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\$20,000 grant allows update of Federal Street playground

By ANITA FRITZ
Recorder Staff
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GREENFIELD — The town will soon renovate another park with a \$20,000 grant it recently received for being named a "Playful City USA" for the third year in a row.

The designation, and the grant that comes with it, is a mark of recognition for efforts to improve parks and recreation locally.

This time, it's Federal Street School's playground that will be rebuilt.

Christy Moore, the town's recreation director, said Greenfield is committed to enhancing play spaces. Most recently, the town decided to build a splash park inside Hillside Park, one of its more recently renovated parks.

Greenfield has also replaced playground equipment at Beacon Field and the swimming area. It plans to renovate Green River Park and build a dog park there in the future.

The town has 17 parks, including Veterans Memorial Mall on Main Street, and has been slowly working its way through each.

Moore said work on the Federal Street playground, which will be done mostly by volunteers, will be done June 27 and 28. "We're looking forward to building a nice, safe playground for our kids," said Moore.

Moore said the 212 towns and cities across the nation that received this year's Playful City USA 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 to ensure all children, especially those who live in poverty, have access to active play.

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

For more information, call the Recreation Department at 413-772-1553 or visit:

www.greenfieldrecreation.com





The current Federal Street School playground in Greenfield is almost 20 years old. Recorder/Micky Bedell

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