



Agenda Report

Parks and Community Services Commission

File #: 26-415

Meeting Date: 9/10/2026

TITLE: CONCERT IN THE PARK SURVEYS

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRESENTED BY: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

CONTACT INFORMATION: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
DIRECTOR (714) 754-5009

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Parks and Community Services Commission reviews and discuss the findings from the community survey conducted during the Concert in the Park Series, Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND:

Following the June 2026 Parks and Community Services Commission meeting, the Commission expressed interest in hosting an outreach booth and assisting with community surveys during the Concerts in the Park series at Fairview Park.

Staff provided the Commission with a questionnaire to solicit input regarding topics and questions commissioners were interested in presenting to the community. Based on the Commission's feedback, staff compiled and developed a 13-question survey designed to gather input regarding parks, recreational programs, community events, park improvements, and future community engagement opportunities. Question 13, which requested optional contact information from participants interested in receiving future City updates, has been excluded from the attachment to maintain the confidentiality of participant information.

Surveys were conducted during the three (3) Concerts in the Park held on Tuesdays, July 14, July 21, and July 28, 2026, with each concert drawing an estimated attendance of at least 2,500 attendees. A total of 63 surveys were completed throughout the concert series, including 38 surveys on July 14, 13 surveys on July 21, and 12 surveys on July 28. The decrease in surveys completed during the second and third concert dates may be attributed to repeat concert attendees who had previously participated in the survey. Survey results indicated that approximately 44% of respondents attended all three concerts, while approximately 35% attended two concerts.

ANALYSIS:

The survey results provided insight into community interests and priorities related to parks, recreational amenities, events, programs, and community engagement. While the survey represents feedback from attendees of the Concerts in the Park series and is not intended to represent a statistically representative sample of the broader Costa Mesa community, several recurring themes emerged from the responses.

Regarding park upgrades, the most frequently selected improvements were sports courts (40.32%), restrooms (37.10%), and playground equipment (35.48%). Community gardens and picnic/BBQ areas were each selected by approximately 24% of respondents. Written responses also identified interests such as athletic fields with lighting, pickleball courts, pathways, water fountains, and replacement of aging equipment.

Respondents expressed strong interest in continued and expanded community events. More concerts and live music received the highest level of interest at 79.03%, followed by movies in the park at 58.06% and food truck events at 51.61%. Fitness and wellness classes, sporting events, pet-friendly events, community picnics, and fun runs or walks also received interest.

Fairview Park and TeWinkle Park were among the parks frequently identified by respondents, with participants highlighting features such as trails, natural habitat, playgrounds, open space, and opportunities for exercise. Other parks identified included Lions Park, Balearic Park, Smallwood Park, Canyon Park, Tanager Park, and others throughout the City.

When asked about their highest Parks and Community Services concerns, respondents most frequently selected safety and security (45.90%), park maintenance and cleanliness (42.62%), shade structures (36.07%), and restroom access (34.43%). Playground conditions, environmental sustainability, parking, and unauthorized park use were also identified as concerns. Written suggestions included additional shade, trees, park ranger presence, investment in park improvements, habitat protection, and pursuing additional funding or grant opportunities.

The survey also demonstrated strong repeat participation in Concerts in the Park. Of the 62 respondents to this question, 43.55% indicated they attended all concerts and 35.48% indicated they attended two concerts, while approximately 10% indicated that the event was their first concert.

For future community engagement, email was the most preferred communication method at 30.91%, followed by text message at 21.82%. Approximately 27% indicated that they did not wish to be contacted for future feedback.

Overall, the results indicate interest in maintaining and improving existing park amenities, providing additional recreational opportunities, continuing community events, and addressing park safety, maintenance, shade, and restroom needs. The survey findings may be considered alongside other community engagement efforts and available data when the Commission discusses future Parks and Community Services priorities.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Commission may provide additional feedback to staff regarding the survey findings or identify specific topics for further discussion at a future Commission meeting.

FISCAL REVIEW:

There is no fiscal review at this time.

LEGAL REVIEW:

There is no legal review required for this report.

CONCLUSION:

The Concerts in the Park surveys provided an additional opportunity for the City to engage community members and gather feedback regarding Parks and Community Services programs, facilities, events, and priorities. Staff recommends that the Commission receive the survey findings and provide feedback as appropriate.