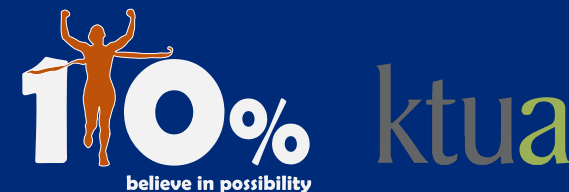




CITY OF MERCED

Parks, Recreation, & Open Space **Master Plan**



THE CITY OF MERCED PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan

Play *on purpose.*

Establish a long-term vision for park development, guiding resource allocation, ensuring effective community engagement, and foster a sense of place.

Project Partner Organizations



Cultiva Central Valley

Lifeline CDC

Merced Bicycle Coalition

Merced County Association of Relators

Merced County Public Health

Merced Garden Club

Merced Lao Family

Merced Sunrise Rotary

Merced Senior, INC

Merced Youth Soccer League

NAACP Merced County

Youth Leadership Institute (YLI)

Valley Onward

500+ Total Engagements
through Pop Ups and
events

1392 Total Community
Comments Received

200+ Community Open
House Attendees to
vote on priorities



**Your parks,
your voices.**



Project Initiatives- Pillars of future efforts

- **Infrastructure & Maintenance** represents the existing and future physical environments.
- **Connected Community** represents the importance of being informed by residents as the Department provides them with services.
- **Safety & Inclusion** represents providing welcoming, inclusive, and safe services for all.
- **Resources & Stewardship** represents the importance of the strategic use of human and financial, resources.



Parks & Community Services
Parks Make Life Better!

2026–2030 PROS MASTER PLAN

Plan Pillars



Infrastructure & Maintenance



Community Connection



Safety &
Inclusion



Resources & Stewardship

Infrastructure & Maintenance

➤ **Infrastructure & Maintenance** represents the existing and future physical environments.

Examples

1.2 Enhance the existing aging park amenities with modern amenities.

1.3 Develop a comprehensive Maintenance Management Plan.

1.8 Position Merced Regional Sports Complex as a revenue-generating regional asset.





PARKS AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

PROS ACTION PLAN

INFRASTRUCTURE & MAINTENANCE

Conduct a comprehensive Park Asset Inventory Report to prioritize enhancements in Merced's aging park system with modern amenities, including water filling stations, LED lighting, and ADA walking paths.



PILLAR 1
**INFRASTRUCTURE
& MAINTENANCE**



MODERN
AMENITIES



SAFE, EFFICIENT
LIGHTING



ACCESSIBLE
FOR ALL



BEAUTIFUL,
SUSTAINABLE SPACES



MERCED
CALIFORNIA



Play On Purpose



Community Connection

➤ **Connected Community** represents the importance of being informed by residents as the Department provides them with services.

Examples

- 2.1 Enhance internal and external communication about Department activities, events, and services.
- 2.4 Consider public-private partnerships to assist in the identification of new indoor recreation facility opportunities, relocations, and parkland acquisition opportunities.
- 2.7 Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for recreation program operations.





PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Develop services that are informed by residents and partners and ensure residents and partners are aware of services being offered to inform public private partnerships and strategic alignment across systems.



Afterschool
Support



Public-Private
Partnerships



Expanded
Recreation
Access



PILLAR 2
**CONNECTED
COMMUNITY**



YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT



PARTNERSHIPS



INCLUSIVE
PROGRAMMING



COMMUNITY-
INFORMED SERVICES



MERCED
CALIFORNIA



Play On Purpose



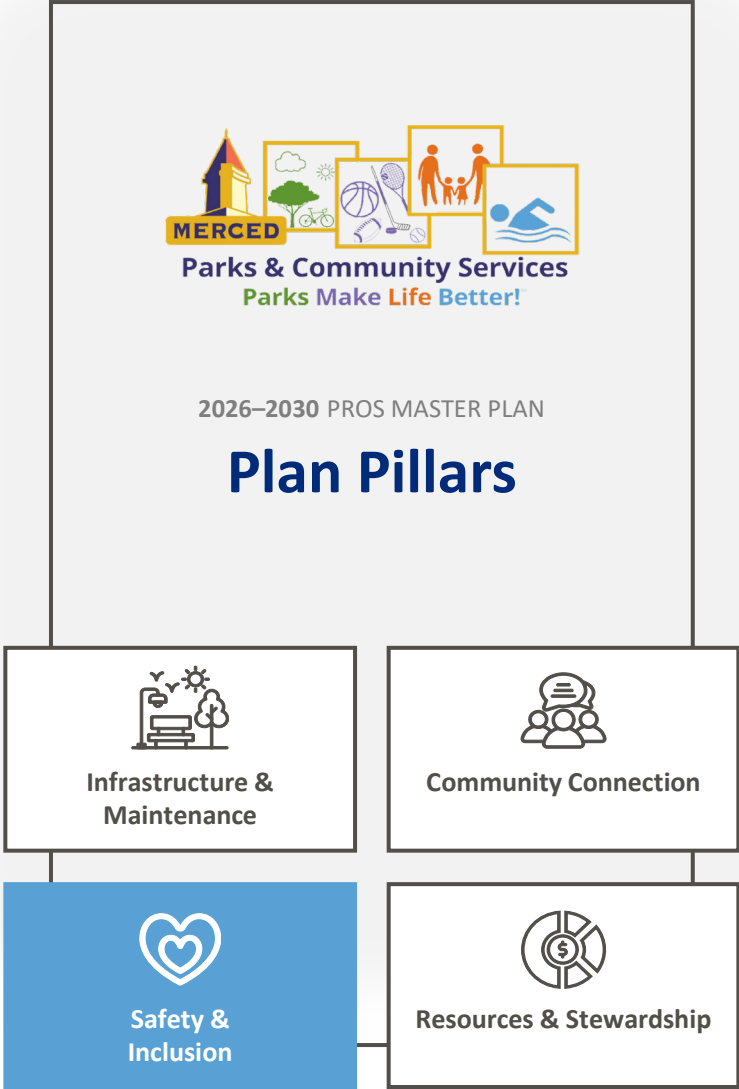
Safety & Inclusion

➤ **Safety & Inclusion** represents providing welcoming, inclusive, and safe services for all.

Examples

3.1 Enhance current and future parks and facilities with sustainable design that encourages safety and creates accessibility for users of all ages and abilities.

3.2 Increase security measures in parks. (such as Park Ranger program, additional lighting, etc.)





PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PROS ACTION PLAN

SAFETY & INCLUSION

This pillar focuses on the actions necessary for providing welcoming, inclusive, and safe services for all. It encourages use of parks for the right reason, the right way, at the right times. A key example is partnering with City staff to establish a Park Ranger program to monitor park use and working with County partners to connect individuals in need with better resources and support.



City Safety
Partnership



Welcoming &
Inclusive
Spaces



Resource
Connection



PILLAR 3
**SAFETY &
INCLUSION**



CITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP



BIKE STAFF
PRESENCE



INCLUSIVE
FOR ALL



SUPPORTIVE
RESOURCES

Play On Purpose

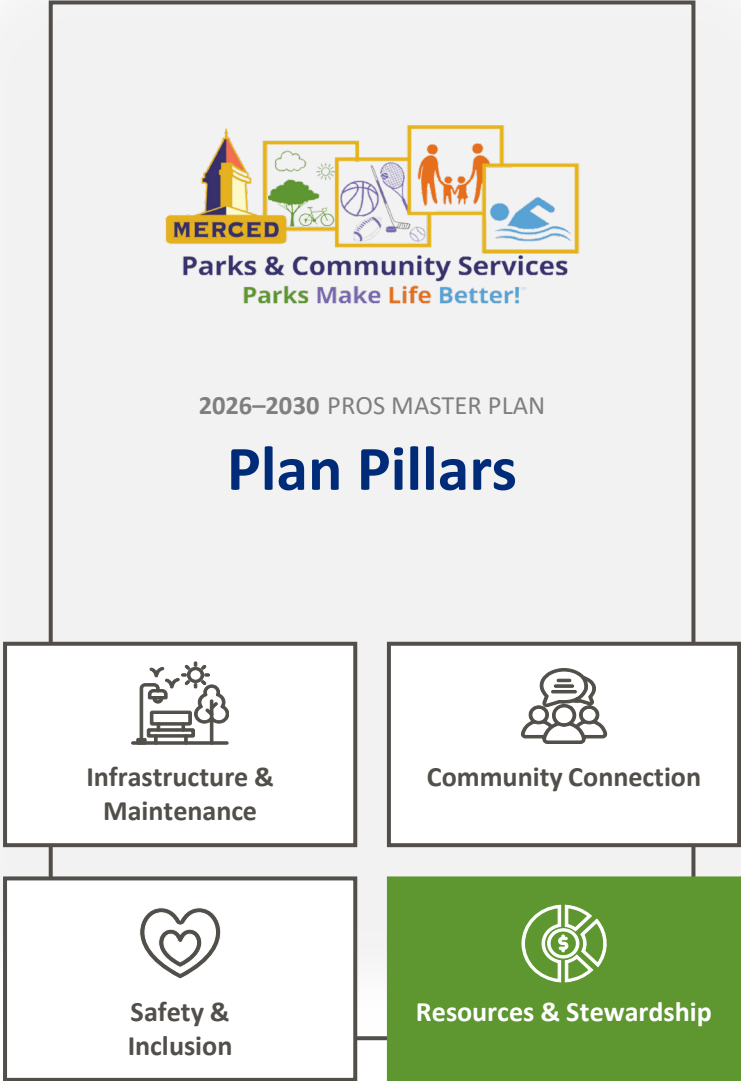
Resource & Stewardship

➤ **Resources & Stewardship** represents the importance of the strategic use of human and financial, resources.

Examples

4.5 Evaluate and update Developer Impact Fee (DIF) practices and policies to ensure adequate, equitable, and financially responsible funding for future parks and recreation facilities. (adjust language – evaluate city policy)

4.6 Pursue and secure funding to advance the design, construction, operations and maintenance of unfunded park projects.





PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

RESOURCES & STEWARDSHIP

This pillar identifies that the current state of the City's park system often struggles to meet residents' needs and expectations. Resources & Stewardship includes actions that focus on internal and external efforts to leverage existing resources and strengthen community stewardship. Examples include creating position-specific professional development plans for staff and pursuing funding to advance the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of currently unfunded park projects.



Funding for
Park Projects



Staff
Development



Community
Stewardship



PILLAR 4
**RESOURCES &
STEWARDSHIP**



PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



FUNDING
STRATEGY



PROJECT
DELIVERY



COMMUNITY
STEWARDSHIP



MERCED
CALIFORNIA



Play On Purpose



Top 10 Priority Capital Improvement Project list

Intended to focus grant applications, community partnerships, and other City efforts on the projects with the greatest potential benefit and community support.



PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRIORITY CIP PROJECTS

While additional resources are limited, the City must focus on priority park needs as opportunities arise. This Top 10 CIP Park Project list helps guide grant applications, community stewardship, and staff efforts toward the projects that can make the greatest impact.












1. Replace McNamara Soccer Turf Field
2. Complete Merced Regional Sports Complex
3. Complete Bellevue Ranch Parks
(General Vang Pao, Lester Yoshida, Charles Ogletree, M Circle)
4. Expand Parking and Walkability at Applegate Park
5. Relocate Boys and Girls Club to Alfarata Park
6. Complete Fahrens Park
(restrooms, drinking fountains, bike park)
7. Revitalize Naninni Youth Sports Complex
8. Upgrade Bear Creek Path
(resurface, lighting, hydration stations)
9. South Merced Alternative Transportation Connectivity (bike path)
10. Build indoor gymnasium at Merced Regional Sports Complex



TOP 10 CIP PROJECTS



GRANT READINESS



COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP



PROJECT DELIVERY



PARK ACCESS



LONG-TERM INVESTMENT



MERCED CALIFORNIA



Play On Purpose



Strategic Action Plan(s)



Each Pillar (4) consists of several corresponding actions (35)



Of the 35 proposed actions, 15 are identified as high priorities, with the remaining actions positioned for implementation as staffing, funding and partnership opportunities become available.



Many recommendations require limited direct financial investment but will involve meaningful staff time, coordination and policy development.



The Strategic Action Plan is not intended to commit the City to completing every action immediately. Instead, it establishes a shared direction and a framework that can be used during annual budgeting, capital planning, grant development and departmental work-plan preparation. Timelines, responsible teams and specific implementation measures will be refined following Council direction.

Next Steps

- **City Council** - Adopt a motion approving the 2026- 2036 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.
- **ALTERNATIVES**
 1. Modify the action (specify in motion); or,
 2. Refer back to staff for reconsideration of specific items; or,
 3. Continue item to a future Council meeting (date and time to be specified in City Council motion).

