the village area.

The location for the park is located at 5 Yarmouth Road between Aroma Joe's and Manny's Motors. It is currently a popular traffic pass-through, and a rest stop for many. Public Works was preparing to fence it off completely to mitigate the ice and debris that have been a hazard on the roadway.



Background

In 2013 there was a conceptual plan drawn up for the Hancock Block. The responding themes were that the property owners on the block wanted more parking and green spaces. In the 2016, the Town of Gray acquired the land from the bank, and it was graded.

In 2019, the Gray Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) included this site in its village beautification targets, as Gray Public Works sought to restrict of pass-through traffic on the site. The CEDC hosted a *site walk* in October 2019, inviting community stakeholders. In attendance were representatives from the Congregational Church, Gray Historical Society and CEDC. Ideas for the site emerged. Subsequently, the Town Planner called a landscape architect to discuss the location and review past conceptual plans drawn for the location.

Shortly after that CEDC received a draft design to revegetate the site using an ecological design system called permaculture which creates Food Forest systems to mimic those of a natural forest, rather than a high-maintenance landscape.

The Design

Being a prominent spot in the village center, the park will be beautiful, welcoming, accessible, safe, and shaded. The conceptual plan and narrative attempts to do all that, using permaculture design. This approach allows for a participatory process in refining the goals, connecting with stakeholders in the community, and volunteers, choosing an aesthetic for various features and integrating public safety measures. The process is iterative and will engage many people in 'place making' at

5 Yarmouth Rd. As such, refinements to the goals and design are expected during peer review and conversations with members of the community.

An updated version of the site plan will be available on the town website as soon as a few more milestones are reached in the project. This is a working draft of the site plan for now:

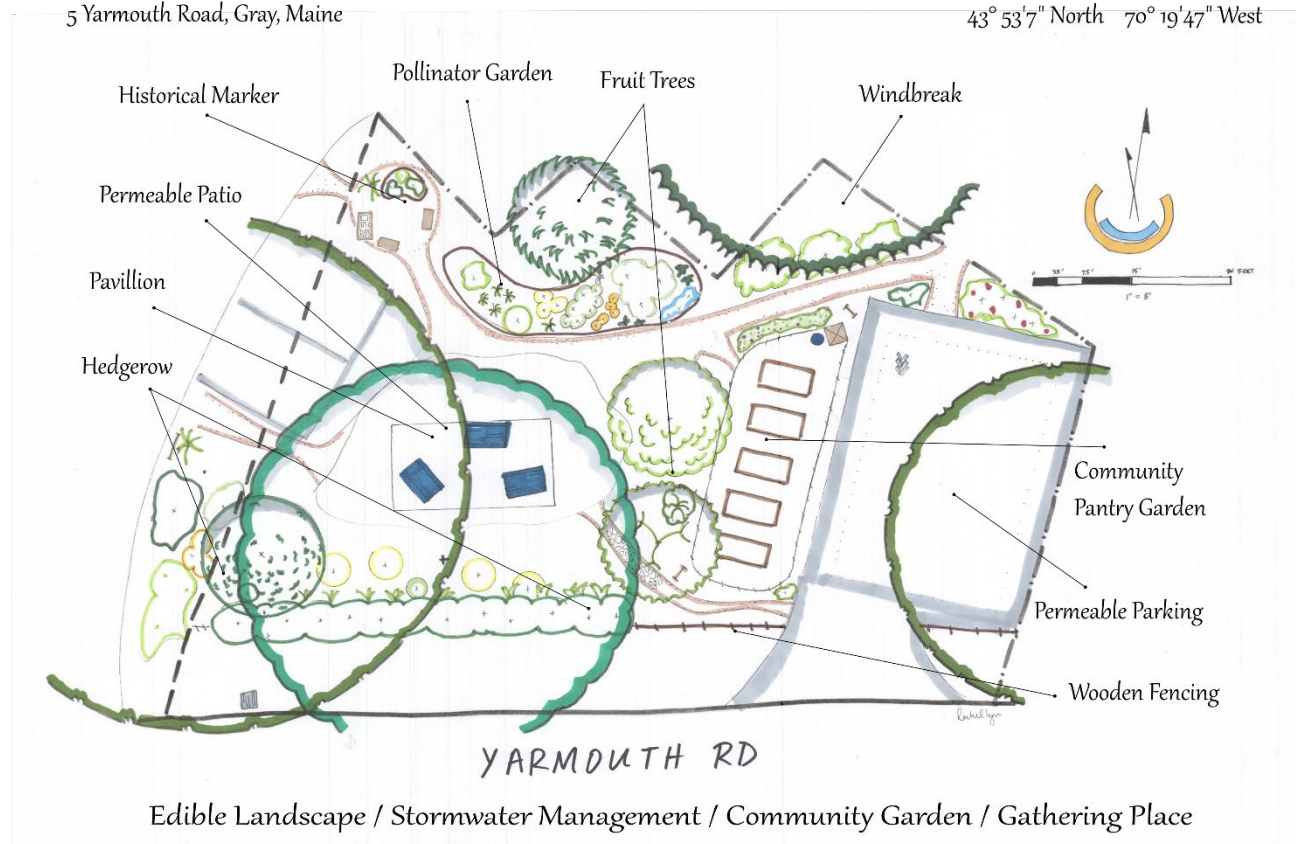
Gray Urban Food Forest: A Micro Park

Elevation +308'

Magnetic Declination 15° West

43° 53' 7" North 70° 19' 47" West

5 Yarmouth Road, Gray, Maine

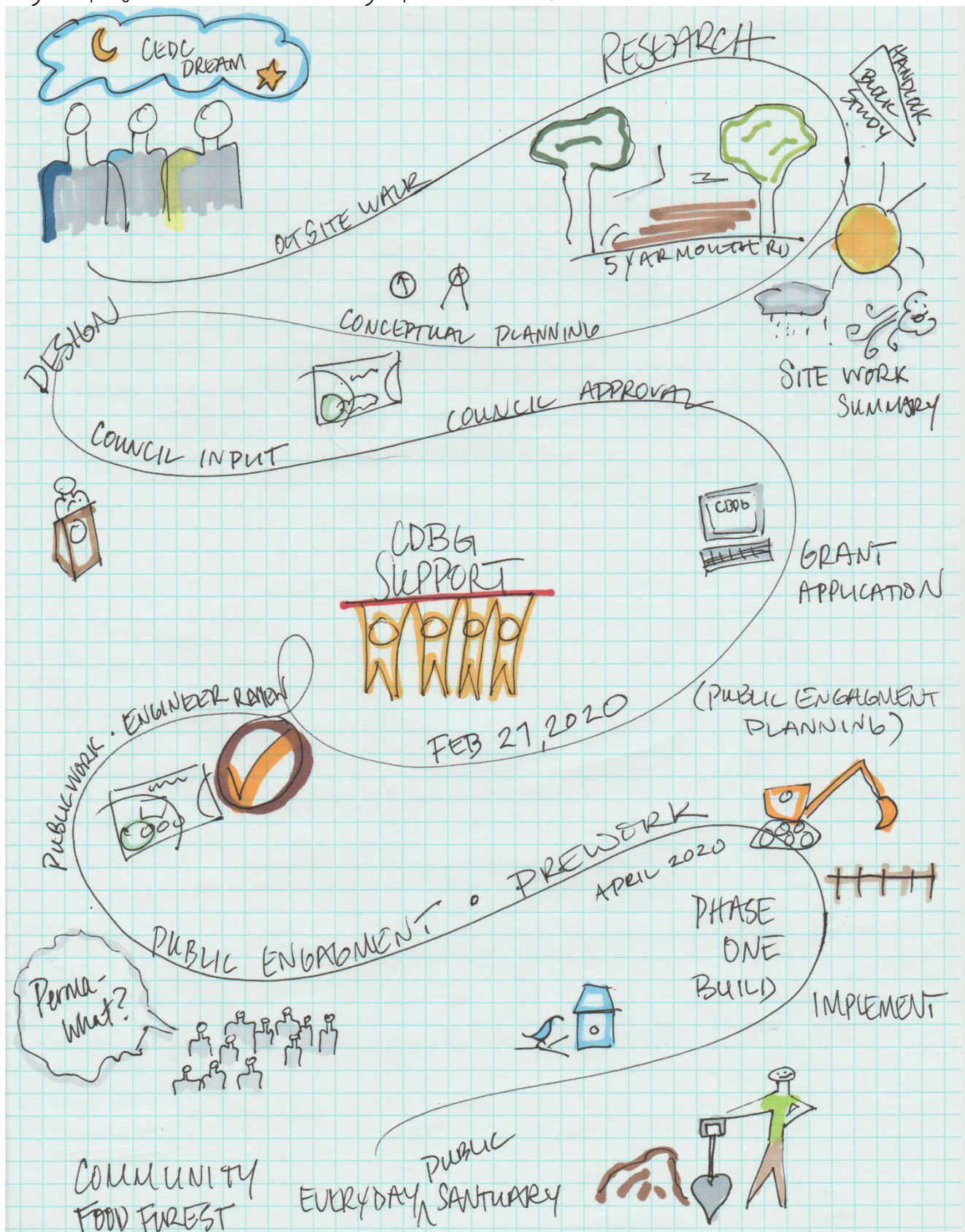


Future Steps

As part of the project communication plan there will be several ways that you can connect with this project in the future. You can

- Suggest names for the park and vote in the Naming-the-Park Survey
- Attend Planning Board meetings about the project
- Give feedback in the lobby of Town Hall and online
- Get Plans from CECD to build a birdhouse for the Village Birdhouse Project
- Volunteer for community work-parties (Covid19-safe ones)
- Help source materials for and build a community garden/pantry garden

Dates for all the above are to be determined. We are getting our legs under us after the Coronavirus disturbance brought the timeline to a halt. Here is the original project timeline in both graphic and list form:



Project Phasing:

Pre-work

- X Engineer & Public Works Peer Review
- X Public workshops & Stakeholder Interviews
- X Planning board approval
- X Place-Naming

Phase I - Fall 2020

- X Signage & Media advisory
- X Earthworks (Storm-water treatment, Berms & Swales)
- X Fencing
- X Soil test & Soil development planning
- X Stonework (Permeable paving)
- X Pavilion woodworks

Phase II - Spring 2021

- X Define Paths & Beds (Sheet mulch layers)
- X Install Plantings & Protection
- X Place seating
- X Partner projects
(Community Garden, Historical Marker, Rainwater Collection, Birdhouse Village Art installation)
- X Community Education & Events
(Planting Parties, Permablitzes, Horticultural walks, Permaculture Meetups, Plant Swaps, Seed Harvests, Pollinator Plays, Pruning lessons, gardening lessons)

Contact the Community and Economic Development Committee at CEDC@graymaine.com for more information.