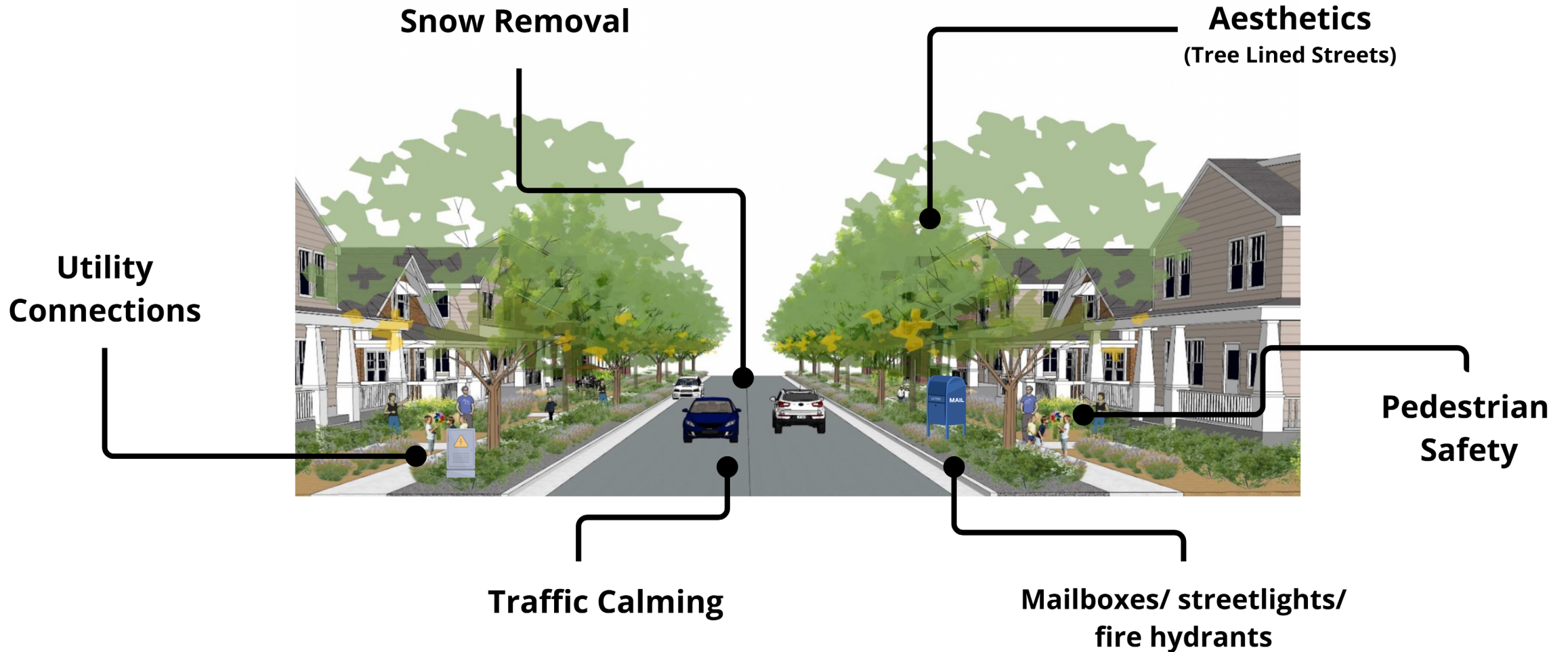


PARKSTRIPS



Park Strip Purposes and Concerns

Depending on who you ask, the answer to why park strips are necessary could be:



Data Collection and Interviews



23 Sandy Employees



9 Home Builders



9 Engineers & Consulting Firms



8 Elected Officials



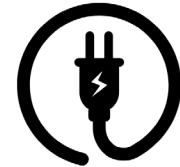
2 Attorneys



44 residents



6 homeowners



4 Utility Companies



USPS

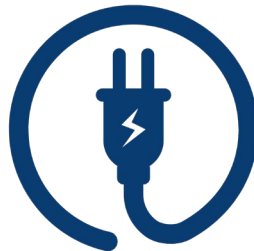


Regional Planning Firm

Utility Connections

Concern: Park strips are needed because utility companies place their utility connection boxes and lines in park strips.

- Utility companies prefer to have their utility connections on the **back of the sidewalk**, not close to the road.
 - Above ground utility connections get more damaged in park strips
 - Underground connections are damaged by tree roots

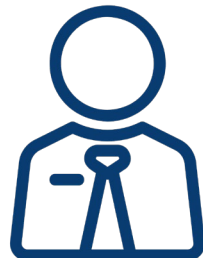


“Tree roots and water or sewer lines don’t mix.”

Snow Removal

Fact Check: Are park strips needed because plow drivers push snow onto them in the winter?

- The length of City plow blades (approximately 11' when angled) , clears about 22' of a standard 27' residential road
 - Snow gets pushed to the side of the road, into the gutter.
 - Plow drivers do not intentionally push snow onto park strips.
 - Blade alignment with the curb would push snow onto the homeowner's driveway



“ We do not train for, or have a policy of pushing snow onto park strips on residential streets. ”

Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety

Concern: Park strips incentivize safer driving and increase pedestrian perception of safety.

- Park strips do not offer enhanced safety for cars or pedestrians.
 - Street trees can cause sight triangle/ visibility problems
 - These concerns are mitigated on low speed, low traffic streets in residential areas
 - There are many other factors that influence perception of safety, including speed of motor vehicles, lane volume, and frequency of motor vehicles passing pedestrians



“ We live on a street that has no parking strip and we love it. We enjoy going for walks and do not feel any safety issue. There is another street in our neighborhood that has the parking strip and [...] we do not like walking on [...] that street as [the sidewalks] are uneven due to tree roots raising the sidewalks slabs and causing a possible tripping hazards. ”



“ While a landscape buffer does seem to provide a higher sense of security for pedestrians along heavily traveled collectors and arterial streets, there is no evidence that the tree lawn actually increases the safety of the pedestrian. ”

Mailboxes, Fire Hydrants, & Streetlights

Concern: Park strips are designated areas for streetscape and public service infrastructure.

- While eliminating park strips may increase the number of streetlights needed, park strips are not necessary for housing mailboxes or fire hydrants.
- Fire hydrants can be buried in snow shoveled onto park strips
- Street trees or heavily landscaped park strips can create barriers for fighting house fires from the street, making it harder to deploy ladders or requiring fire trucks to park elsewhere.



“

We do ask that all new larger developments in Sandy have a community box set up for the residents. It comes down to the decision on the Postmaster though of the post office.

”

Aesthetics

Concern: Tree lined streets are often the “desired aesthetic” of a neighborhood

- Tree lined streets are often beautiful but pose more challenges and cost more money than they are worth.
 - 70% of the City’s sidewalk budget is spend on removing and replacing sidewalk segments damaged by street trees
 - Street trees drop their leaves into the gutter and storm drains, which is contrary to environmental requirements
 - Street trees have a life expectancy of only 7-10 years due to salt, oil, rubber, and gas exposure from the street
 - Flipped / xeriscaped park strips are hard to maintain, create neighborhood eye sores when unmaintained, and of 96 park strips flipped through the state program, only 8 added trees.

Aesthetics



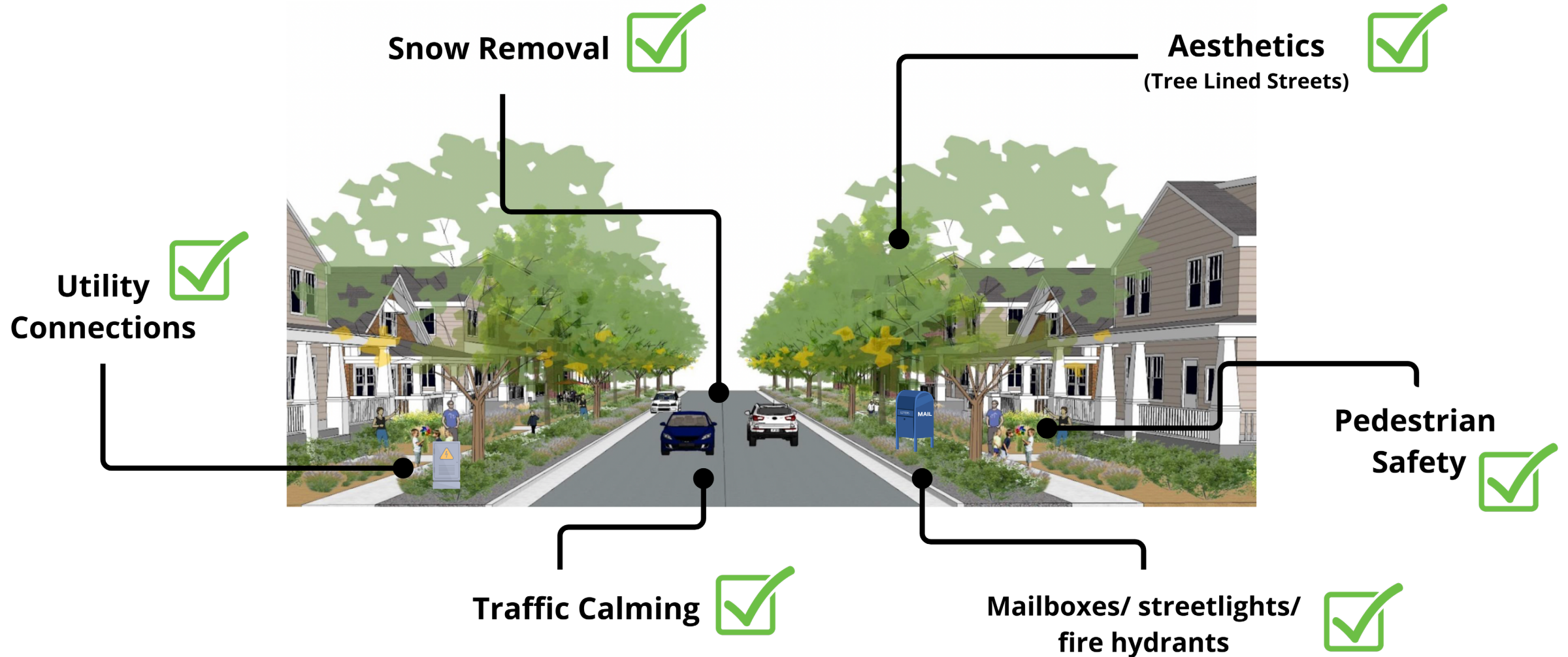
“ The problem isn't the park strip it's the maintenance required. I've seen multiple comments [...] in other discussions where people 'zero-scaped' their yards or park strips because it was less work. It isn't. It requires constant attention. ”



“ Lot prices are too high to spend money on a park strip that isn't useful. It adds unnecessary cost to a home. ”

Park Strip Purposes and Concerns

Depending on who you ask, the answer to why park strips are necessary could be:



Proposal: Amend Sandy City Code to remove park strips as a residential design standard for all new residential developments.

- Council requests the drafting of a code amendment to remove the requirement in our Residential Design Standards for park strips in new developments
- Amendments will go through the standard code amendment process:
 - City staff review
 - Planning Commission review
 - City Council review
 - All required notices and public hearings

Concerns for getting rid of park strips do not hold up to feedback from experts, homeowners, and Sandy residents. Eliminating park strip requirements will save the City money, improve our environmental practices, and keep Sandy City beautiful.