

Loretta Spencer  
Mayor



"The Space to be  
in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"

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## **KaBoom and qubo recognize Huntsville as one of nation's most playful cities**

**67 cities in nation earn distinction**

**Huntsville, Ala.** --- If you like to play and enjoy a day at the playground, then you are in one of the best cities in the U.S. KaBoom and qubo recently selected cities across the nation which demonstrate dedication to promoting play. Huntsville was one of 67 cities selected.

"Having safe and quality play areas are important for children," Mayor Spencer stated. "Our city departments continue to access ways that we can enhance our parks and playgrounds."

In applying for this distinction, a committee of 8 individuals completed an extensive audit on 44 parks city parks as well as visual audits of Huntsville City Schools playgrounds. On the committee were: April Ashworth; Sonny Batchelor; Jay Cloys; Tony Hughes, Jeffrey Jacobs; Karen Lang; Jeff Martin; and Greg Patterson.

During the past year, 8 parks received new playground equipment: Hastings Park; Maple Hill Park; Maplewood Park; Mayfair Park; Merrimack Park, Scenic View Park; Sherwood Park and Westside Neighborhood Park. Total cost for the equipment was \$149,576.00.

"I would like to thank Madison County Commissioners Mo Brooks and Faye Dyer for partnering with us on our efforts to upgrade our parks by purchasing equipment for two parks," Mayor Spencer added.

"In a time when communities are struggling with critical financial decisions, Huntsville proved its commitment to the cause of play by launching creative initiatives designed to increase access to playspaces, improve the quality of play in their community, and increase the time children spend playing," said Darell Hammond, KaBOOM! CEO and co-founder. "The ideas range the gamut from new programming and access initiatives to creating informational resources and public private partnerships. It just goes to show you, where there's a will, there's a play."

During the press conference announcing the distinction, Mayor Spencer announced that October 11<sup>th</sup> will be "Play Day" in Huntsville. As part of Play Day in Huntsville special activities will be held in several parks.

Dothan, AL is the only other city in Alabama designated as a Playful City USA.

KaBOOM! Is a national non-profit organization that envisions a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America. Since 1995 KaBOOM! Has used its innovative community-build model to bring together business and community interests to construct nearly 1,500 new playgrounds, skateparks, sports fields and ice rinks across North America. For more information, visit [www.kaboom.org](http://www.kaboom.org).

qubo is a groundbreaking bilingual, multi-platform entertainment destination for children that focuses on literacy, values and healthy lifestyles while celebrating the unlimited possibilities of a child's imagination. Most of qubo's shows are associated with popular children's books, and the network's interstitial programming continues to reinforce messages about early literacy and healthy living. For more information, visit [www.qubo.com](http://www.qubo.com).

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