

ORDINANCE NO. 035, 2026
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AUTHORIZING TRANSFERS OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE
NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS PLAN AND STORMWATER PARK
CONCEPT PLAN PROJECT

A. The purpose of this item is to appropriate funds from the General Fund and the Utilities Stormwater Fund to be credited as staff time as the City's 2026 required cost share for the Nature-Based Solutions ("NbS") Plan and Stormwater Park Concept Plan Project (the "Project"). The outcome of the Project will be the Nature-based Solutions Policy and Design Guide.

B. In 2024, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, through the Colorado Department of Public Safety ("CDPS"), awarded the City of Fort Collins \$398,431 of Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities ("BRIC") funds to develop the Project. City Council authorized execution of the intergovernmental grant agreement for the Project via Resolution 2025-049 and appropriated grant funds and the City's 2025 required cost share for staff time for the Project via Ordinance No. 076, 2025.

C. The City has a required in-kind cost share of \$245,641 for this grant that will be met through City staff time through the life of the grant funded project, from 2025 through 2027. The City will use the budget, appropriated by City Council each annual fiscal year associated with existing City staff time to meet the required cost share requirement of this grant. No budget fiscal outlays are required to meet the City's in-kind contribution of the grant agreement with the state.

D. For 2026 the City's required cost share of City staff time is \$128,336 from 2026 appropriations to the General Fund and \$14,129 from 2026 appropriations to the Stormwater Fund, totaling \$142,465, to be transferred to the non-lapsing grant Project for staff time.

E. City Council has specifically approved policies, work plan items, Land Use Code updates, stormwater criteria, and priorities that this FEMA BRIC award and the Project are in furtherance of. The Project supports the City Council priority to Make Development Predictable, Efficient, and Cost-effective to Support Sustainable Growth and Affordability. Staff efforts focus on simplifying stormwater standards, habitat protections, and landscape requirements that are applied during development review so applicants can clearly understand how to meet City requirements.

- City staff have found that many barriers to implementing nature-based solutions are procedural rather than regulatory. The Project addresses procedural barriers by aligning citywide policies and creating tools that allow development projects to meet multiple City requirements through integrated site design rather than navigating separate regulatory layers. 2026 Staff efforts include: Aligning policies and standards across the Stormwater Criteria Manual, Land

Use Code habitat protections, and landscape requirements.

- Developing clearer development review tools that improve predictability and transparency for applicants and staff.
- Coordinating across departments to establish a shared framework for evaluating nature-based infrastructure.

F. By simplifying how City requirements are applied, the Project helps reduce regulatory friction while supporting Council goals for sustainable growth, resilient infrastructure, and high-quality neighborhoods. Integrated nature-based designs can meet stormwater requirements while improving water quality, protecting habitat, and creating attractive, walkable places that support long-term community resilience.

G. The Project is supported by an advisory group made up of professionals who regularly participate in the development review process, including City staff, engineers, developers, landscape architects, ecologists, and regional partners. The goal of the group is to provide practical insight into how NbS strategies interact with existing development regulations and review procedures, helping identify barriers, test design concepts, and ensure the final policy and design guidance is implementable within the City's development review framework.

H. Article V, Section 10 of the City Charter authorizes the City Council, upon recommendation by the City Manager, to transfer by ordinance any unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount or portion thereof from one fund or capital project to another fund or capital project, provided that the purpose for which the transferred funds are to be expended remains unchanged, the purpose for which the funds were initially appropriated no longer exists, or the proposed transfer is from a fund or capital project in which the amount appropriated exceeds the amount needed to accomplish the purpose specified in the appropriation ordinance.

I. The City Manager has recommended the transfer of \$128,336 from the Operating Budget in the General Fund to the Nature-Based Solutions Grant Project Budget in General Fund and \$14,129 from the Operating Budget in the Stormwater Fund to the Nature-Based Solutions Grant Project Budget in Stormwater Fund determined that the purpose for which the transferred funds are to be expended remains unchanged.

J. Article V, Section 11 of the City Charter authorizes the City Council to designate in the ordinance when appropriating funds for a federal, state or private grant, that such appropriation shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year in which the appropriation is made, but continue until the earlier of the expiration of the federal, state or private grant or the City's expenditure of all funds received from such grant.

K. The City Council wishes to designate the appropriation herein for Nature-Based Solutions Grant Project as an appropriation that shall not lapse until the earlier of the expiration of the grant (or donation) or the City's expenditure of all funds received from such grant.

L. These appropriations benefit the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Fort Collins and serve the public purposes of facilitating design, developing predictable solutions, and improving the City’s natural habitats and landscapes and stormwater infrastructure relating to community development.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. The unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX DOLLARS (\$128,336) is authorized for transfer from the Operating Budget in the General Fund to the Nature-Based Grant Project Budget in the General Fund and appropriated therein to be expended to support proper tracking of personnel time in meeting the City’s required cost share to the grant-funded Project for staff time.

Section 2. The unexpended and unencumbered appropriated amount of FOURTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$14,129) is authorized for transfer from the Operating budget in the Stormwater Fund to the Nature-Based Solutions Grant Project Budget in the Stormwater Fund and appropriated therein to be expended for The City’s Required Cost Share for the Nature-Based Solutions Grant Project.

Section 3. The appropriation herein for Nature-Based Solutions Grant Project is hereby designated, as authorized in Article V, Section 11 of the City Charter, as an appropriation that shall not lapse at the end of this fiscal year but continue until the expiration of the grant or the City’s expenditure of all funds received from such grant.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on April 7, 2026, and approved on second reading for final passage on April 21, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: May 1, 2026
Approving Attorney: Heather N. Jarvis

Exhibit: None

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