



Monrovia City Council Study Session

Shade Options at Station Square Park

May 2, 2023

Objective

- Tonight staff is seeking feedback from City Council related to enhancing the shade at Station Square Park.
- Based on the feedback from City Council, staff will coordinate the necessary action items with the goal of improving the experience for visitors at the park this summer
- City Council currently allocated \$125,000 in the 5Year CIP Plan for Shade Structure Installation at Station Square

Current Conditions



Current Conditions



Current Conditions



Background

- Station Square Park was dedicated and opened in 2018
- There was limited community input and discussion related to the Park design, development and improvements
- Over the past 5 years, staff have hosted a Concert in the Park program each summer at the Park
- Several organizations have hosted community events, craft fairs and fundraisers at the Park
- The Park was designed with a beautiful band shell, sufficient power and restrooms all aimed at supporting community gatherings and concerts
- However, the Park lacks sufficient shade and as a result is underutilized by the community

Impacts due to lack of Shade

- Lower attendance at Station Square Park Concerts
- A few events have moved away from the Park to Library Park as it has more shade options
- There are limited requests for facility rentals
- Poor participation in contract class held at the Park

Community Transition

- The Park is the only current park in South Monrovia, making it a vital recreation feature for the community
- At the time Station Square Park was completed, Station Square Transit Village had limited residential development (MODA)
- Now as the Transit Village is under construction, how the community uses the space and what amenities will best suit current/future residents is undetermined


1,366 new units coming online in the next 2-3 years all in walking distance to Station Square Park!

Development

- *MODA (261 Units)*
 - Opened 2018
- *Alexan (436 Units)*
 - Under construction and scheduled to open March 2024
- *127 West Pomona - Adept Developer (310 Units)*
 - Under construction and scheduled to open June 2025
- *Station Square South (296 Units)*
 - Entitled and scheduled to start construction mid-late 2025
- *Arroyo (324 Units)*
 - Entitled and construction start date TBD



Alexan Foothills



- 436 units
- 5-story

Arroyo at Monrovia Station



- 324 units
- 5-stories

127 W Pomona




- 310 units
- 7-story

MODA at Monrovia Station



- 261 units
- 5-stories

Station Square South



- 296 units
- 6-stories

VCA Animal Hospital



Response to the Lack of Shade

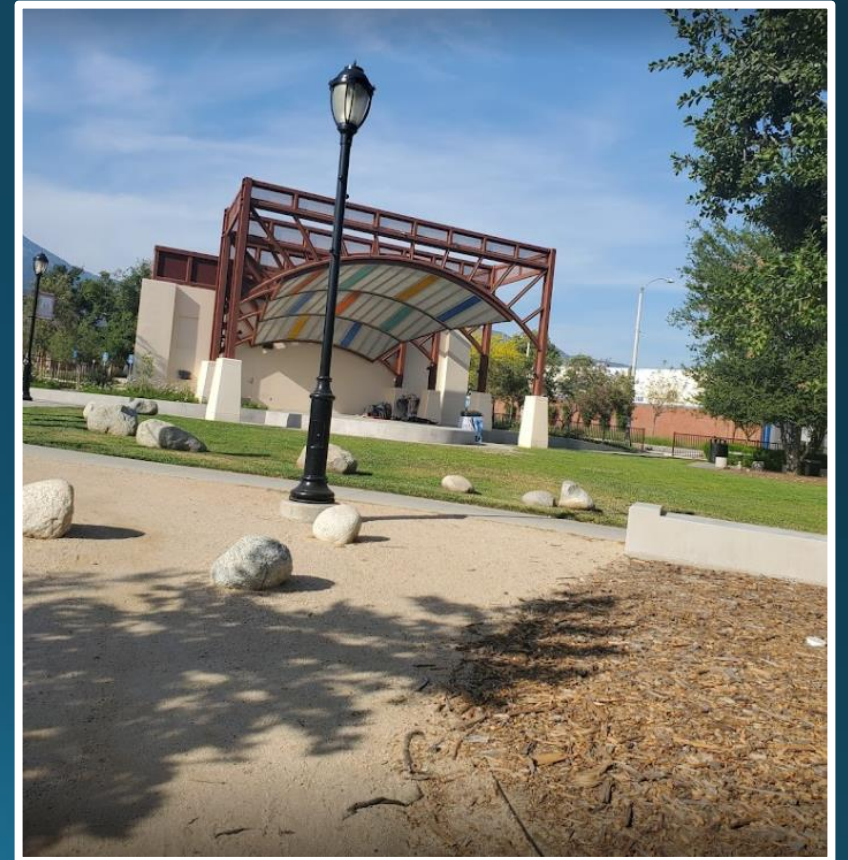
- City Council requested staff seek solutions to the lack of shade at Station Square Park
- City Council Allocated \$125,000 in the 5 Year CIP Plan to address the need for shade
- Staff studied several options which will be presented tonight and have identified the pros and cons for each recommendation



Option 1: Permanent Shade

Install a permanent Shade Structure over the viewing area in front of the band shell

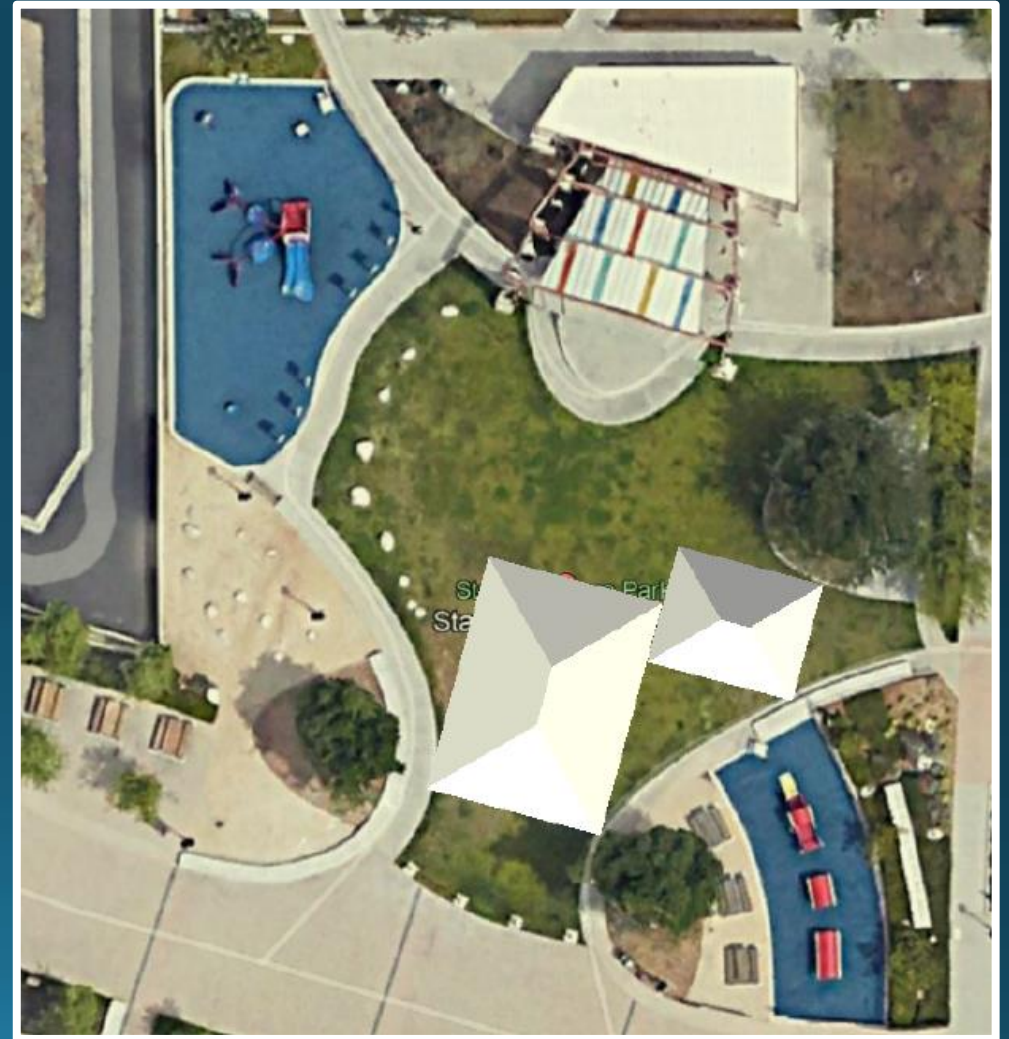
- Pros:
 - This would provide ample shade for the concerts and community events
- Cons:
 - With continuous shade, the lawn will deteriorate
 - The cost for a shade structure will exceed \$250,000
 - The shade structure may block the view of the stage for some attendees
 - Purchase and installation take significant lead time



Option 2: Temporary Shade

Contract to have temporary tents installed each weekend for the Summer Concerts

- Pros:
 - This would provide ample shade for the concerts
 - The tent would be installed/removed each week; allowing the grass to thrive
- Cons:
 - The rental of the tent would be \$15,000
 - The tent would not be available or may be cost prohibitive for event planners
 - The shade structure may block the view of the stage for some attendees



Option 3: Plant More Trees

Plant additional trees at Station Square to create a larger tree canopy

- Pros:
 - Increase the overall Monrovia Urban Forest
 - Natural solution and affordable
 - 15 Gallon Coast Oak = \$80.00
- Cons:
 - Trees take decades to grow and would not be a short term solution
 - We are in a drought and planting trees at this time would result in increased water use



Option 4: Create a Shade Wall

Install a tall fence / screen to the south and the west of the program site

- Pros:
 - Would create a large shade area to protect those attending concerts and community events
 - Price is cheaper than a fixed shade structure
 - Would allow grass to thrive
- Cons:
 - May be unsightly or create visual barriers needed by law enforcement



Option 5: Use Temporary Umbrellas

Use temporary umbrellas in the park for Summer Concerts and private rentals

- Pros:
 - This would provide additional shade for the concerts and community events
 - The umbrellas would be installed each week; allowing the grass to thrive
 - Could be made available to other community groups looking to host an event at the Park
 - The bright colors would complement the park aesthetic
 - Affordable = \$250 per umbrella / stand
- Cons:
 - Staff would need to set them up each week for the concerts
 - Wind conditions







Station Square Park

Image Landsat / Copernicus

Special Consideration

- With the unknown needs of the 1,366 future families moving to the community over the next three years, does it make sense to delay a big investment in the Park at this time
- Possibly consider tabling the discussion to enhance Station Square Park to the near future and better engage current and future residents in the discussion
- We certainly want to address the immediate challenge now, but can we opt for a more cost effective, less permanent option in the meantime

Question / Discussion