

CITY OF PEABODY

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR.

Peabody Recognized as 2016 Playful City USA Community

257 communities Nationwide - Just Eight in Massachusetts exhibiting Playability to be recognized as part of 2016 Playful City USA Program

Peabody is being honored with a 2016 Playful City USA designation by the national non-profit organization KaBOOM! for the city's commitment to encouraging physical activity and play among children. This is the 4th consecutive year that Peabody has earned the Playful City USA designation which recognizes cities and towns across the country for making their cities more playable.

"Our commitment to improving existing city parks, ballfields, walking and biking trails and other recreational amenities is ongoing," said Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr. "I believe this is an area that demonstrates the strength and vitality of a community and one for which taxpayers want to see results."

According to Mayor Bettencourt, there are a number of projects on tap for 2016-17 to further improve the city's recreational offerings. Refurbished basketball courts at both Symphony and James Street Parks have hoopsters buzzing across the city. Phase 2 of the South Peabody Trail Network is nearing completion which opens up 300 acres of city land from Sydney's Pond to Spring Pond to walkers, joggers, and cyclists. New play structures at Lake Shore, Lalikos and Farnham Parks will soon be installed and the revitalization of Corbiel Park is underway.

"As one of only 257 Playful City USA designees nationwide – and one of only 8 in all of Massachusetts, this is really a terrific distinction for Peabody," said Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry Jennifer Davis. "The designation allows us to access grant money to further improve the city's recreation areas at a time when existing budgets are stretched pretty thin."

"We are thrilled to recognize these communities that have invested their time and efforts to put kids first," said KaBOOM! CEO James Siegal. "*Balanced and active play* is crucial to the well-being of kids and the communities that they thrive in. By integrating play into cities, the leaders of Playful Cities USA are working to attract and retain the thousands of families that want homes in close proximity to safe places to play."

To learn more about these cities, see the full list of the 257 communities named 2016 Playful City USA honorees, or to gather more information on the Playful City USA program, visit www.playfulcityusa.org. We also encourage you to take part in the conversation on [#playability](#) with these thought leaders on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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