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## **City of Hopewell Honored as 2017 Playful City USA Community**

### **258 cities and towns recognized for putting the needs of kids and families first as part of Playful City USA program**

Hopewell, VA – National non-profit KaBOOM! is honoring the City of Hopewell with a 2017 Playful City USA designation for the eighth time. Playful City USA honors cities and towns across the country for putting the needs of families first so kids can learn, grow and develop important life skills. These communities are transforming ordinary places into playful spaces and using play as a solution to the challenges facing their residents.

The 2017 Playful City USA recognition includes 258 communities from Richmond, Virginia to Richmond, California that make it as easy as possible for kids to play. In total, these communities feature more than 14,000 safe and engaging playspaces that serve more than 4 million kids.

“The City of Hopewell is fortunate to offer its citizens a variety of recreational opportunities throughout the city,” said Aaron Reidmiller, Director of Hopewell Recreation and Parks. The Recreation and Parks Department is actively pursuing city funding and grant funding for the redevelopment of several of the city’s parks and playgrounds. “Our park redevelopment plan calls for extensive changes to some of the city’s most popular neighborhood parks. The first project is slated to begin in 2018 with improvements to Arlington Park which include the replacement of play equipment and picnic shelter as well as the installation of a restroom.”

As cities are becoming hotbeds for innovation, communities across the country are creating inventive ways to attract and retain residents. Playful City USA honorees are taking bold action to ensure kids have great places to play – all with the ultimate goal of making play the easy choice for all kids, no

matter where they live. In addition to the playground down the street, Playful City USA communities are turning grocery stores, vacant lots, crosswalks and sidewalks into opportunities for play.

“We are thrilled to recognize Hopewell for putting kids first,” said KaBOOM! CEO James Siegal. “The well-being of our communities starts with the well-being of our kids, and play is critical for them to thrive. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that all kids get the childhood they deserve filled with play.”

To see the full list of Playful City USA communities and to learn more about making play the easy choice for kids, visit [kaboom.org/playfulcityusa](http://kaboom.org/playfulcityusa). You can also take part in the conversation with leaders across the country using #PLAYceforkids on Twitter and Facebook.

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#### About KaBOOM!

KaBOOM! is the national non-profit dedicated to giving all kids—particularly those growing up in poverty in America—the childhood they deserve filled with balanced and active play, so they can thrive. Since 1996, KaBOOM! has collaborated with partners to build, open or improve nearly 16,700 playgrounds, engaged more than one million volunteers and served 8.5 million kids. KaBOOM! creates great places to play, inspires communities to promote and support play and works to drive the national discussion about the importance of play in fostering healthy and productive lives. To learn why #playmatters and why cities are embracing #playability: visit [kaboom.org](http://kaboom.org) or join the conversation at [twitter.com/kaboom](https://twitter.com/kaboom) or [facebook.com/kaboom](https://facebook.com/kaboom).