

Meeting Minutes

Project: James Park Playground and Pathway Improvements

Meeting Date: September 30, 2025, 6 pm

Meeting Location: James Park Fieldhouse

Meeting Purpose: Neighborhood meeting to discuss refined concepts and playground for renovation

Attendees: Matt Rodgers, 8th Ward Councilmember
Lara Biggs, Public Works Bureau Chief – Capital Planning
Audrey Thompson, Director of Parks & Recreation
Michael Callahan, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
Stefanie Levine, Senior Project Manager
Kenon Boehm, Landscape Designer II
Parks and Recreation Board Members
Community Members

PRESENTATION:

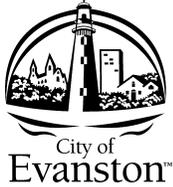
Public Engagement meeting #3 was held at the James Park Fieldhouse.

Staff presented the planned presentation, detailing the project timeline, project scope, concept plan development, and previous meeting recaps. Boards presented outlined an overall park plan, playground/fieldhouse site plan, two boards of 3-D renderings, and a final board outlining amenities, timeline, and color selections. Staff explained that the main goal of this engagement was to review/comment on the refined concept, modified through previous engagements, and work to select a final color palette for the proposed playground equipment.

During the presentation, staff revisited past discussions and comments received at public meeting #1 and #2, as well as the additional level of public engagement staff had with a teenager focus group. This focus group was requested at public meeting #2 to better review items teenagers would like to see in a 13+ aged play space. This focus group had an added benefit of attendees also providing feedback on playground elements they used to enjoy for use in the 2-12 aged playgrounds.

Alternate design options for the project, splashpad and entry walls, were discussed as items that are currently out of budget, but hoped can be included once public bids are received.

Final discussion covered the differential settling at the fieldhouse and previous efforts utilized around the park for this solution. Staff will be consulting with geotechnical and



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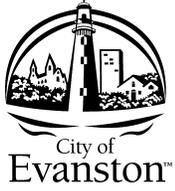
structural engineers to hopefully develop cost-effective solutions to current settlement and ADA issues occurring on the site.

Following the presentation, staff facilitated a Q&A session and open discussion. Key community feedback included:

- Concerns about the surfacing material for the proposed multi-use path
- Requests for buffer zones between playgrounds and the new path
- Suggestions for adding more trash receptacles throughout the park
- A reminder that existing bathroom facilities should remain accessible

The meeting then moved into board review for comments, as well as a general breakout activity where residents could select their favorite color scheme for playground items. Attendees were given post it notes and stickers to be utilized on all (5) boards.

The meeting concluded with staff indicating that they would be going into the construction document phase where they would look to review comments and color selections to incorporate into final drawings which will also include discussion with future consultants on the differential settlement issues.



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Presentation in the Fieldhouse



Overall Park Plan

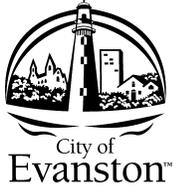
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Playground/Fieldhouse Site Plan



3-D Renderings: Site Aerial and Ages 2-12 Playgrounds



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3-D Renderings: Ages 13+ Playground & Splashpad/Picnic Space



Project Timelines, Amenities, and Color Selection