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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portland Named One of America's Best Cities for Families

Parenting Magazine ranks Portland #3 crediting its quality education, parks and open spaces, and low crime rates as reasons to raise a family in Maine's largest city

PORTLAND, Maine – This month, Parenting Magazine named the City of Portland the 3rd Best City in the U.S. for Families. Citing the city's low crime, quality education, and active family living, the magazine described Portland as a "tranquil kid-friendly city to call home." The magazine also ranked Portland as the 3rd best city for quality education in the country. The magazine developed its top ten lists by looking at more than four thousand pieces of data, many of which focused on health, economy, culture and safety.

"Having raised my family in Portland, it's nice to see the nation's leading parenting magazine confirm what I already know, Portland is a great place for working families," remarked City of Portland Mayor Michael Brennan. "It's also further evidence that investments made in our education, open spaces, and public safety will reap dividends for generations to come. By pursuing value driven policy initiatives, whether helping people live healthy active lives or increasing access to affordable local produce, Portland is earning a well-deserved national reputation as *the place* in America to live, start a business and raise a family."

Portland earned high marks for the number of outdoor spaces for kids to play, its commitment to supporting small businesses and its strong sense of community. Portland has more than nine hundred

acres of parks and open spaces, at least seventy-five miles of trails and more than twenty playgrounds. The city has helped buoy the local food movement by supporting local farmers markets as well as expand and encourage access to community gardening. Currently, the city has one hundred and thirty community garden plots at four locations and all but two of the city's schools. In addition, Brennan has created the *Mayor's Initiative for a Healthy and Sustainable Food System*, which is working to develop new policies and initiatives that will expand the availability of local and healthy foods. Thanks in part to a Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant, the city has been able to better promote walking and biking throughout the city with, to name just a few, the creation of a neighborhood byway and the expansion of safe routes to schools.

For more information, visit Parenting <http://www.parenting.com/gallery/best-cities-to-raise-a-family-2012?pnid=558898>.

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