

Lebanon Has a New Playground Thanks to Project Partners and Volunteers!



In September, more than 200 volunteers from the City of Lebanon, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Lebanon Valley Family YMCA, WellSpan Health, United Way of Lebanon County, Iron Valley Real Estate and the Pennsylvania Municipal League, along with organizers from KaBOOM! and residents of the Lebanon community teamed up to build a new community playground at Southwest Park.

Designed in May when children from the neighborhood put crayons to paper to draw their dream playground, the new playspace brings over 575 kids in Lebanon one step closer to having the childhood they deserve along with making Lebanon more playable.

“We are so grateful for all of our volunteers, local businesses and dignitaries that either showed up to help build or committed food products or other donations to the project to demonstrate that “play matters.” It is a child’s job to play and unfortunately, the wooden playground that used to be located in this area outlived its life expectancy by several years. Partnering with the Pennsylvania Municipal League, the City of Lebanon was fortunate to be chosen for a grant from DCNR and to receive support from WellSpan Health and other partners. Without this financial assistance, the playground would not be here today,” said Mayor Sherry Capello.

In addition to the partners – City of Lebanon, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, KaBOOM! and the Pennsylvania Municipal League – the playground was made possible through a generous contribution from WellSpan Health and assistance from the Lebanon Valley Family YMCA, Iron Valley Real Estate, United Way of Lebanon County, The Hershey Company, Fresh Creative, Fulton Bank, Turkey Hill, Dr. Albert & Ginny Alley and others.

Build Day kicked off with a welcome and thank you from local area dignitaries, as volunteers assembled, preparing for the day. Exercises to warm up the muscles and get everyone energized were followed by volunteers forming teams for the various projects to complete the playground that was built from start to finish in less than six hours.

“On behalf of the staff, members and the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Municipal League, we are thrilled to see the results of an effective collaboration with the City of Lebanon, DCNR, and KaBOOM!,” said PML Executive Director Richard J. Schuettler. “The Southwest Park project provides a completely refurbished recreational outlet for City of Lebanon residents. Thank you to all of the contributors and volunteers who made this a successful, fun event.”

The playground is the seventh built by the Pennsylvania Municipal League and KaBOOM!, with DCNR supporting six of the projects. Through this partnership, more children will have the joyful childhood they deserve. The Pennsylvania Municipal League supports KaBOOM! in promoting and protecting a child’s right to active play at home, at school and in the community. ■

