Proposition 68 Grant- $200,000- $8,500,000 Per Request

Statewide Park Program (SPP) competitive grants will create **NEW PARKS** and **NEW RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES** in CRITICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES across California. **Due: December 14, 2020**

CRITICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY – an area within PROXIMITY of a PROJECT SITE that has a ratio of less than 3 acres of PARK SPACE per 1,000 residents, or a median household income below $56,982 (up from $51,026 in the last round) based on the response to Project Selection Criteria 1 or 2.

A PROJECT must involve either DEVELOPMENT or a combination of ACQUISITION and DEVELOPMENT to: 1. Create a NEW PARK, or 2. EXPAND an EXISTING PARK, or 3. RENOVATE an EXISTING PARK (NOTE: the minimum percentage of funds mandated to renovate/expand existing parks has been completely met in round #3.)

All PROJECTS must **create** or **RENOVATE** at least one RECREATION FEATURE. Examples of RECREATION FEATURES:

- ACQUISITION of land: Combined with DEVELOPMENT of a NEW RECREATION FEATURE. **OR** Already has a RECREATION FEATURE for public use at close of escrow.

Aquatic center, swimming pool, splash pad, fishing pier or paddling launch site

Amphitheater/performing arts dance, music, and theater stage

Athletic fields (soccer regulation or “futbol-rapido”, baseball, softball, football, etc.)

Athletic courts (basketball, “futsal”, tennis, pickleball, etc.)

Community gardens, botanical or demonstration gardens and orchards

Community/Recreation center (only if it will be in or ADJACENT to a PARK)

Dog park

Jogging and walking loop, par course, running track

Non-motorized trail, pedestrian/bicycle bridge, greenbelt/linear PARK

Outdoor gym exercise equipment (stations fixed into ground)

Open space and natural area for public recreation use

Picnic/Bar-B-Que areas

Playground and tot lot

Plaza, Zocalo, Gazebo

Public art (mosaic tiles, sculptures, murals)

Skate park, skating rink, and BMX or pump track (non-motorized bike tracks)

Lighting to allow for extended night time use of a RECREATION FEATURE

Shade structure/COVERED PARK areas over a RECREATION FEATURE to allow for extended day time use

A PROJECT may also include MAJOR SUPPORT AMENITIES: • Restroom, snack shack • Parking lot, staging area, pathway to a RECREATION FEATURE • Landscaping or lighting that will be constructed throughout the PARK

APPLICATIONS where the majority of the TOTAL PROJECT COST is for a MAJOR SUPPORT AMENITY will be less competitive. PROJECTS should create a NEW RECREATION OPPORTUNITY(S) as the primary goal.

The maximum score is 100 points.

- All competing APPLICATIONS start with 0 points.
- Points are gained through the Project Selection Criteria.

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA		MAX POINT VALUE
PROJECT LOCATION		
1.	Critical Lack of PARK SPACE	15
2.	Significant Poverty	16
3.	Type of Project	10
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT		
4.	Community Based Planning	18
5.	Employment or Volunteer Opportunities	6
6.	Partnerships or Committed Funding	3
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS		
7.	Environmental Design	7
8.	Public Use Fees and Hours of Operation	5
SUMMARY ABOUT PROJECT NEED, BENEFITS, AND READINESS		
9.	Community CHALLENGES, Project Benefits and Readiness	20
MAXIMUM SCORE		**100**

Major lessons learned from the last round include selecting a park site that scores as highly as possible in criteria #1-3 especially- not just highly in one or two of them. (In the last grant round this is the only area we failed to gain the maximum number of points.)

The 13 sites below for your consideration are ranked in order of most competitive to least, and were given an estimated score for the first 3 criteria using the same scoring process that will be done with all applications across the state. This is only an estimate, as all applications will be ranked against each other, so the actual number cannot be known, and will be based on what other projects are submitted from across the state. This ranking is only amongst the 13 sites in Merced to see how they fared against each other.

Scoring Matrix (w/ Three Renovations Added-Not Yet Discussed)

	Project Sites	Critical Lack of Park Space (Max 15 Pts.)	Significant Poverty A (Max 11 Pts.)	Significant Poverty B (Max 5 Pts.)	Type of Project (Max 10 Pts.)	Total Score (Max 41 Pts.)
	I St & 18th Street	13	11	4	10	**38**
	Rascal Creek Bike Path	11	9	5	10	**35**
	Santa Fe & G Street	15	7	3	10	**35**
*NEW TO CONSIDER	Charles Richard Drew	9	11	5	7	**32**
*NEW TO CONSIDER	Harriet Tubman	11	9	5	7	**32**
*NEW TO CONSIDER	Circle Drive	15	7	3	7	**32**
	Bob Hart Square	9	11	4	7	**31**
	Alfarata Ranch	15	3	2	10	**30**
	William Lloyd Garrison	13	5	3	8	**29**
To resubmit	Fahren's Creek Trail	15	1	1	10	**27**
	Partial Build CP-42	9	3	2	10	**24**
To resubmit	Lester K Yoshida	7	1	1	10	**19**
To resubmit	Charles Ogletree	5	1	1	10	**17**

8th St. and N. St.-Charles Richard Drew Renovation-Meets BOTH Criteria

Median Household Income: $24,678 (Difference of $)
Number of People Living in Poverty: 2,430
Parks per 1,000: 1.89 (Difference of 1.11)

Results for Merced (County: Merced)

Latitude, longitude	37.2933279, -120.4909551
Total Population	5,325
Youth Population	1,941
Senior Population	450
Median Household Income	$24,678
Per Capita Income	$10,626
People in Poverty	2,430
Households without Access to a Car	347
Parks total area	10.09 acres
Parks per 1000 people	1.89 acres

From the 2003 Park and Open Space Master Plan:

Charles Richard Drew Park MP-9

Charles Richard Drew Park is one of the larger mini-parks, and contains just over a half acre. The park contains few amenities, but the play structure is larger than in most other mini-parks. This park is located diagonally across the street from Tenaya Middle School, which does not have a play area, and has good visibility because of its corner location.

It is recommended that this mini-park be upgraded so that it meets local recreation needs. Recommended upgrades include:

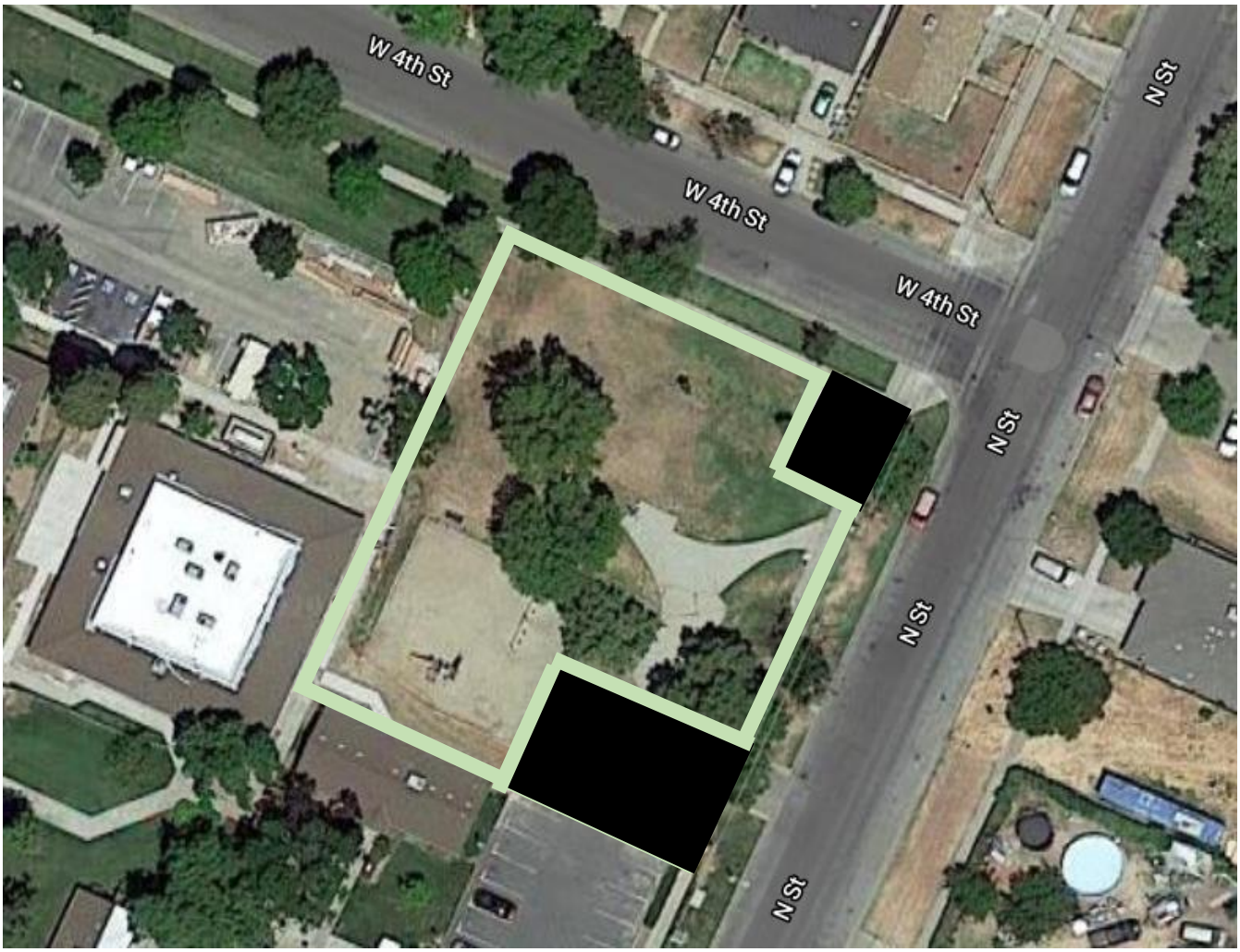
- Prepare a master plan for the site.
- Upgrade the play equipment, including installation of safety surfacing and curbing. If possible, provide two play areas for different age groups, including tots.
- Provide a path system within the park.
- Upgrade irrigation system.
- Provide additional trees and landscaping.
- Provide site amenities: signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches and picnic tables.

4th St. and N. St.-Harriet Tubman Renovation-Meets BOTH Criteria

Median Household Income: $33,260 (Difference of $23,722)
Number of People Living in Poverty: 1,971
Parks per 1,000: 0.98 (Difference of 2.02)

Results for Merced (County: Merced)

Latitude, longitude	37.2889748, -120.4944420
Total Population	4,913
Youth Population	1,807
Senior Population	448
Median Household Income	$33,260
Per Capita Income	$11,600
People in Poverty	1,971
Households without Access to a Car	219
Parks total area	4.82 acres
Parks per 1000 people	0.98 acres



From the 2003 Park and Open Space Master Plan:

This park is located adjacent to the Golden Valley Health Center and appears to get some use, unlike many of the other mini-parks. The main users are children who are visiting the Health Center. Tenaya Middle School and Charles Richard Drew Park are a few blocks away. The park is almost a half acre in size, and has a basketball backboard in addition to play equipment. Although it isn't a full half-court, the backboard seems to attract use.

Prior to making a final decision about the future of this park, the City should hold a meeting with surrounding neighbors (those within a ¼ mile of the park), and specifically with Golden Valley Health Center, to determine the recreational value of this site to neighbors and gain input on its future. There are four general options for this site:

- If the site is providing recreational value to surrounding neighbors, the City could upgrade and maintain it.
- If the site is providing recreational value to surrounding neighbors, the City could upgrade it and a neighboring property owner (such as the Health Center) or a private group could take over or pay for maintenance.
- If there is marginal recreational value, neighbors or other groups could pay for upgrades and maintenance. If there isn't interest, the City should sell the site.
- The site could be donated or sold and any proceeds used to upgrade a nearby park.

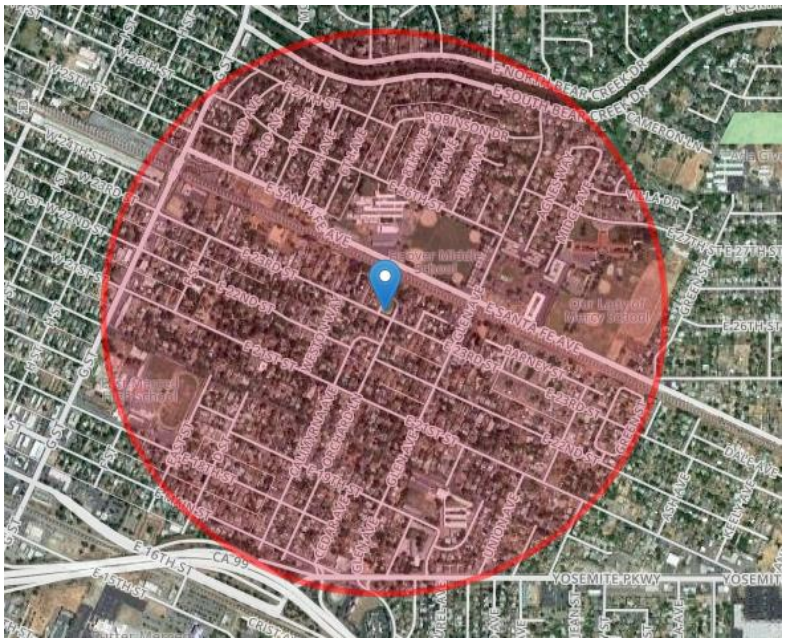
As an additional alternative, this site may be a good candidate to turn over to Golden Valley Health Center, if they are willing, since the park is essentially part of the Health Center site and appears to be mostly used by Health Center clients. The Health Center would then be responsible for maintenance and possibly for upgrades.

23rd and Circle Drive Park Renovation-Meets BOTH Criteria

Median Household Income: $42,653 (Difference of $14,329)
Number of People Living in Poverty: 1,480
Parks per 1,000: 0.05 (Difference of 2.95)

Results for Merced (County: Merced)

Latitude, longitude	37.3020334, -120.4650664
Total Population	4,846
Youth Population	1,364
Senior Population	551
Median Household Income	$42,653
Per Capita Income	$21,900
People in Poverty	1,480
Households without Access to a Car	151
Parks total area	0.26 acres
Parks per 1000 people	0.05 acres



Other Considerations: This is currently the only park in this area. The only option for creating a new park for these residents is the Santa Fe and G. site, which isn't a very ideal site. This is a small park with outdated equipment, and although a minipark, if renovated could potentially bring added value to residents.

From the 2003 Park and Open Space Master Plan:

Circle Drive Park **MP-10**

Circle Drive Park is one of the most attractive and welcoming mini-parks. It is very visible from E. 23rd Street, and is surrounded by Circle Drive. Shade trees provide a canopy over the park. There are no other parks nearby.

It is recommended that this mini-park be upgraded so that it better meets local recreation needs. Recommended upgrades include:

- Prepare a master plan for the site.
- Upgrade the play equipment, including installation of safety surfacing and curbing. If possible, provide two play areas for different age groups, including tots.
- Provide a path system within the park.
- If space permits, provide a paved court area for basketball
- Upgrade irrigation system.
- Provide additional trees and landscaping.
- Provide site amenities: signage, bike racks, waste receptacles, benches and picnic tables.

New Ranking of Ad Hoc Committee

Recreation and Park Commission Order of Preference						
	Project Sites	Critical Lack of Park Space (Max 15 Pts.)	Significant Poverty A (Max 11 Pts.)	Significant Poverty B (Max 5 Pts.)	Type of Project (Max 10 Pts.)	Total Score (Max 41 Pts.)
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