



Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza: *Enhancement Options*

PRESENTED TO COMMUNITY SERVICES: JULY 15, 2026

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Background

As part of ongoing discussions regarding the future of the Mayor Vera Calvin Plaza, the Community Services Committee requested that staff evaluate several enhancement options and their associated budget impacts, including additional shade and family-oriented play amenities.

On January 5, 2026, staff presented these concepts to City Council as part of a broader discussion on Plaza operations, maintenance, and long-term asset management. In addition to operational updates, staff presented several short- and long-term enhancement opportunities, including:

- Replacement of black rock landscape areas with pavers to improve safety, reduce maintenance, and enhance aesthetics.
- Long-term replacement planning for high-wear Plaza assets, including synthetic turf and site furnishings.
- Establishment of a Plaza furniture replacement program to address wear, corrosion, and metal fatigue.
- ***Addition of a family-oriented play area and interactive features.***
- ***Evaluation of additional shade opportunities throughout the Plaza.***



An aerial photograph of a park plaza play area. In the foreground, a paved walkway leads towards a central play area. To the right, a yellow train car with the number 330 is parked on a track. In the background, a large water tower with the name 'BURRLESON' is visible. The plaza is surrounded by brick buildings and lush green trees.

PLAZA PLAY AREA

Current Conditions: Existing Family-Oriented Amenities

- Moveable Chess Pieces (shifted within large and small turf area)
- Cornhole Boards (shifted within large and small turf area)
- Blue Foam Play Blocks (originally provided as a play feature but have since been discontinued)

Opportunity

- Existing play opportunities are limited and portable
- The proposed play enhancement would establish a lasting, site-integrated amenity that complements existing public art, encourages physical activity, and expands family-oriented recreation within Downtown Burleson without the addition of a traditional play feature.



Current Conditions: Existing Family-Oriented Amenities



Play Area Concept



Play Area Concept: Proposed Play Features

- **Nature-Inspired Playscape**

- Organic layout integrated into the existing Plaza landscape.

- **Concrete Embankment Slide**

- Built into a landscaped mound to create an exciting yet low-profile play feature.

- **Musical Play Elements**

- Four interactive flower-themed musical instruments encouraging creativity and sensory play.

- **Climbing & Balance Features**

- Colorful molded play mounds and stepping elements promoting balance, coordination, and imaginative exploration.

- **Inclusive Entry Feature**

- Accessible transfer platform providing entry to the slide and play experience.

- **Safety Surfacing**

- Artificial turf safety surfacing with integrated play mound and impact attenuation.

- **Nature & Public Art Integration**

- Design incorporates colors inspired by the Plaza's existing public art while preserving the mature tree and blending into the surrounding landscape.



Play Area Concept:

- Encourages active play through climbing, balancing, sliding, and exploration.
- Promotes imaginative, creative, and sensory play with interactive musical elements.
- Inspired by the Plaza's existing public art, incorporating complementary colors and artistic design elements to create a cohesive, site-specific playscape.

Estimated Cost: \$93,246.46





PLAZA SHADE OPTIONS

Current Conditions: Existing Shade Availability

- Primary shade is currently limited to the covered picnic table and dining area.
- Tree canopy provides intermittent pockets of shade throughout portions of the Plaza but does not offer continuous coverage in primary gathering spaces.
- Much of the event lawn, promenade, and seating areas receive direct sunlight during peak daytime hours, particularly during the summer months.
- Visitors frequently seek shaded seating during community events and everyday use.

Opportunity

- Expand shade opportunities in high-use gathering areas while maintaining the Plaza's open character and flexibility for events.

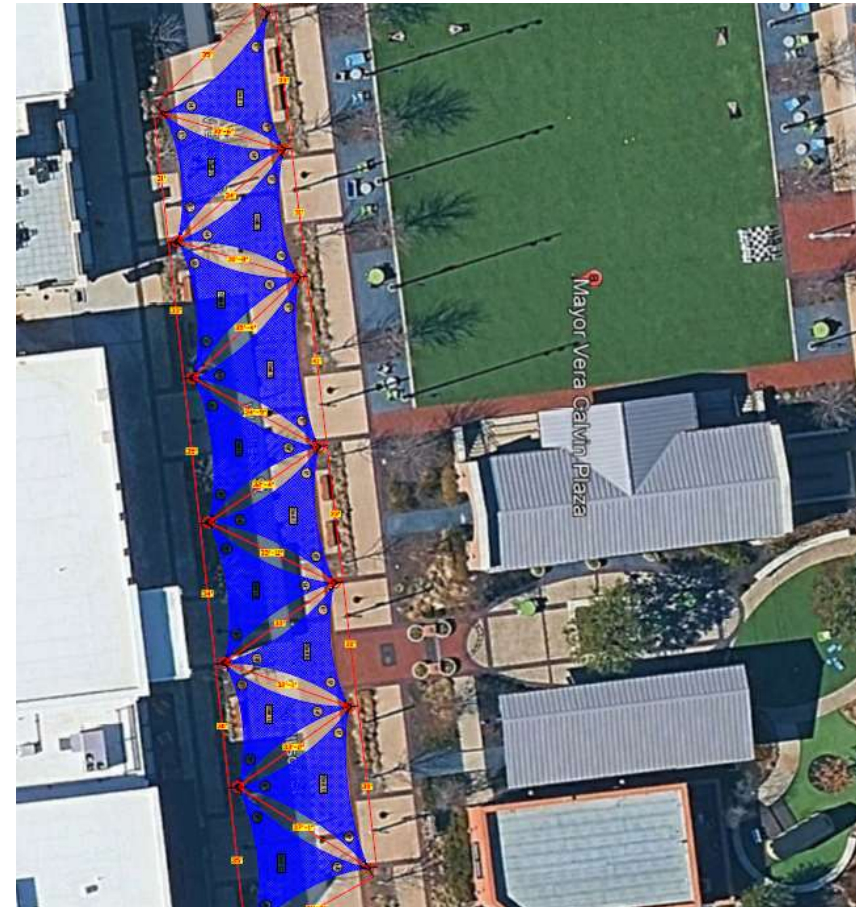


Current Conditions: Existing Shade Availability



Shade Option 1:

*Triangle Sail Shade System
Expanded Shade Coverage Along Ellison Street*



Shade Option 2:

Umbrella Shade over Benches



Shade: Additional Considerations

Option 1 – Triangle Shade Sails

Estimated Cost: \$296,499

Benefits:

- Provides the greatest amount of continuous shade along the Ellison Street promenade.
- Enhances pedestrian comfort during community events and everyday use.

Considerations:

- Highest-cost option
- Requires multiple support poles and engineered foundations.
- Changes the open character of the Plaza and may create a more enclosed feel.

Option 2 – Umbrella Shade Structures

Estimated Cost: \$51,810

Benefits:

- Provides targeted shade over high-use seating and gathering areas.
- Improves visitor comfort while maintaining the Plaza's open feel.
- Lower implementation cost and simpler installation.
- Maintains the open character and architectural aesthetic of the Plaza.

Considerations:

- Provides less overall shade coverage than the sail option.

Staff recommends Option 2 – Umbrella Shade Structures as it provides additional shade in the Plaza's highest-use seating areas while preserving the open character of the space and representing a significantly lower investment than the sail option.

Requested Action

- Feedback on proposed play area enhancements
- Feedback on shade options



Feedback & Questions



Questions / Comments

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