

July 21, 2026
Park Planning and Community Events
Commission Meeting
Public Comment

Item 1.3:
Update on West Side Park
Public Comment

**Comments Submitted by Commissioner Adam Litwin
Park Planning & Community Events Commission
July 21, 2026 Meeting**

As I am unable to attend this meeting due to a family emergency, I respectfully submit the following comments for consideration by the Commission.

Agenda Item 1.3 – West Side Park Update

Thank you to staff for providing an update on the progress of West Side Park. I appreciate the continued investment in improving our park system and look forward to hearing about the project's progress.

While I am unable to participate in the discussion, I would appreciate consideration of the following questions:

- What is the project schedule, and are there updates in regard to funding the park's development?
- What is the anticipated timeline for funding this project, and what goals are we setting to have this completed?
- Have there been any significant construction or design challenges?
- Are there additional amenities or recreational opportunities planned that have not yet been publicly announced?
- Are there future opportunities for community engagement as the project progresses?

I appreciate staff's continued work on this important project and look forward to future updates.

Item 4.1:

Selection of Park Playground to be Replaced
as Part of the Playground Equipment
Replacement Project through the Fiscal
Year 2026-27 Capital Improvement Program
Public Comment

**Comments Submitted by Commissioner Adam Litwin
Park Planning & Community Events Commission
July 21, 2026 Meeting**

As I am unable to attend this meeting due to a family emergency, I respectfully submit the following comments for consideration by the Commission.

Agenda Item 4.1 – Playground Equipment Replacement Project

I appreciate staff's efforts in proactively replacing aging playground equipment throughout our parks. Planning for replacement before equipment reaches the point of failure is a responsible investment in our community.

After reviewing the staff report, I support selecting **Hart Park** for replacement during Fiscal Year 2026-27. Based on the information provided, it is the oldest of the two playgrounds under consideration and has exceeded its anticipated service life.

Both park playgrounds are highly utilized.

I know there are current grant proposals in play for multiple parks. Can you update us on those proposals?

I also view this project as an opportunity to create something exceptional for Orange rather than simply replacing existing equipment.

As the design process moves forward, I encourage consideration of the following:

Modern Playground Design

I would be interested in learning how staff approaches playground design.

- Are we reviewing some of the newest playgrounds built throughout Southern California and other communities?
- Are we incorporating current trends, innovative play experiences, and modern design concepts rather than simply replacing equipment with similar structures?
- Is there an opportunity to create destination playgrounds that encourage families to visit our parks from throughout the region?

Inclusive Play

I encourage continued emphasis on inclusive playground design.

This includes equipment and features that welcome children of all ages and abilities, allowing children to play together regardless of physical, developmental, or cognitive differences.

Sensory Play Opportunities

I also encourage consideration of sensory play elements that benefit children with autism, sensory processing differences, and other developmental needs.

Thoughtful sensory features can create a richer experience for all children while making our parks more welcoming and accessible.

Shade and Family Amenities

As these projects move forward, I hope consideration will also be given to:

- Additional shade structures
- Comfortable seating for parents and caregivers
- Attractive landscaping
- Gathering spaces for families
- Improved accessibility throughout the playground area

Replacement Priorities

While I support replacement of Hart Park, I would also appreciate additional information regarding how replacement priorities are determined.

For example:

- How do usage levels compare between Hart Park and Eisenhower Park?
- Are there significant differences in maintenance history or safety concerns?
- If staff were making the recommendation, which playground would they recommend replacing first, and why?
- If grant funding becomes available, could replacement of the second playground be accelerated?

Understanding those factors would help the Commission make future replacement decisions.

Thank you to staff for your continued work in maintaining and improving our parks for the residents of Orange.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments and respectfully request that they be shared with the Commission as part of the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Litwin

Commissioner

Park Planning & Community Events Commission