



Sandy City Council Office

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To: Sandy City Council
From: Alison Stroud, Council Member
Date: June 5, 2026
Subject: FY 2027 Budget Amendment: Funding for Water-Wise Park Strip Replacements Adjacent to City Parks

Recommendation

I respectfully propose that the Council consider a budget amendment (Exhibit A) within Capital Projects to transfer tentatively appropriated funds from Playground Replacements to the Park Strip / Median Conversions. This reallocation will expand the city's capacity to convert traditional turf grass park strips adjacent to municipal parks into sustainable, community examples of water-wise landscaping.

Background & Justification

As our City navigates persistent, long-term drought conditions, the management of municipal properties should adapt to maximize water-use. Park strips are notoriously inefficient to irrigate when planted with traditional turf grass. Overspray onto asphalt and sidewalks make these areas prime targets for conservation interventions.

Focusing our water-wise park strip replacements specifically on perimeters adjacent to municipal parks offers advantages:

- **Setting a Visual Example:** Municipal parks are highly visible community landmarks. Transforming the prominent borders around our parks into vibrant, water-wise landscapes provides residents with a real-world, localized example of successful water-wise landscaping. It demonstrates that water-conserving landscapes are not just rocks and dirt, but are beautiful, intentional, and well-cared-for assets that can enhance neighborhood aesthetics.
- **Proactive Drought Response:** Eliminating non-functional turf grass in these narrow lanes promotes ongoing water conservation.

Fiscal Impact & Funding Reallocation

To fund this initiative, I propose reallocating funds from the Playground Replacement capital account. During the initial tentative budget preparation, the appropriation for playground replacements exceeded the budget request submitted by the Parks Department by \$150,000.



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By executing this transfer, the remaining appropriation for playground replacements will sit level with what was requested by the department.

Conclusion

This amendment presents a strategic opportunity to accelerate water conservation without requesting new taxpayer revenue or impacting departmental requests. With Council approval, the Parks Department will be able to identify park strip projects adjacent to our parks and initiate design and installation of water-wise landscaping at those prioritized locations.

Exhibit A: Capital Projects - General	Amount	Detail	Notes
<u>One-time Capital:</u>			
Parks Expansion Projects	\$ 150,000	140003 (Park Strips / Median Conversion)	Funding to improve park strips adjacent to City Parks. The intent is to install water-wise landscaping.
Total One-Time Appropriations Increase	\$ 150,000		
Parks Replacement Projects	\$ (150,000)	140001 (Playground Replacements)	Decrease line item to amount originally requested
Total One-Time Appropriations Decrease	\$ (150,000)		