



Perris Press Release

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Dedication and Opening of Beautiful Mercado Park

The dedication and grand opening of the City's new Mercado Park in Downtown Perris takes place at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 13.

The new \$3.4-million, 2.6-acre park at 988 South D Street, includes an assortment of colorful and innovative designs, including shaded areas shaped like flowers, water elements, plenty of drought-tolerant landscaping and City officials predict it will be heavily used.

Mayor Daryl Busch said the best thing about Mercado Park isn't the great design or its location in an underserved area of Downtown Perris or its whimsy. The best part is that the park cost Perris taxpayers not one cent of City revenue.

City staff applied for and received a grant through Prop. 84, the 2006 California Parks Bond Act, which paid the construction costs.

"We are especially pleased that our staff got this grant to make this park possible," Busch said. "It's in an area that needs a park. I have heard lots of great comments about the park already and I am sure it will be heavily used."

The dedication includes a performance by the acrobatic group Le Petit Cirque, refreshments and remarks from Perris elected officials.

The City has spent years and millions of dollars revitalizing its Downtown Area. In addition to Mercado Park, the adjacent Mercado Apartments opened in 2012 and has been hailed as a model community. Work rapidly is concluding on the senior-living Perris Station at D Street and San Jacinto Avenue. In addition, construction along D Street between Fourth and Sixth streets promises to bring new commerce and revenues to Downtown because of the new roadway, sidewalks, lighting, landscaping and benches.

The City has also provided funding to refurbish the exteriors of many D Street businesses to return them to the way the shops looked 100 years ago when D Street was the center of municipal commerce. Restoration of important historical buildings, like the 1886 Southern Hotel, the 1892 Depot Building and the century-old Bank of Perris is completed and plans call for refurbishing the art deco Perris Theatre.

Perris City Councilman Al Landers, whose tenure on the council began in 1995, called completion of Mercado Park "another step on the path that is turning our Downtown into a gem that is second to none."

"I am very pleased that this City Council continues to bring amenities to our Downtown," Landers said. "Mercado Park is a beautiful addition and it will make a lot of difference in the lives of kids who live in Downtown."

Perris City Councilman Julio Rodriguez, another member of the parks committee, calls Mercado Park the finest in Riverside County, an "incredibly beautiful" addition to the community.

"The City of Perris is focused on revitalizing Downtown Perris," he said. "This shows our commitment to the young folks that make our City the great place that it is."



Colorful flowers, benches and playground equipment make Perris' Mercado Park a gem of the Downtown area. The park will be dedicated on July 13.



Mercado Park lies across D Street from the Mercado Apartments, which opened last year and has been hailed as a model apartment community.



Perris City Councilman Al Landers addresses the crowd at the October 2012 ground-breaking of the \$3.40million, 2.6-acre Mercado Park: "A beautiful addition."