



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Town of Carolina Beach

Mike Chappell Park Community Built Playground

Carolina Beach, June, 30, 2014 – On Saturday, June 21, 2014, Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation staff, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee members, and residents joined with KaBOOM!, and Playgrounds of the Carolinas to build a new playground at Mike Chappell Park. Many local residents, including several children, participated in the weekend build day, which was the culmination of many months of dedicated planning and preparation by the community and project partners.

Preparations for the Mike Chappell Park KaBOOM! Playground Build kicked off in December 2013 after the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department was awarded a \$15,000 Let's Play Community Construction Grant. The grant is part of Let's Play, a community partnership led by Dr. Pepper Snapple Group to get kids and families active nationwide. After receiving notification of the award, the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department went to work designing the new playground with input from the community and several playground vendors. The new playground features a rock climbing wall, tree toppers, dynamic pad link, in addition to traditional features such as monkey bars and 4 slides.

The week of the build began with prep days, during which Town of Carolina Beach staff and volunteers worked to prepare the site and materials for the Build Day. On the morning of Build Day, Saturday, June 21st staff and volunteers began arriving at 7:30 a.m. For the next 9 hours, volunteers worked in teams to accomplish everything from assembling slides to pouring cement. Other teams worked slowly but surely to build the playground stairs, rock climbing wall, and other play amenities. The Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers

also worked tirelessly to reduce a triple peaked mountain of mulch to a mere ant hill by the end of the week. The new playground grade mulch was shoveled into wheelbarrows and onto tarps and carried to the playground where it was leveled to create the playground “floor.”

At the end of Build Day, as staff wrapped caution tape around the equipment to dry and settle, several kids ran around the perimeter asking “When can we play on it?”. Despite walking away dirty and exhausted, the Carolina Beach Parks and Recreation Department and amazing volunteers were proud to be part of the successful KaBOOM! Playground Build and part of ensuring that play matters in Carolina Beach. But for the kids, after an agonizing 48 hour wait, the caution tape was removed, mulch was in place, and the playground was opened to many smiling faces.

An official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Mike Chappell Park playground will be held on Friday, July 11th at 12:00 PM. The public is cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will include hot dogs, chips, and beverages.