

LIFE

San Diego Breaks Ground for Olive Street Park, City's First AIDS Memorial



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San Diego broke ground Friday on a \$2.3 million project will transform an empty lot into a community space that will include the AIDS memorial, a new playground for children of all ages, fitness equipment, an open lawn area, and ADA-compliant pathways to facilitate access for all users. Photo via Twitter @CMWhitburnD3.

Groundbreaking was held Friday for [Olive Street Park](#) in Bankers Hill, which will feature a memorial honoring and remembering San Diegans who died from AIDS.

Mayor Todd Gloria was joined by Assemblyman [Chris Ward](#), and San Diego City Councilmember [Stephen Whitburn](#) to break ground on the more than half-acre park.

“What has long been nothing but an empty, unused lot will soon be Olive Street Park, a beautiful place for members of the Bankers Hill community to relax and enjoy the view, and its AIDS Memorial will finally give San Diegans a place to remember, honor and grieve for loved ones taken from us by AIDS,” Gloria said. “I’m deeply grateful to the AIDS Memorial Task Force and all who made today possible.”





The project is budgeted at \$2.3 million to transform an empty lot into a community space that will include the AIDS memorial, a playground, fitness equipment, an open lawn area and Americans With DA-compliant pathways, along with an overlook deck to enjoy the open space of Maple Canyon below.

Nearly 8,000 San Diegans have died from AIDS.

“This memorial will serve as a permanent testament to the resilience, courage and compassion of those affected by AIDS in our community and to the tireless work of those who have dedicated their lives to ending this epidemic,” said Whitburn, whose district includes Bankers Hill. “Let us build this memorial not just as a tribute to the past but as a symbol of hope for the future.”

Memorial boulders and interpretive panels will be placed throughout the park, containing the history of the AIDS crisis in San Diego and honoring the many people and organizations who have served those living with AIDS.

The idea to build an AIDS memorial in San Diego has been around since at least 1994 and the creation of the memorial is the culmination of nearly 30 years of work and community activism, proponents said.

The project is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2024.

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