

Press Event on December 13th for Launching of Fundraising Video for First-in-Maine Universally Accessible Playground



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CONTACT:

Dottie Perham-Whittier
Community Relations Coordinator

(207) 513-3000, X3205

(207) 513-3007 (TTY/TDD)

(207) 795-5069 (FAX)

dottie@lewistonmaine.gov

www.lewistonmaine.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEWISTON: The City of Lewiston's Together We Play Playground Advisory Committee, chaired by Senator Nate Libby, will launch its new fundraising video on December 13th at 10:30 a.m. in regards to equipment for the first-in-Maine universally accessible playground at Marcotte Park. The press event—open to media & the general public—will highlight the project and what it will offer all children, with no one watching from the sidelines. The video launch will take place in the **Lewiston City Council Chambers, 27 Pine Street**. The project's design is already complete, and once equipment is acquired, the playground will become operational. **A project Go Fund ME page, established by the project's fiscal sponsor, Tri-County Mental Health Services, will also be announced at the December 13th press event.**

The universally accessible playground is designed to serve children and adults, regardless of physical or developmental challenges, in an environment that supports compassion, inclusiveness, and mutual understanding. Lewiston's playground will be barrier free from transport to park use with surfacing and equipment accessible to all. The theme of the playground is **"The River,"** which was decided upon by community members due to Lewiston's commitment to the development of its Riverfront Island and enhancement of multi-use access to the Androscoggin River. All colors, textures, and animal features will depict the river theme. Areas of the playground will include an Interactive Riverfront Rock Wall, Sensory Rock Wall, Animal Sculptures, Sound Garden, Spinner Alley, Embankment Fun, and Tree Canopy Swings.

One of the individuals featured in the video is Stephanie Gelinis, Executive Director of Sandcastle Clinical and Educational Services, who notes that Sandcastle annually serves approximately 850 Lewiston-Auburn area families who have children with special needs. She adds, ***"Much has been learned from the families we've had the opportunity to work with over the past 20 years. The most significant truth that has been repeated loud and clear for all of us to hear has been that individuals of ALL abilities should be integrated."***

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