

MERCED YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX GETS 55 NEW TREES

By: Jake Meneley, Recreation Supervisor

Thanks to a generous donation from the Tree Partners Foundation, the Merced Youth Sports Complex recently received 55 new trees. Dave Nannini, President of the Merced Youth Sports Complex Committee, accepted the trees on behalf of the City of Merced and helped to coordinate their planting with City Staff, Merced Youth Baseball and Merced Youth Soccer.

On March 4, 2010, a site-meeting was held at the Merced Youth Sports Complex to determine where and when the donated trees would be planted. Those in attendance included City Parks Supervisor George Sanchez, City Sports Coordinator Joey Chavez, Merced Youth Soccer President Alfredo Mendoza, Merced Youth Baseball Commissioner Paul Cortez and Youth Sports Complex President Dave Nannini. Careful considerations were made regarding the variety and placement of the trees as their location impacts sport specific programming and also affect the maintenance details of the park. Consensus over the site-plan was reached without delay and the group decided that a March 27 tree planting day would work out the best for everyone involved.



The weather on March 27, 2010 couldn't have been better and the 55 trees started going in the ground at 9:00 A.M. George Sanchez did his best pirate imitation earlier in the morning and marked 55 X's all over the Park signifying that X marked the spot. Dave Nannini did an outstanding job on behalf of the Youth Sports Complex Committee of rounding up 20 or so volunteers with shovels in hand. City Tree Division employees Dean Meyer and Armando Garibay were on hand to demonstrate the proper way to plant a tree and assist the volunteers in their efforts. Also, a big thanks goes out to the group of volunteers that helped out from Club Mercedes which included City of Merced employees Al Del Real from the Finance Department and Joey Sanchez from Solid Waste.

All said, the day went great and the trees made their way safely and successfully into the ground. The many volunteers along with City Staff teamed up to help out the park and impact our community in a positive way. However, none of this would have been possible had it not been for the tireless efforts of Dave Nannini. as he has been the cornerstone of volunteerism for Merced area Youth Sports for over 30 years. Thank you, Dave.

