



April 16, 2025

Budget and Finance Committee Accept and Expend Grant

KABOOM! Children's Playspaces Improvements
\$5,000,000





Nature Exploration Area At Heron's Head Park

Kid-designed and constructed out of repurposed natural materials like logs, stumps, and boulders, the [Heron's Head NEA](#) invites discovery and play.

- Awarded UNICEF Inspire awards.



What is a Nature Exploration Area?

- A space that encourages people of all ages to engage with natural elements including tree trunks, boulders, and loose natural parts.
- A place where kids ARE encouraged to touch and climb, balance on tree trunks, jump from stump to stump, and use branches, leaves and pine cones to create... whatever their imagination conjures.
- A place to enjoy childhood experiences such as fort building, playing in mud, scrambling on rocks and logs that are getting harder to come by in cities.
- A way of inspiring lifelong connections with nature.





25 in 5 Initiative in San Francisco

“Every child, in every neighborhood, should have the chance to play and explore in nature. Research tells us that being in nature improves our mental and physical health, reduces stress, and even helps heal trauma. All San Franciscans should have access to these health benefits.”

— Former Mayor London Breed



Our Bold Goal: Address Playspace Inequity in 25 Places in 5 Years



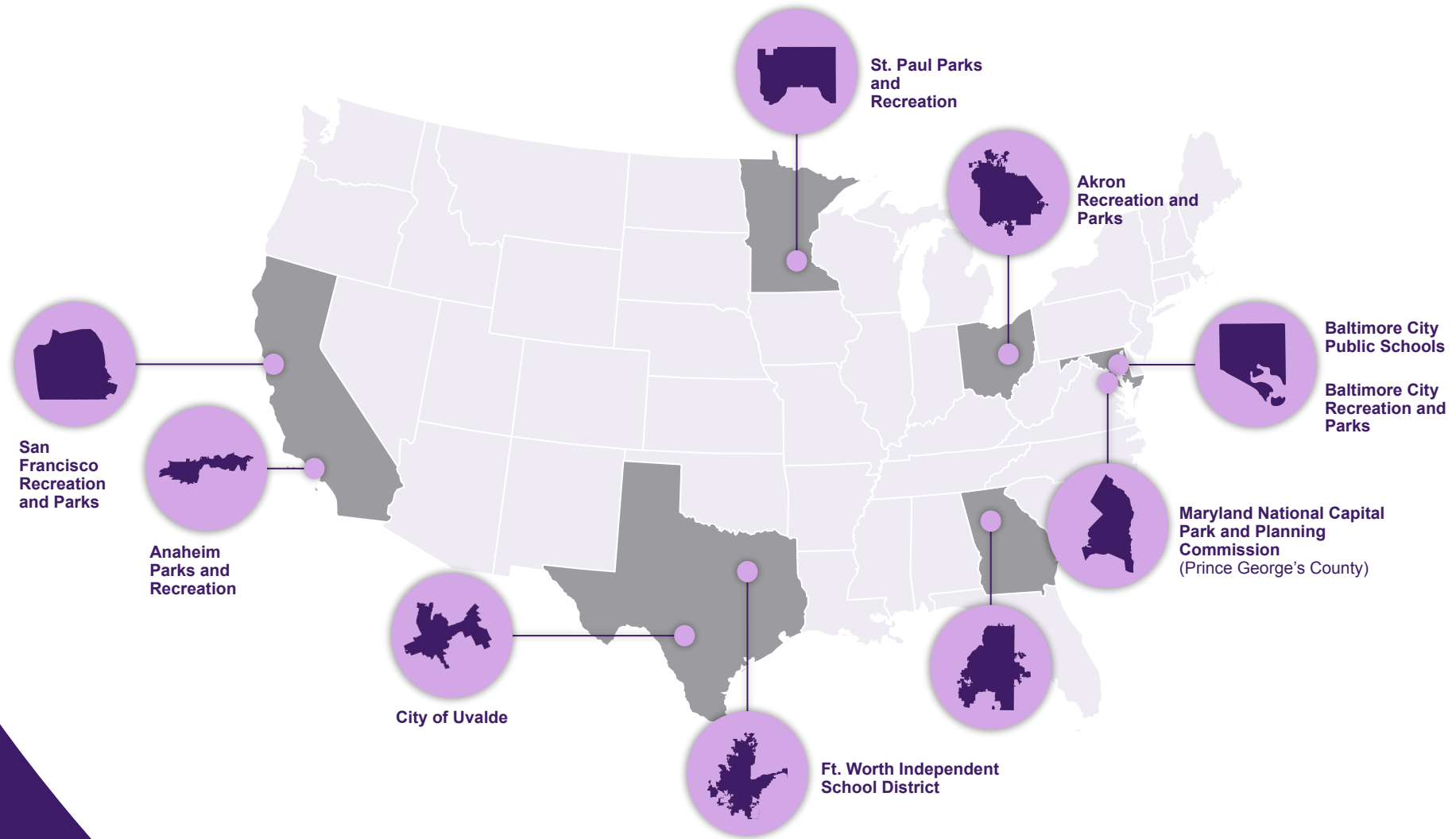
Through the 25 in 5 Initiative, KABOOM! will:

- **Build** partnerships with municipalities, nonprofits, and other organizations that provide a network of playspaces where kids live and learn
- **Identify and address** playspace inequities within those systems
- **Measure** the impact of our work to understand how we strengthen community connection and improve childhood well-being
- **Create a roadmap to end playspace inequity across the country**



Our Bold Goal: End Playspace Inequity in 25 Places in 5 Years

Through our 25 in 5 Initiative, KABOOM! has established key partnerships with school districts and park systems to identify and address playspace inequities within those systems.



Reaching Disadvantaged Communities

Rec Park and KABOOM! have teamed up to deliver an ambitious goal of creating up to 8 nature exploration areas and nature based play spaces.

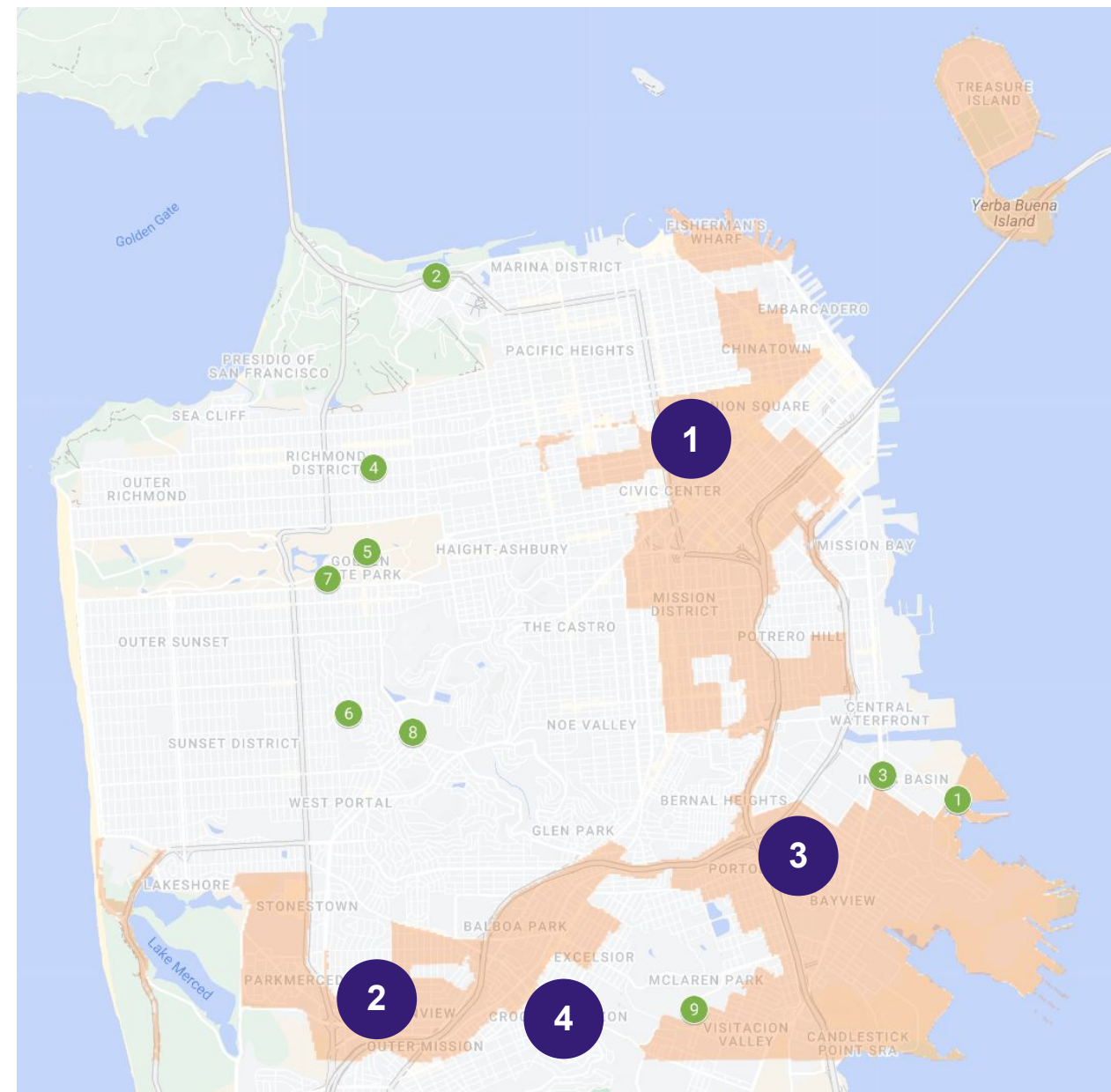
The projects will be rolled out in 2 phases.

Phase 1 - \$2.5 million in Rec and Park public funding (stemming from 2020 Bond) + \$2.5 million in KABOOM! private funding these four projects:

1. Tenderloin Children's Playground, District 5, Tenderloin
2. Randolph and Bright Mini Park, District 11, OMI
3. Silver Terrace Playground, District 10, Bayview
4. Crocker Amazon Purple Playground, District 11, Excelsior

Phase 2 - \$2.5 million in Rec and Park public funding + \$2.5 million in KABOOM! private funding for projects ranging up to four additional sites, still to be determined.

Equity metrics and other factors, such as lower access to nearby nature and analysis of facility condition were taken into consideration in selecting sites.

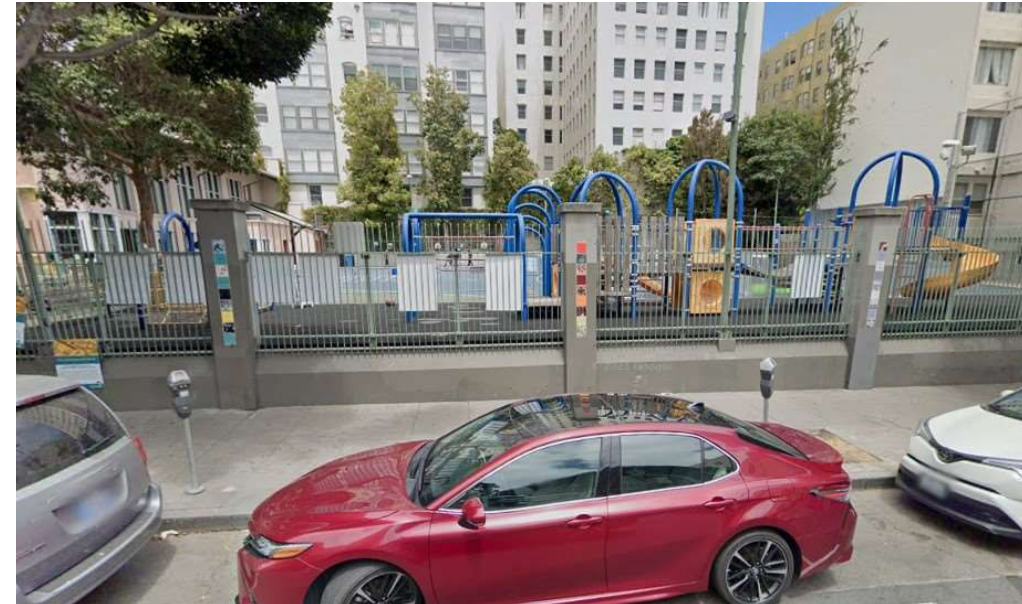
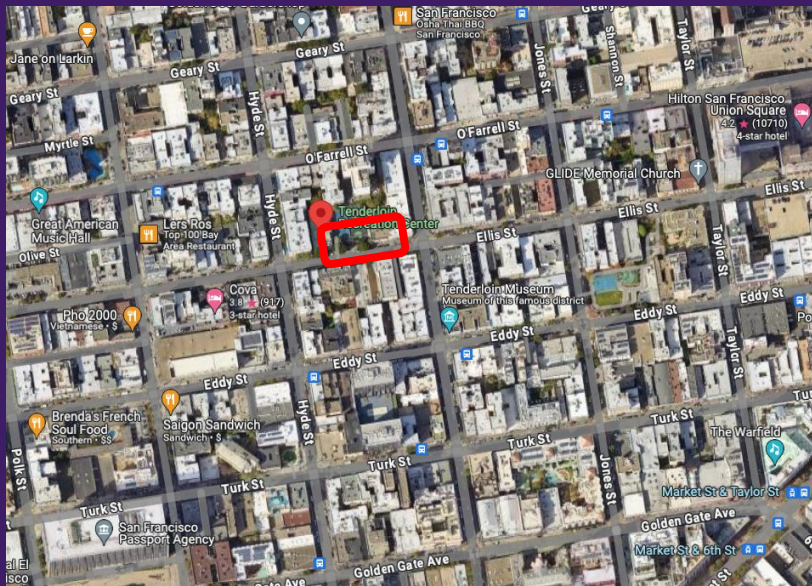


Environmental Justice Communities: low-income areas with a disproportionate burden of environmental hazards such as higher pollution

Tenderloin Rec Center

Located in the heart of a dense, urban environment, the worn out playground serves about 3,800 children living in the neighborhood.

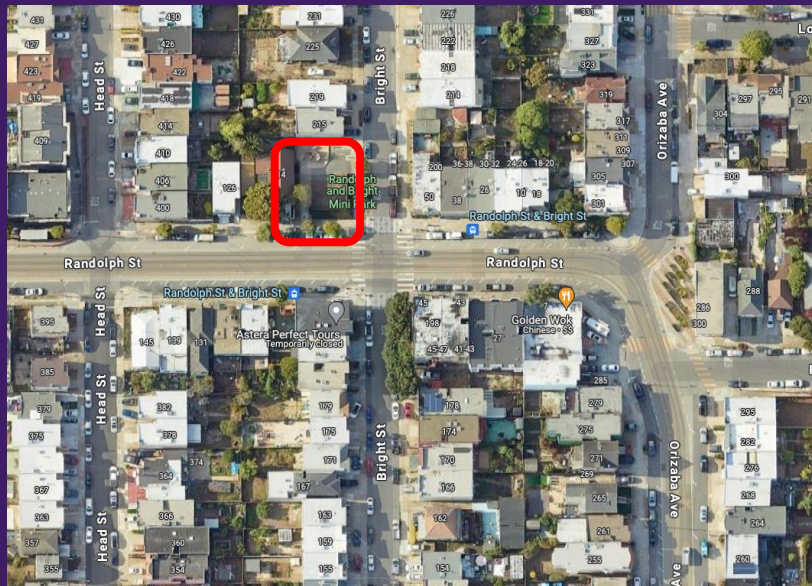
We plan to remove asphalt to make room for a new nature based playspace with planting areas, a pocket forest, and an outdoor classroom.



Randolph & Bright Mini Park

Last renovated in 1992, the community can't wait to break ground on a bold, new nature exploration area.

In November 2021, community volunteers installed artwork, native plants, and a pop-up nature exploration area. They host regular cleanups and preschool groups frequent the park for nature play days.



“We live really close to it but don't use it because there are often adults hanging out at the play structure and it's pretty run down. It would be great to have an updated kids play area.”

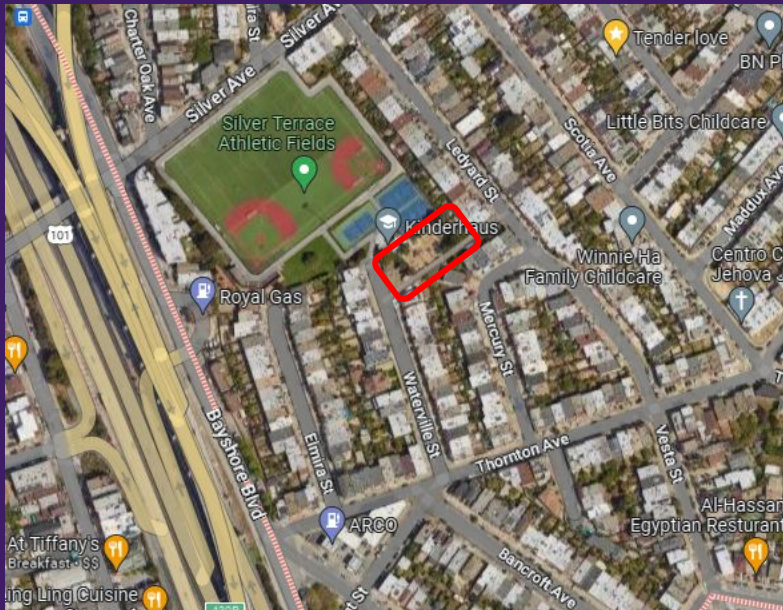
-neighbor

5/11 | Community Design Jam

Silver Terrace Playground

The community and onsite preschool are eager to replace the aging equipment with a nature exploration area and expand the nature play space to include an unused area adjacent to the playground.

This site - situated between 2 major freeways and a residential neighborhood - has limited access to nearby nature.

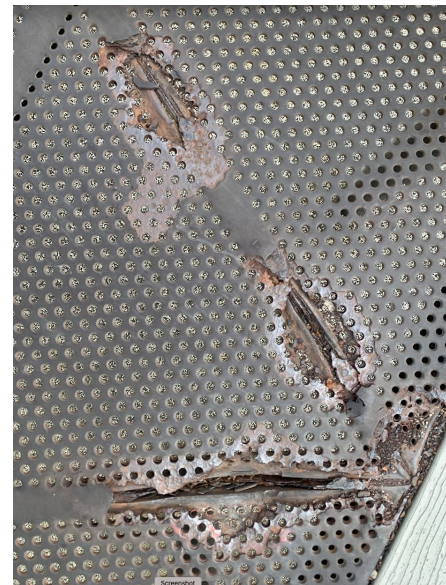
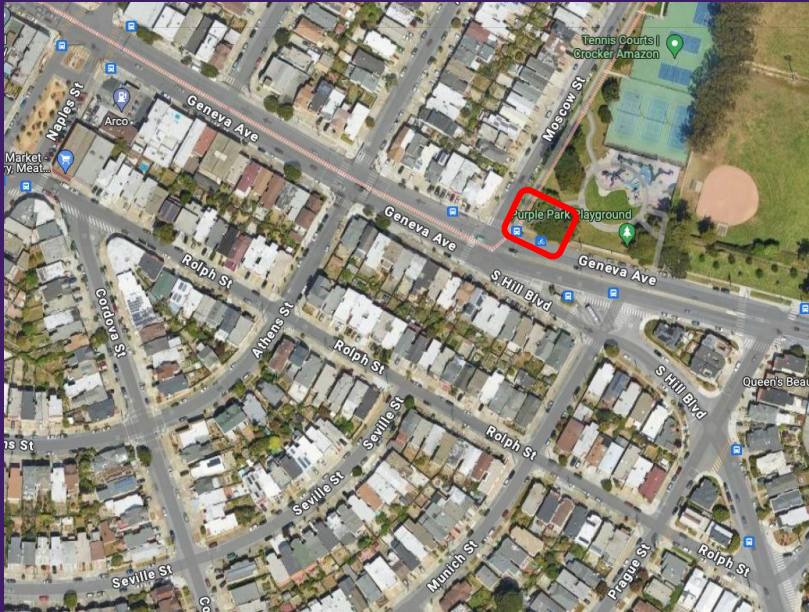


1/20 | Community Design Jam

We love the sand and the "forest" area for children to play in freely and connected to sensory and nature explorations. Any forest inspired nature elements would compliment the way children play here. Our hope is that new structures won't be made out of plastic and that we will still have a lot of free room to play unstructured. - neighbor

Crocker Amazon Purple Playground

An aging playground that needs urgent upgrades in a busy park. Community outreach will help drive a plan for a new, creative nature based playspace for the thousands of children in the neighborhood.



Honoring Partners and Donors

Rec Park and KABOOM! have contemplated recognizing donors at each of the playspace sites. We plan to work together to determine the level of giving to be recognized on site signage. This is the existing sign in the Heron's Head Park Nature Exploration Area (NEA) is an example of the type of sign under consideration for donor recognition.

This sign includes partner logos and a narrative about the philanthropic support. Per Rec Park policy the sign might include not for profit logos but not corporate or for-profit logos.

This kid-inspired Nature Exploration Area was made possible through the funding and volunteer power of Kaiser Permanente, the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, the Port of San Francisco, KABOOM!, and this community.





KABOOM! and the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department are partnering on an ambitious \$10 million plan to address gaps in access to **quality, nature-rich children's playspaces in communities that disproportionately lack resources.**

KABOOM! is leading the fundraising campaign with a goal of \$5 million, with the City matching that amount, to improve up to 8 playspaces playgrounds.



Rec Park and KABOOM! believe all children & youth growing up in the city should have the same opportunities to PLAY, LEARN, and GROW in NATURE.

