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Greenfield named 'Playful City USA'

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GREENFIELD — The town has been named a “Playful City USA” for the third year in a row — a mark of recognition for efforts to improve parks and recreation locally.

Moore said Greenfield is committed to enhancing play spaces. Most recently, the town decided it will build a splash park inside Hillside Park, one of its more recently renovated parks. Greenfield also plans to replace the play structure at Federal Street School.

The town has 17 parks, including Veterans Memorial Mall on Main Street, and has been slowly working its way through each. It built new playgrounds at Beacon Field and the swimming area, revamped Hillside Park, and is considering building a dog park in Green River Park.

Moore said the 212 towns and cities across the nation that received this year’s designation did so because they are leaders in “playability,” making it easy for children to get balanced and active play.

KaBOOM!, a nonprofit sponsored by the Humana Foundation, honors cities, towns and communities across the nation each year KaBOOM! is taking steps to ensure all children, especially those who live in poverty, have access to active play.

This year, to advance the national dialogue on playability, KaBOOM! and Greenfield Recreation would like to hear from people of all ages about how they think more family-friendly cities and towns can be created.

People may join the Twitter conversation and encourage others to take action: @kaboom. Use the

hashtags: #playability and #playmatters.

The program was started in 2011 with a three-year commitment by KaBOOM! to build or rebuild 2,000 playgrounds across the country.

Moore said there are more than 200 students in Greenfield elementary schools who use the town's playgrounds every day throughout the year, and neighborhood children who use them after school and on weekends.

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