



Merced Breakfast Lions bleachers for our youth

The request: \$36,000.

The need: Concrete bleachers at Merced Youth Sports Complex.

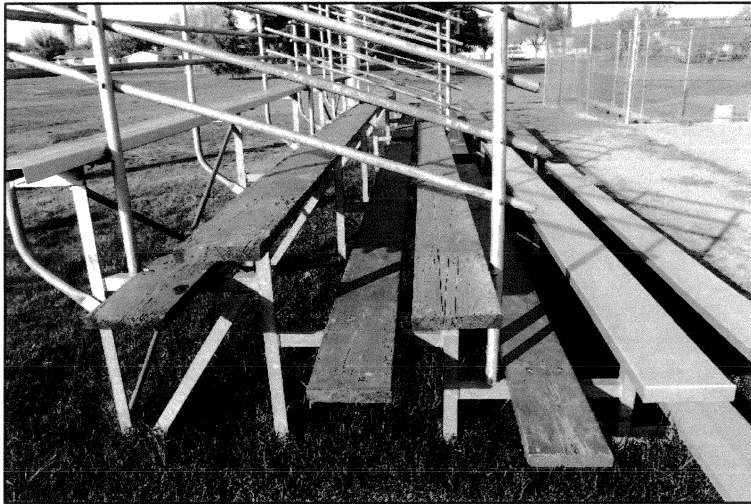
The problem: Aluminum bleachers breaking, getting parts stolen. Safety concerns.

The beneficiaries: 500-plus youth baseball players ages 8-16, and their families.

The result: Clean, safe bleachers for 100-plus people to watch youth games in the premiere lighted baseball field.



Above is one set of the aging bleachers on the west side of the lighted field. The height of the bleachers poses a danger to young children in the bleachers. Older people and the disabled also have issues with the bleachers.



Wooden blanks have replaced sections of the aluminum bleachers that have been broken and stolen for scrap metal. Replacement parts are not available for the bleachers so staff had to make-do with the wood parts.

This is a set of the existing concrete bleachers. The ones proposed will have an additional seating step to allow more viewers at the games. The bleachers are easy to access, don't have pieces to break off, don't allow people to slip through when climbing up and people can't drop anything under them. The new bleachers would provide more seating than is currently available.





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Every Spring and Summer more than 500 young players in Merced hit the fields at the City of Merced's Youth Sports Complex and run the bases, soak in the sunshine and learn discipline as part of Merced Youth Baseball.



Their parents, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts come out to watch the games for some family bonding time that will be relived over and over as the plays get recounted and the outs debated. Baseball gives them a safe, healthy pastime, exercise, and a way to bond with their families. It also employs young referees who might not have summer jobs without the games.

Merced Youth Baseball serves players from ages 5 through 16 who have their primary home at the Youth Sports Complex at 1800 Wardrobe Ave. In addition, the Youth Sports Complex is

used by local high schools, and junior highs are now considering its use. On any given weekend, there are pick-up games being played by neighborhood kids, families in the park and students enjoying the fields.

There are two sets of aging bleachers at the Youth Sports Complex in need of replacement. Those bleachers have aluminum pieces that have been stolen and mismatched parts have been used to replace some of the sections. The other two baseball fields have concrete bleachers. This \$36,000 project by the Merced Breakfast Lions would complete the concrete bleacher arrangement for the Sports Complex.

These bleachers would be built on both the home and the visitors sides of the lighted baseball field, the field that draws the most games and crowds. The new bleachers would be able to seat at least 100 spectators, where fewer than 50 spectators can sit comfortably in the existing bleachers. Players like bigger crowds and that can help boost future signups.

This project improves the quality of the Youth Sports Complex, adds to the enjoyment of the game of baseball and enhances spectator safety. The new bleachers also minimize maintenance at the facility because there are no pieces to replace and the concrete is easy to clean and wash. That also improves the security and sanitation of the site.



With the addition of the concrete bleachers on the lighted field it opens up the potential of extending the playing season. The Sports Complex Association has \$7,000 in funding available to cover the difference between the Merced Breakfast Lions grant and the bid. The contractor, Souza Construction, built the other bleachers at the facility.