



Perris Press Release

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Park Improvements Help You Live Well

Perris officials have launched a City-wide campaign to renovate, expand and improve parks services—upgrades that include planting more trees and turf, better irrigation systems and installing “fitness paths” for exercise-conscious residents.

Besides upgrades to existing sites, work is wrapping up at the new Mercado Park on D Street in Downtown Perris, which will be dedicated this summer.

Construction is in the early phases of another park in the Monument Ranch Community on the City’s south side and work is progressing rapidly on an aquatics park scheduled for completion in less than a year.

The new building and renovations come in the wake of the 2012 opening of the Big League Dreams sports complex, which already has attracted thousands of baseball and soccer enthusiasts from all over Southern California.

As part of the ongoing improvements, Perris officials are implementing specific water-use and turf-maintenance programs at each park to provide the best possible playing surfaces for all sports.

City engineers are designing and installing “fitness paths” for pedestrian walkers and runners at Perris parks to support the ongoing “Live Well Perris” healthy-eating, active living initiative. Foss Field Park, which recently underwent improvements by dozens of volunteers, will host a June 15 Community Health Fair that kicks off the Live Well campaign.

More than 70 vendors have signed up to participate in the fair, which also features dance contests, rock-climbing, healthy eating tips and the initial weigh-in for contestants taking part in the Perris version of the Biggest Loser competition. The health fair runs from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Foss Field Park, which is adjacent to the City Hall Campus at 101 North D Street.

Perris City Councilman Al Landers, a longtime member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, said the City remains committed to building and maintaining first-rate recreational facilities. Recently completed and ongoing park upgrades total about \$760,000. “There is absolutely no excuse to not offer top-notch parks for Perris residents and this City makes no excuses,” Landers said.

“We make improvements. It’s another example of this City’s progressive and aggressive approach to forging a top-notch quality of life for our residents.” Landers said Perris’ commitment to its parks and recreation programs continued throughout the long and deep economic recession.

“Even in difficult economic times we pride ourselves in keeping our parks as well-maintained as is humanly possible,” Landers said. “I want people to enjoy themselves when they come to Perris. We pride ourselves in having clean, safe parks.” Landers met on a recent morning with resident Julio Reyes, who was concerned with some bare spots in the soccer field at Morgan Park.

As part of the City’s improvements to that site, the soccer field was hydro-seeded with new turf and should be ready for play by Sept. 1. The City also installed additional trees, plantings and mulch throughout the park. Reyes too was pleased at the improvements.

He said Morgan Park is home to 3,000-soccer players, some as young as 7 years of age. “It’s a great step,” Reyes said of Morgan Park upgrades. Perris City Councilman Julio Rodriguez, who also serves on the Parks and Recreation Committee, said the park upgrades are an example of the City Council and administration’s commitment “to move our City, grow our City, beautify our City.”

Rodriguez worked with members of the May Ranch community to expedite improvements in that park. “It’s pretty clear we have a commitment to pursue endeavors that are all about reaching out to the youth of our community,” he said.

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch said building, expanding and maintain parks is expensive and requires constant vigilance from the City Council, administration and Public Works employees and contractor who provide on-site repairs. It’s a commitment Perris officials take seriously,

Busch said, adding that administrators and elected officials have been “very good” at budgeting to meet expenses. “This is one of our core duties,” he said. “This City has done a great job adding and expanding our parks and maintaining an improving them. This is something we are very dedicating to doing.”

Other Perris park improvements include:

- ▶ May Ranch Park: Installation of trash cans, doggy pots, seat walls as well as new plantings, mulch and trees throughout the park and central-control irrigation system that allows for more precise-water management.
- ▶ Frank Eaton Park: Installation of additional plants and mulch, drainage upgrade and connecting wall from basketball court to picnic shelter.
- ▶ Monument Park: Refurbishing the rose garden and community-gathering space at park’s north end.
- ▶ Liberty Park: Reseeding of turf areas throughout the park. In the process of installing an efficient irrigation pump which will make better use of water and lower energy costs.
- ▶ Copper Creek Park: New soft-impact surface on playgrounds; landscaping and tree maintenance; new wooden chips in play areas.
- ▶ Foss Park: New sand in volleyball court; landscaping and tree maintenance.
- ▶ Metz Park: New wood chips in play area.;
- ▶ Rotary Park: Field improvements; new sand in playground; adding soil and fertilizer as well as leveling the playing surface; gopher control. .
- ▶ Paragon Park: New wood chips in playground; court resurfaced; landscaping and tree maintenance.
- ▶ Patriot Park: New parking lot.
- ▶ Skydive Park: New wood chips in playground.



Renovations at Rotary Park include new sand in the playground, gopher control measures and adding soil and fertilizer while leveling the playing surface.



Perris City Councilman Al Landers discusses improvements to Morgan Park with resident Julio Reyes. The park recently underwent extensive hydro-seeding to improve the heavily-used soccer field.



Mercado Park on D Street features a play area for youngsters.