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Common Council President



10<sup>th</sup> District Alderman

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**Michael J. Murphy**  
*City of Milwaukee Common Council*

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September 10, 2015

**Council President Murphy**

(414) 286-3272

**Ald. Robert Bauman**

(414) 286-2221

## **Volunteers to build new playground Saturday at Merrill Park**

**Common Council President Michael J. Murphy** and **Alderman Robert J. Bauman** will participate in a series of events **Saturday, September 12** that will culminate in the construction of a new playground at Merrill Park, 461 N. 35<sup>th</sup> St. (N. 35<sup>th</sup> and W. Michigan).

More than 200 volunteers, including many from partners **Marquette University High School** and the **Merrill Park Neighborhood Association**, will help construct the new playground on Saturday. A **kick-off ceremony** will be held at 8:30 a.m. Saturday featuring President Murphy and others, and construction will begin later in the morning and conclude by mid-afternoon. A **ribbon-cutting ceremony** is scheduled for approximately 2:30 p.m.

President Murphy, a champion of upgrading play spaces for Milwaukee children (and the founder of the **MKE Plays** play space transformation initiative), said the project will both enhance the play experience for children and promote neighborhood collaboration. “Carefree and fun play is central to a child’s ability to grow into a productive adult. It can transform children from a life that is sedentary, bored and solitary to one that is physically, mentally and socially active,” he said.

Alderman Bauman said he is pleased that the project will help transform the playground into an “active and welcoming neighborhood gathering place for families.”

**-More-**

## **New playground/ADD ONE**

“Merrill Park is a valuable public space that can be a peaceful refuge for children and families, and I am pleased to help be a part of improving the playground and making it a spot for enjoyable, healthy and positive activities for many years to come,” Alderman Bauman said.

The Merrill Park project is part of Let’s Play (@**LetsPlay**), a partnership led by Dr Pepper Snapple Group to get kids and families active nationwide. Via Let’s Play grants and projects, Dr Pepper Snapple Group and **KaBOOM!** has built or improved more than 2,000 playgrounds since 2011, benefitting an estimated 5 million children during the lifetimes of the playgrounds.

Dr Pepper Snapple Group supports KaBOOM! in promoting and protecting a child’s right to active play at home, at school and in the community and is also a member of the leadership circle in the KaBOOM! National Partner Program.

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