

# **Eastern Trail**

## **Management District**

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### **ETMD Making Things Happen**

The newest completed section of the Eastern Trail—the 1.6-mile **Pine Point to Old Orchard Beach segment**—opened to fanfare and rave reviews in July 2008. We have reason to believe there's plenty more to come in 2009 and 2010 as work proceeds on two upcoming projects.

Final design of the 6.2-mile **Biddeford to Kennebunk project** is under way. This should allow for a mid-summer through end-of-season construction schedule, with a cross-your-fingers ribbon-cutting ceremony possible for several of its northern miles in November of this year.



### **Kennebunk-Biddeford Design Site Walk**

Nearly two-dozen engineering firms are preparing bids for preliminary design of the Cascade Road segment—**OOB to Thornton Academy in Saco**. There's a chance that work could begin in 2009, and ET users could be enjoying this 3.9-mile segment by 2010. (Saco's successful \$500K trail bond gets much credit.)

Your community's support is helping to make this possible. The ET is marching south—coming soon to a town near you!

—ETMD President Bob Hamblen

### **Old Orchard Beach Opening!**



### **Scarborough Councilor Judy Roy, Scarborough Manager Ron Owens, and OOB Town Manager Steve Gunty**

The newest 1.6 miles of the off-road trail section connecting Scarborough Marsh to Old Orchard Beach was completed early in July 2008.



This new section of the trail was designed by Milone & MacBroom of Freeport and constructed by A.H. Grover, Inc., of Yarmouth between April and July. The site improvements include 1.6 miles of 12-foot-wide compacted stone dust trail surface, drainage improvements, new trail signage, a new ET kiosk, and additional parking.

ETA and ETMD members and trustees, citizens from Old Orchard Beach and

Scarborough, and representatives from the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT), Granite State Gas Transmission, and Central Maine Power attended the celebration.

ETA President John Andrews and ETMD President Bob Hamblen thanked all those who had been active in the trail establishment with the presentation of six Eastern Trail Awards of Appreciation. MaineDOT Commissioner David Cole spoke in support of the Eastern Trail. Representatives from the offices of Tom Allen and Susan Collins read letters of support. Tony Barrett, an East Coast Greenway trustee, discussed the importance of the Eastern Trail in relation to the national East Coast Greenway route and presented a new ECG trail marker to Mr. Andrews and Mr. Hamblen.

—*Jessica Wagner, Assistant OOB Planner*

### **Unitil—New Owner of GSGT and ET Corridor**

On December 1, 2008, NiSource, with world headquarters in Indiana, sold Granite State Gas Transmission to Unitil, with world headquarters in Hampton, NH. On December 8, one week after the acquisition, a team led by ETMD President Bob Hamblen visited Unitil for a review of HNTB's preliminary design of the ET segment connecting Kennebunk, Arundel and Biddeford.



Meeting host Patty Quinn, formerly with GSGT, introduced us to Unitil Director of Engineering Kevin Sprague, Director of Operations Chris LeBlanc, and Roger Barham, Senior Gas Engineer.

The one-line conclusion: Unitil supports the Eastern Trail as a partner for our mutual benefit.

### **Biddeford Plans ET Downtown Spur Trail along Saco River**

The City of Biddeford is excited about the prospect of the Eastern Trail connecting to Biddeford's proposed River Walk. The River Walk created by the City and North Dam along the Saco River will establish a strong connection between the redeveloping mill district and the Eastern Trail as well as Biddeford's downtown redevelopment efforts. The Eastern Trail will allow travelers to commute through the Mill District while also connecting people to Rotary Park by traveling further up Main Street.

The City of Biddeford is looking forward to the future when people can bike or hike anywhere from South Portland to Kittery as well as stopping for dinner at one of Biddeford's proposed cafés on the River Walk along the Saco River.

—Dan Letellier, Biddeford Parks & Rec



ETMD welcomes its new Eastern Trail Coordinator Carole Brush, who also serves as ETA Administrator. A Maine Guide who leads full-moon canoe trips on Scarborough Marsh for Maine Audubon, Carole had a long career in business and utility districts. Carole has been supporting ETA for two years and ETMD since last fall.