

Request: \$11,500,000 to plan and construct a six-field soccer complex with lights on 39-acres of City-owned property located in Merced, California.

Description: Design and built a state-of-the-art soccer complex with six playing fields including lights, restrooms and parking to provide practice and playing opportunities for our underserved youth population. The field would have a state-of-the-art irrigation system to conserve water, parking lots with a permeable surface to help recharge groundwater, extensive tree plantings and lights to provide winter practice and playing opportunities.

The project would include the following (not all inclusive):

1. Six playing fields and two practice fields suitable for play in ages ranging from 8 to 18-year groups.
2. Energy-efficient lights for the fields and state-of-the-art irrigation system and timing controllers to maximize water use and conserve water.
3. Parking lots with permeable surfaces, with lights for safety.
4. Water-efficient restrooms to serve the players and fans.
5. Concession stands to serve players and fans and provide employment and job training opportunities for our youth.
6. Bleachers for fans on select fields and picnic shelters to provide shade for teams and a gathering place for players, fans and families.
7. Landscaping, with extensive tree plantings, for the surrounding areas.
8. Final design and plans for the complex.



Necessity: Merced, California, is home to more than 30,000 children. Gangs actively recruit the youth population and there are more than 25 gangs in the City. Numerous recreational opportunities are unavailable to many due to low family incomes. Merced youth face a number of health issues, including obesity that would benefit from regular exercise. There are more than 4,000-plus youth in organized soccer leagues in the City, and one league is based in the heart of the City's low-income population. Soccer play is dispersed throughout the City on playgrounds, school yards and even baseball playing fields because of the intense need. Soccer continues to grow in popularity.

Beneficiaries:

- Merced children
- Merced residents and businesses
- Educational and job training agencies

CONTACT:

Frank Quintero
Interim Director of Parks and Recreation
City of Merced
(209) 385-6826
quinterof@cityofmerced.org