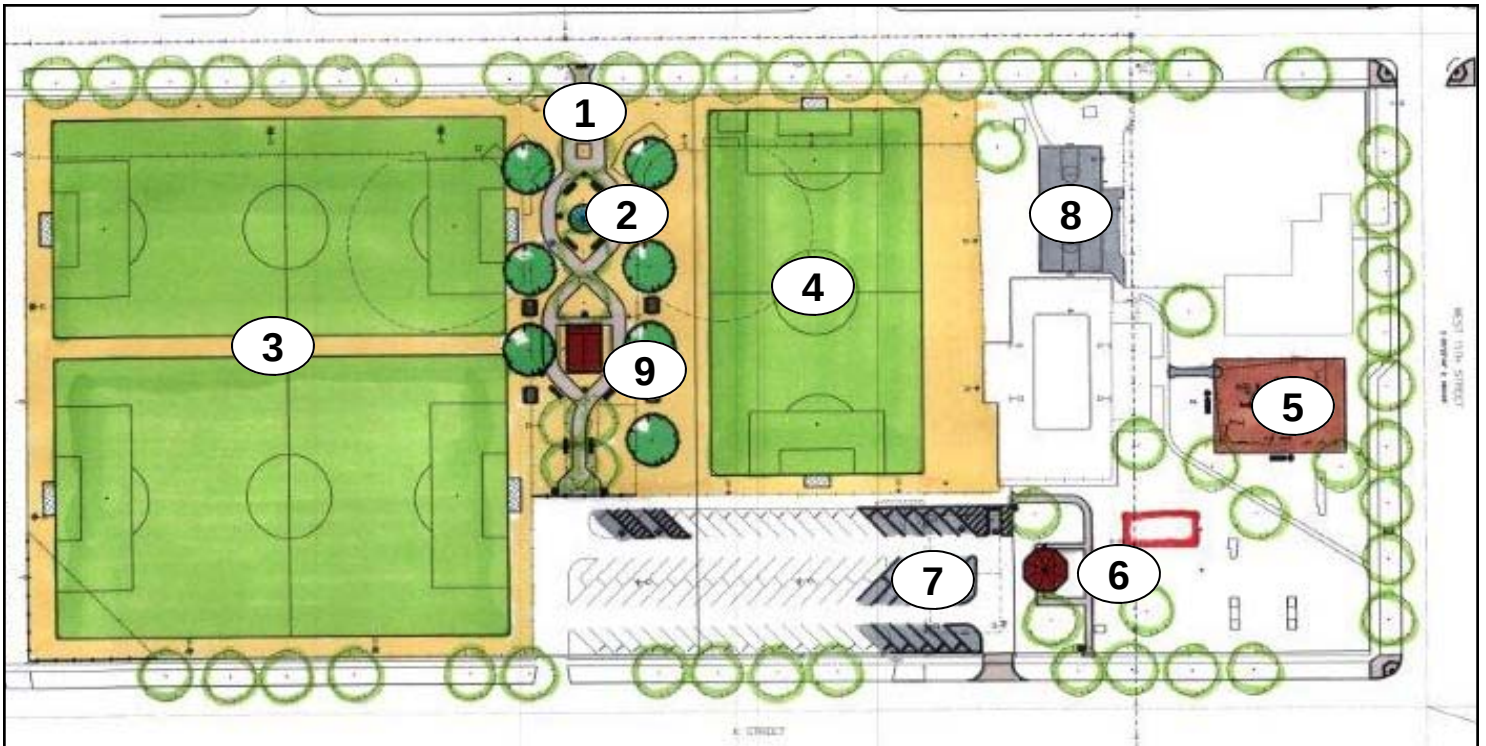


McNamara makeover



\$2.6 million grant to remodel nearly the entire park

The City has received a \$2.6 million grant to remodel McNamara Park.

Most of the 8.7-acre community park will see some benefit from the grant, from turning the aging softball fields into all-weather artificial turf fields, to installing a new sprinkler and irrigation system.

The grant will create three multi-purpose fields that can be used for a variety of sports, including soccer, where the softball fields are located.

The grant will pay for a splash pad near the park entrance, new playground equip-

ment and add a pavilion to the park. The funds also will replace the restrooms at the fields with a modern, 10-stall facility.

The community park, located at 1040 Canal St., is home to McNamara Pool, the only pool in the City that was open this summer for swimming by the general public.

The City held six meetings with the public to develop the grant proposal. Another meeting held at the park last month had community members voting on the final design of the entertainment pavilion, fencing color and playground equipment.

Paid for through Proposition 84, the grant was part of the statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program. The grant aimed to help parks in drastic need of renovation in lower income neighborhoods and help lower water and maintenance costs.

No money from the City's general fund will be spent on the project. City staff expects the project to go out to bid in February and construction could begin in March.

The entire project is expected to be completed by the end of next summer.

Major features

1. Promenade with entrance gate
2. Splash pad
3. Two all-weather turf fields
4. New grass field
5. New playground equipment
6. An entertainment pavilion
7. Expand parking
8. Redo basketball court
9. New restrooms

Merced City Council

Mayor Stan Thurston

Council Members:

Bill Blake

Tony Dossetti

Noah Lor

Mike Murphy

Josh Pedrozo

Mary-Michal Rawling

Contact the City Council by email at Citycouncil@cityofmerced.org, by calling 385-6834 or writing to Council members at the Civic Center address below.

Council meetings

The Council meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Civic Center, 678 W. 18th St. When Monday is a holiday, such as Sept. 3, Council meets the next day. The agenda is posted online at www.CityofMerced.org.

Contacting us

www.CityofMerced.org, contains City Council information, the Muni Code, General Plan and other information. Contact the Newsletter at newsletter@CityofMerced.org, call the Public Information Office at 385-6232 or write:
Merced Civic Center
Attn: Public Information Office
678 W. 18th St.
Merced CA 95340

The Civic Center is open Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., except holidays. It will be closed Monday, Sept. 3.

Call us

City Council	385-6834
City Manager	385-6834
City Attorney	385-6868
City Clerk	388-7100
Airport	385-6873
Code Enforcement.....	385-6861
Finance	388-7900
Inspection Services	385-6861
Personnel.....	388-7100
Planning Department.....	385-6858
Public Works (7:30-4:30) ...	385-6800
After hours	385-6905
Recreation	385-6855
Utility payments.....	388-7289

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Fire Department.....	385-6891
Police Department	385-6912

Ask the City: Cats keep coming in my yard

Ask the City is an ongoing column answering questions that have been submitted to us by mail, email or phone. Readers can submit their questions to the addresses in the column on the left.

Cats in the neighborhood keep coming over my fence and getting in the playground area I have for my grandchildren. What can I do to keep them out?

**A call from DM
Merced**

Part of being a good neighbor is controlling your animals and their behavior, whether it is barking at night, or hopping a fence to answer the call of nature. The owner needs to be responsible.

We checked with a variety of sources to answer this question and have several different approaches you could follow. One important element in all of this is that you need to remove the cat waste to discourage them from returning. (It may take some time.)

- ✓ A number of preschools that have sandboxes and play areas cover them with a tarp when they are not in use to avoid that issue. Be sure to weigh it down so it doesn't blow off in the wind.
- ✓ Cats don't like snakes. Some owners report that fake rubber snakes have worked in keeping cats away.
- ✓ There are commercial repellants that are

advertised safe for children available.

- ✓ There are natural repellants available too, including: orange and lemon peels (cats dislike citrus smells), cayenne pepper, chili pepper flakes, coffee grounds, pipe tobacco, or oil from lavender, lemon grass, citronella, peppermint, eucalyptus or mustard.
- ✓ There are some recommendations to sprinkle vinegar around.
- ✓ Scat Cat is a product that has reflective eyes that will scare a cat.
- ✓ Cats don't like the smell of the Coleus-Canina plant, but it doesn't bother people.
- ✓ There is some stuff called Bird B Gone that could be applied to the top fence rail. It is sticky, so cats don't like it.
- ✓ For \$40-\$50 you can buy a motion detector that emits an ultrasonic sound that will drive cats away. For about the same price there are detectors that spray water at the cat (or other animal intruder) and the kids might enjoy it on a hot day.
- ✓ You can rent a cat trap from animal control (385-4751), but it is your responsibility to take the cat out to the Merced County Animal Shelter at Castle Airport.
- ✓ If you know who the owner is, try talking to them. It can't hurt.
- ✓ **DO NOT** resort to using a BB gun or a pellet gun on the animal. That is illegal and could result in animal cruelty charges. And a missed shot could seriously injure a child or even an adult.

Going green while heading off to school (or work)

- ✓ Reuse or recycle last year's supplies, including folders and binders.
- ✓ Many schools reuse text books to save money and reduce waste. Share your used books with friends, relatives, or younger schoolchildren.
- ✓ Make a list before you shop for school supplies, it will help you remember what you wanted to purchase and limit impulse buying. When you have a plan it's easier to take action.
- ✓ Buy smart! Purchase and use a wide assortment of supplies made from recycled

Think Green

- products, such as pencils made from old blue jeans; binders made from old shipping boxes. Many types of recycled paper products contain a percentage of Post-Consumer Waste (PCW). You can also reuse items like refillable pens, rechargeable batteries, and scrap paper for notes.
- ✓ If you bring your lunch to school, package it in reusable containers instead of disposable ones, and carry them in a reusable plastic or cloth bag, or lunch box.
 - ✓ Bring drinks in a thermos or water bottle instead of disposable bottles or cartons.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

City offices will be closed Labor Day weekend

All City of Merced offices will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3. The City Council will meet Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Refuse collection will be delayed by one day because of the holiday. People with residential collection on Monday will have their

trash picked up Tuesday, and those with Tuesday collection will have it picked up Wednesday, etc.

If you have questions about your trash collection schedule call the Public Works Department at 385-6800.