



## 2015 Playful City USA: Announcement Press Release

---



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### CONTACT:

Katie Noyd, City of Excelsior Springs

### **Excelsior Springs Recognized as 2015 Playful City USA Community**

*241 communities exhibiting Playability to be recognized as part of 2015 Playful City USA Program*

**Excelsior Springs, MO (June 17, 2015)** – Excelsior Springs is being honored with a 2015 Playful City USA designation for the 1st time. The national recognition program honors cities and towns across the country for making their cities more playable. The City of Excelsior Springs, Excelsior Springs School District, and community organizations have made efforts in the past few years to make Excelsior Springs a more active and playful community. Examples include the future Excelsior Springs Community Center currently being built which will include an indoor aquatic area, basketball court, senior center, walk track and more; the completion of the new addition to the Rainbow Trail, Joy Street Boardwalk, and Get Fit Park; and the School District's Miracle Field, an all-turf ADA accessible softball field.

Mayor Ambrose Buckman states that more people are visiting parks and trails and enjoying nature more than ever! He sees citizens walking on the trails and taking advantage of what Excelsior Springs has to offer.

A group of citizens met in January and February to discuss ways that Excelsior Springs is moving forward and providing playspaces and activities for all ages. The group also discussed additional ways to incorporate the concept of "Play Everywhere" in the future including adding Play Paths to current trails, adding family friendly activities to all festivals and events, and adding art/music/play features around Excelsior Springs. The group will continue meeting in the future and their goal is for the City of Excelsior Springs to make a positive, healthy impact on citizens by providing park land, green space, and recreational opportunities for all ages. Representatives from many organizations including Optimist Club, Excelsior Springs School District, City Council, Parks and Recreation Board, Parks and Recreation Foundation, Quarterback Club, Chamber of Commerce, Good Samaritan Center, Downtown Excelsior Partnership, Mid-Continent Public Library, and local citizens participated in the Play Task Force to determine ways to increase play in Excelsior Springs.

"Playability is crucial to the success of our future communities, and we are proud of the work these cities and leaders are doing to provide a better quality of life for all residents, and especially families," says KaBOOM! President, James Siegal. "Play provides a competitive advantage for cities looking to attract and retain residents. With these esteemed leaders, and our friends and partners across the country, we continue to prioritize play for all kids."

To learn more about these cities, see the full list of the 241 communities named 2015 Playful City USA honorees, or to gather more information on the Playful City USA program, visit [www.playfulcityusa.org](http://www.playfulcityusa.org). We also encourage you to take part in the conversation on [#playability](https://twitter.com/playability) on the City of Excelsior Spring's and Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Facebook pages and [@exspringsparks](https://twitter.com/exspringsparks) on Twitter.

#### **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 16,300 playgrounds, engaged more than one million volunteers and served 8.1 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: 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).