Outlook

Public Comment - Agenda Item 26-450

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To PACS Comments <PACSComments@costamesaca.gov>

October 8, 2026

City of Costa Mesa
Parks and Community Services Commission
77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

RE: Support for Moon Park Renovation Conceptual Design | Agenda Item 26-450

Dear Chair and Members of the Parks and Community Services Commission:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Moon Park renovation conceptual design and to recognize the tremendous efforts of City staff, the design team, the Moon Park Project, and the neighborhood advocates who have worked diligently to advance this important community improvement.

As a Costa Mesa resident, a father, and a member of the State Streets community, I believe our neighborhood parks are essential public infrastructure. They should be safe, accessible, well-maintained, and designed to serve the families and residents who rely on them.

Moon Park has been an important part of our community since 1972. Unfortunately, its playground equipment has not been replaced since 1996. The City's own 2025–26 Park and Playground Assessment rated the playground in Poor Condition, identifying aging equipment, deterioration, limited recreational value, and inadequate shade. Additionally, the existing playground configuration creates visibility challenges for parents supervising children of different ages. These conditions demonstrate a clear need for meaningful investment in this neighborhood resource.

Community Engagement and Neighborhood Representation

I am particularly encouraged by the substantial level of community participation documented in the October 8, 2026, agenda report. More than 100 participants attended the July 20 community outreach event, casting over 1,800 votes on proposed improvements. An additional 180-plus online survey responses were received during the four-week survey period.

These figures demonstrate a significant level of community engagement and reinforce the importance of advancing improvements that reflect the needs and priorities of Moon Park's surrounding neighborhoods.

Equally important, I want to recognize that much of the momentum behind this project has come from the dedication of neighborhood residents and grassroots community advocacy groups. These

individuals have organized, attended public meetings, engaged with City representatives, and consistently advocated for improvements that benefit the State Streets community.

It is essential that their contributions be recognized and that the priorities of those who live near, regularly use, and are directly served by Moon Park remain central to the City's decision-making process.

While public participation should remain open to everyone, I am concerned about the potential influence of outside special-interest groups seeking to advance priorities that may not reflect the expressed needs of the surrounding neighborhood. Community engagement should be transparent, representative, and grounded in the preferences of the residents who will experience the long-term impacts of these decisions.

Opposition to Public Restrooms

I also want to clearly express my opposition to the installation of public restrooms at Moon Park.

Moon Park is a neighborhood park situated within an established residential community. The focus of this renovation should remain on playground safety, accessibility, improved lighting, recreational opportunities, and the preservation of the park's unique character.

The introduction of public restrooms would create additional considerations involving maintenance, security, sanitation, operational costs, and long-term management. In my view, these facilities are unnecessary to accomplish the primary objectives of the renovation and could divert limited resources away from improvements that directly benefit neighborhood families.

I appreciate that the proposed conceptual design does not identify public restrooms as a recommended improvement. I respectfully request that the Commission maintain this approach as the project advances into subsequent design and budgeting phases.

Support for the Proposed Improvements

I strongly support the elements of the proposed conceptual design that respond to community priorities, including:

- Protective fencing along the Santa Ana River Trail.
- Improved lighting, visibility, and overall park safety.
- A multi-use recreational court.
- Improved walking and bicycle connections.
- Modern, inclusive playground equipment serving multiple age groups.
- Preservation of the iconic lunar dome and existing mature trees.
- Additional recreational opportunities that accommodate residents of different ages and abilities.

These improvements represent a thoughtful balance between modernizing the park and preserving the unique characteristics that have made Moon Park an important neighborhood landmark for more than five decades.

Funding and Project Implementation

While I recognize that Costa Mesa faces competing priorities and limited financial resources, I strongly encourage the Commission to establish a clear path toward project funding and implementation.

The City has successfully advanced improvements at other neighborhood parks, including Shalimar Park and Ketchum-Libolt Park. Moon Park deserves the same thoughtful planning, continued engagement, and commitment to completing the improvements its community identified.

The residents have demonstrated their commitment through organized advocacy, public meetings, community voting, and survey participation. City staff and the design team have responded by developing a conceptual design that incorporates many of those priorities.

The next step is to translate that work into measurable progress.

I respectfully request that the Commission approve the proposed conceptual design, preserve the community-supported priorities throughout future design phases, maintain the exclusion of public restrooms, and recommend that the City establish a realistic funding strategy and implementation schedule.

A conceptual design is an important milestone, but it is not the finish line.

Moon Park represents an opportunity for Costa Mesa to demonstrate the value of grassroots community involvement and responsible investment in neighborhood infrastructure. By continuing to prioritize the voices of the residents this park directly serves, the City can deliver an improvement that strengthens our community and serves future generations.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued service to the residents of Costa Mesa.

Respectfully,

Evan Carey
Costa Mesa Resident
State Streets Neighborhood

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