Greenfield declared a Playful City for 2nd year

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GREENFIELD — The town’s recreation director says she is thrilled, because Greenfield has once again — for the second year in a row — been named a Playful City USA, and with that designation has come another $20,000 to rebuild another of the town’s playgrounds.

Director Christy Moore said Greenfield received the Playful City USA designation on May 7, and the $20,000 Let’s Play City Construction Grant recently followed.

The Dr. Pepper Snapple Group and the nonprofit KaBOOM! are the sponsors of the grant.

The town will use this year’s money to rebuild the Federal Street School playground. Greenfield will once again ask for the community to volunteer to help rebuild it to save as much money as possible.

The town will also have to spend a minimum of $30,000 to buy the equipment, so a construction date has not yet been set.

Last year, the town used the grant to rebuild the playground at the former North Parish School, which is now the town’s Academy of Early Learning.

The grant is part of Let’s Play, a community partnership led by Dr. Pepper Snapple Group to get kids and families active nationwide.

The program was started in 2011 with a 3-year commitment by Dr. Pepper and KaBOOM! to build or rebuild 2,000 playgrounds across the country by the end of 2013.
Moore said there are more than 200 students in Greenfield elementary schools who use the playgrounds every school day throughout the year. She said there are also neighborhood children who use them after school and on weekends.

Greenfield was one of only 25 cities or towns across the country that received the Playful City USA designation this year.