



GREEN CONNECTIONS: CONNECTING PEOPLE AND HABITAT TO PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Green Connections are special streets and paths that connect people and wildlife to parks and open spaces. These streets provide opportunities for greening and landscaping; enhancing wildlife habitat; managing stormwater; and calming traffic.

The main objective of Green Connections project is to improve access to parks and open space by developing a network of walking and biking routes designed to meet the following goals:

Public Health: Increase park access and encourage active transportation

- Create a legible network connecting parks and other neighborhood destinations
- Address all users
- Improve traffic safety

Sustainability: Enhance Urban Ecology

- Design for stormwater retention & filtration
- Increase wildlife habitat
- Encourage public education
- Increase urban tree canopy

Livability: Support neighborhood stewardship and placemaking

- Create designs that foster a sense of place
- Develop a legible & navigable network
- Encourage creativity & local stewardship



WHAT COULD A GREEN CONNECTION LOOK LIKE?

This rendering illustrates a variety of street enhancements that could transform a typical neighborhood street into a Green Connection. The rendering highlights that various elements of a Green Connection can achieve multiple project objectives. For example greening can help calm traffic and enhance the pedestrian realm, provide habitat for specific wildlife, facilitate stormwater management, and create a distinct community identity.

AT A MINIMUM A GREEN CONNECTION SHOULD:

Increase active transportation to parks including running, walking, skateboarding, bicycling, and roller-blading, especially for children and seniors. Traffic calming, pedestrian amenities and bicycle facilities can encourage and support healthier ways to get around our neighborhoods.

Enhance urban ecology, through tree planting, greening, and innovative onsite stormwater management. Sustainable corridors can support habitat and enhance the City's ecosystem.

Support neighborhood stewardship and placemaking by creating a unique and distinct network. Incorporate wayfinding, special signage, art and public education, to provide opportunities to gather, play and build community.



Enhanced crosswalks and green sidewalks increase pedestrian safety



Narrowed streets can calm traffic creating a safe environment especially for children and seniors



Median gardens create special places for residents



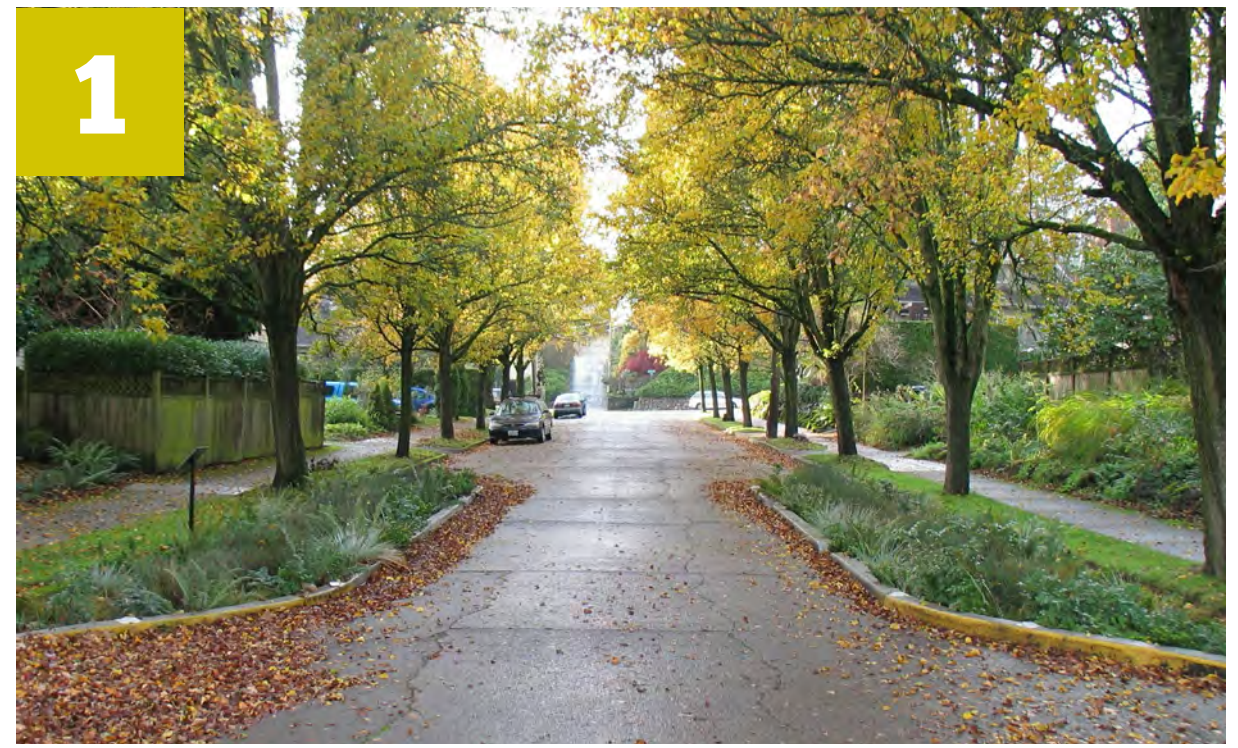
Distinctive signage "brands" the route and raises driver awareness

WHAT MAKES THESE STREETS SPECIAL?

Green Connections are envisioned to include a higher level of public realm interventions than standard city traffic calming, pedestrian safety and bicycle projects.

Green Connections are intended to be routes that people will go out of their way to travel on because they are green, quiet, traffic calmed, and safe for walking and biking.

These streets offer educational opportunities for urban ecology and stormwater management.



New street trees green the street and improve livability and habitat



Sidewalk rain gardens manage stormwater and educate users

HOW CAN A GREEN CONNECTION PROMOTE PLACEMAKING?

Green Connections create opportunity for community members to share and play on the streets. Additional public space can host art elements, play elements, or educational elements.

Placemaking Elements (Left to Right): Bird Houses, Insect Hotel, Rain Garden & Bike rack, Educational Programming, Wayfinding, Public Art





GREEN CONNECTIONS: PROJECT OVERVIEW

Green Connections will increase access to parks, open space and the waterfront, by re-envisioning City streets and paths as 'green connectors'. These streets will be designed to make it easier and safer for people and wildlife to connect to recreational amenities.

WHAT IS THIS PROJECT?

- Green Connections Draft Network: a map of 24 routes (totaling over 115 miles) that span the entire footprint of the City
- Design Toolkit: a set of 16 design typologies for blocks and intersections that could be applied to meet local needs and goals.
- Concept Designs: Preliminary designs for routes in six Focus Neighborhoods: Bayview-Hunters Point, Chinatown, Potrero Hill, Tenderloin, Visitacion Valley, and Western Addition.
- Urban Ecology Guide, which provides a narrative for each route and recommendations for plants that promote target species.
- Implementation Guide: a description of resources, programs, and processes that could help the City, private sector and community members to implement the network.

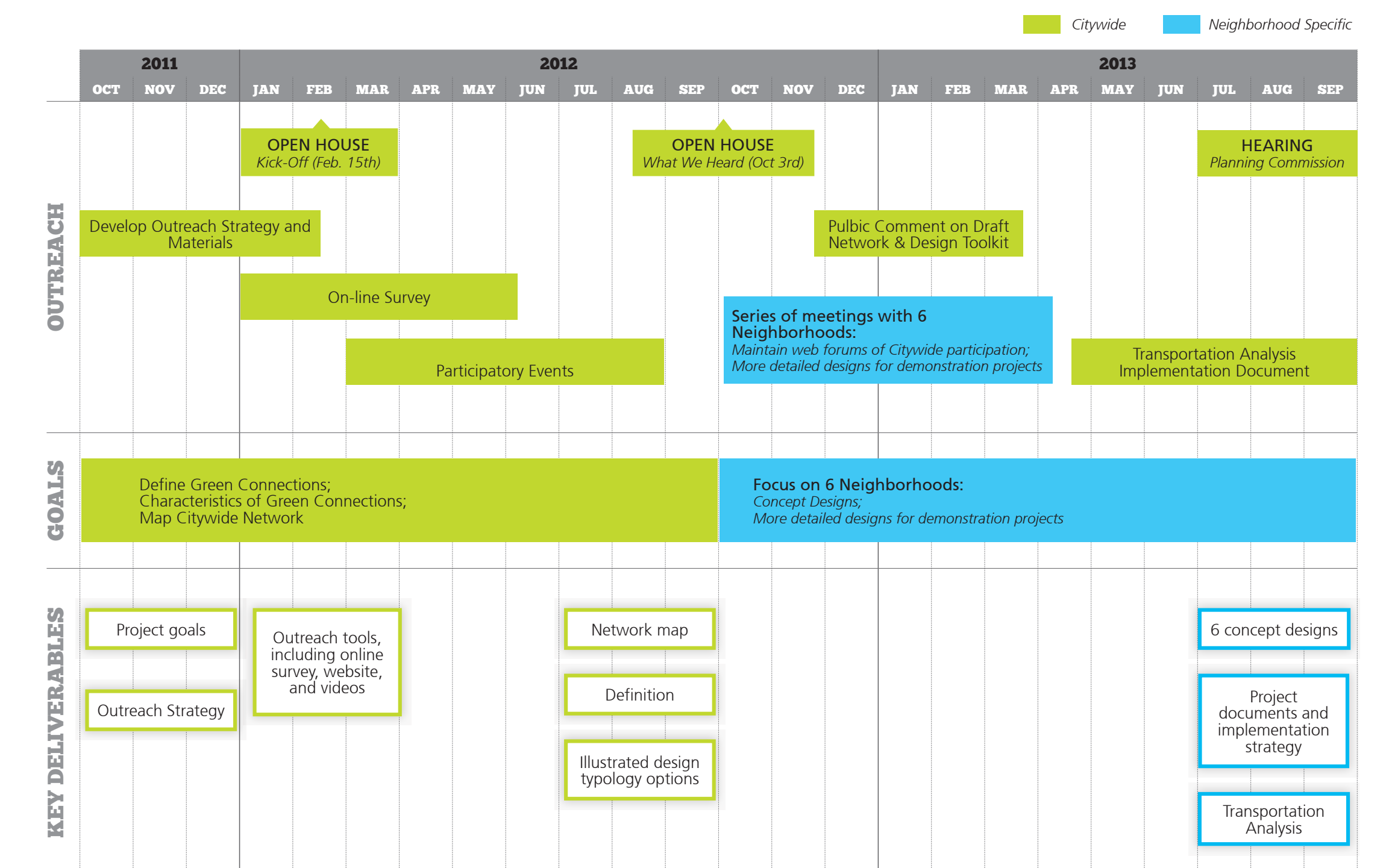
WHO IS INVOLVED?

- Green Connections is a public collaboration of the following City agencies: the San Francisco Planning Department, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, San Francisco Department of Public Health, The San Francisco Department of the Environment, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, The Port of San Francisco and the Mayor's Office of Housing.
- The City Agencies have partnered with three community based organizations: San Francisco Parks Alliance, Walk San Francisco, and Nature in the City.

WHAT IS THE TIME FRAME?

- Year 1 (Winter 2011 - Fall 2012)
Define and develop a citywide network of Green Connections.
- Year 1 (Winter 2011 - Fall 2012)
Develop a design toolkit of intersection and block treatments that can be applied to future Green Connections
- Year 2 (Winter 2012 - Winter 2013)
Design a Green Connection in six neighborhoods: Bayview-Hunters Point, Chinatown, Potrero Hill, Tenderloin, Visitacion Valley, and Western Addition
- Year 2 (Winter 2012 - Winter 2013)
Get input and feedback on the citywide network of Green Connections, design toolkit and further develop ecology guides.

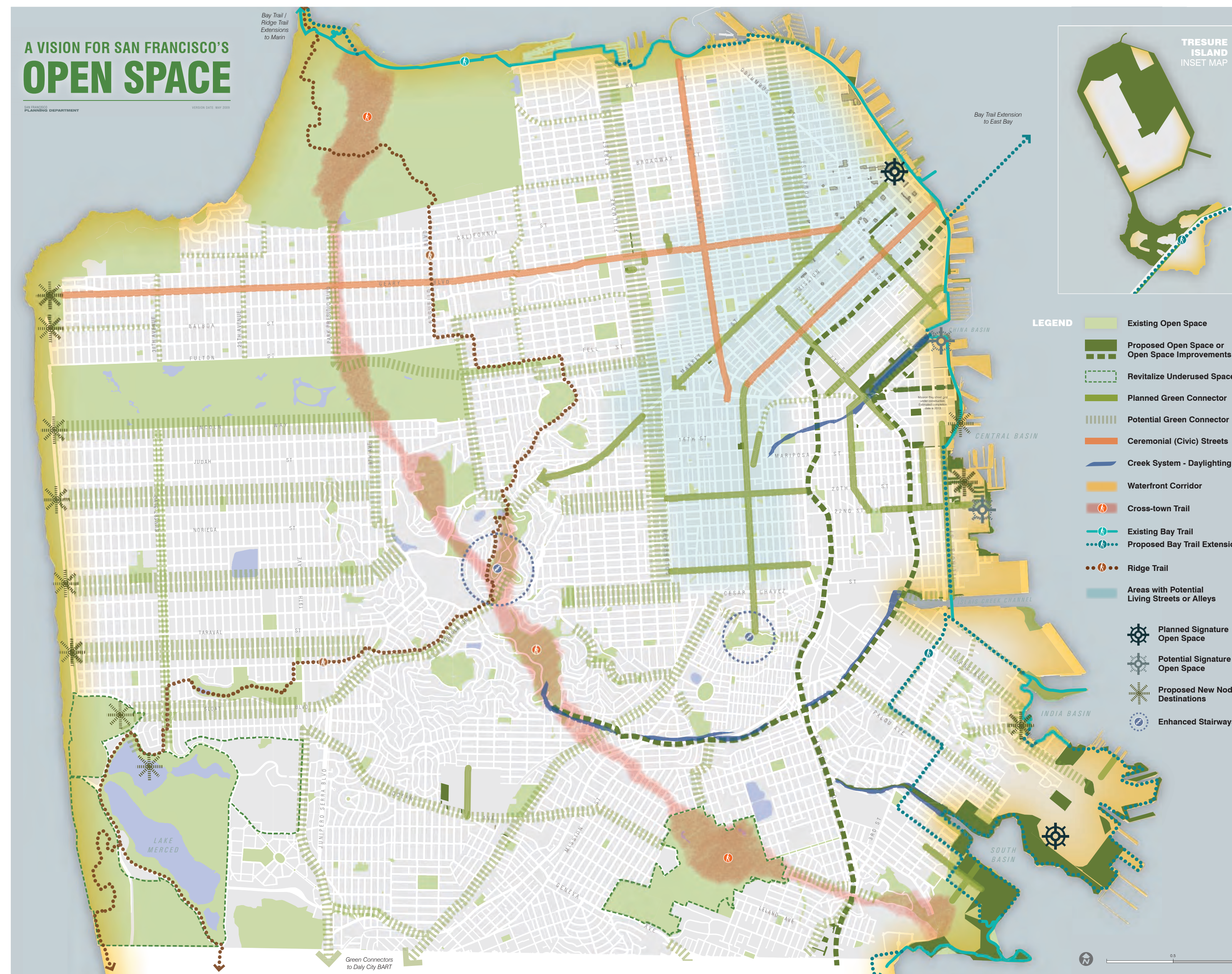
Green Connections PROJECT TIMELINE



The project is funded by a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant from the State of California Strategic Growth Council.

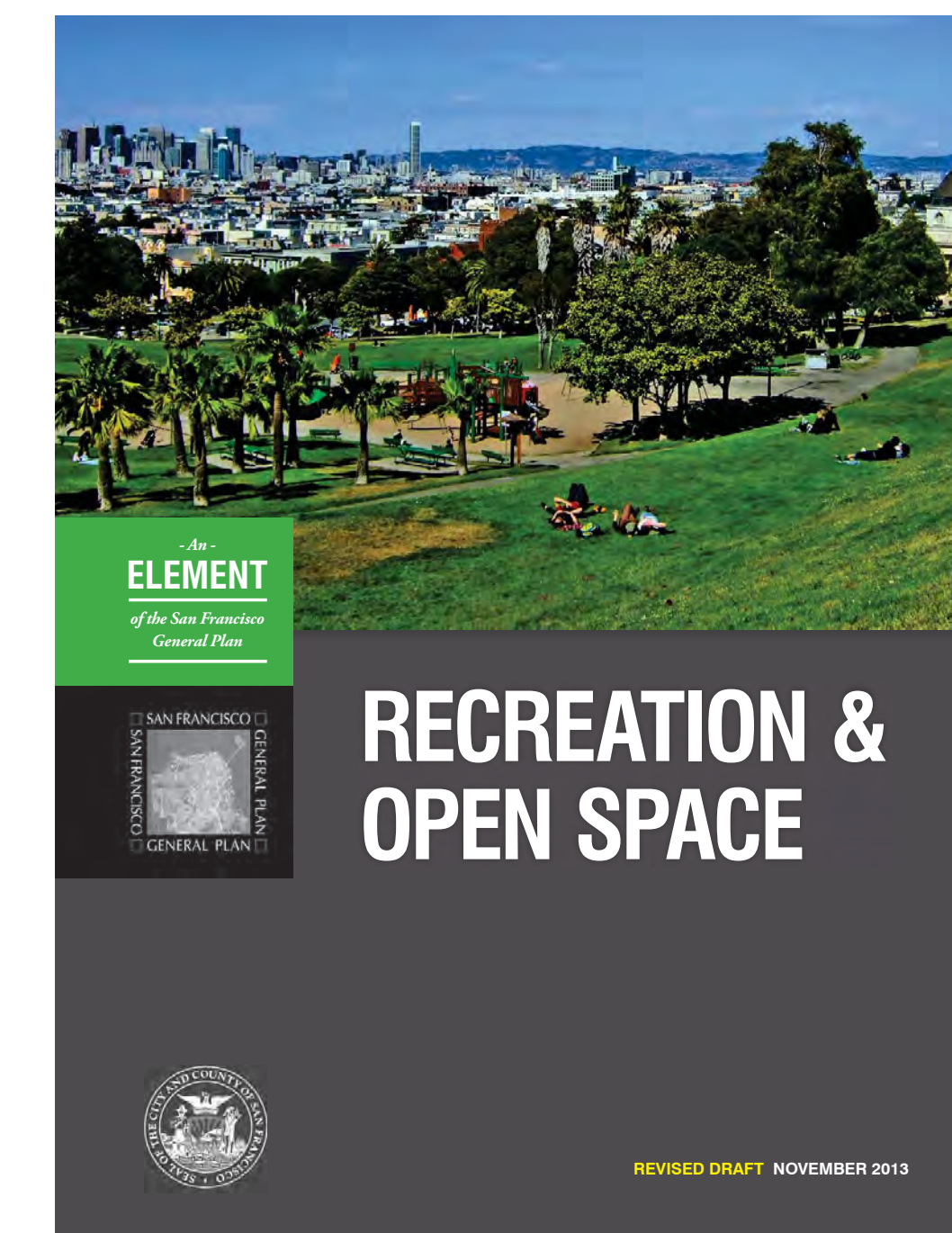
RELATED CITY DOCUMENTS AND POLICIES

Green Connections builds on several City efforts related to street design, open space and sustainability. These plans collectively describe a set of strategies for how to improve our City streets for walking and bicycling, improve access to the City's parks and open spaces, and improve the ecological function of our streets. These documents provided a foundation and starting point for the Green Connections project.



A Vision for Open Space

The map above sets forth the City's long term goals over the next 100 years of what the City's ideal open space network should look like. The map was developed in 2007 as part of the Mayor's Open Space Task Force and was used in the drafting of the Recreation and Open Space Element. This project builds on the preliminary concepts for a network of 'green connectors' illustrated in the map.



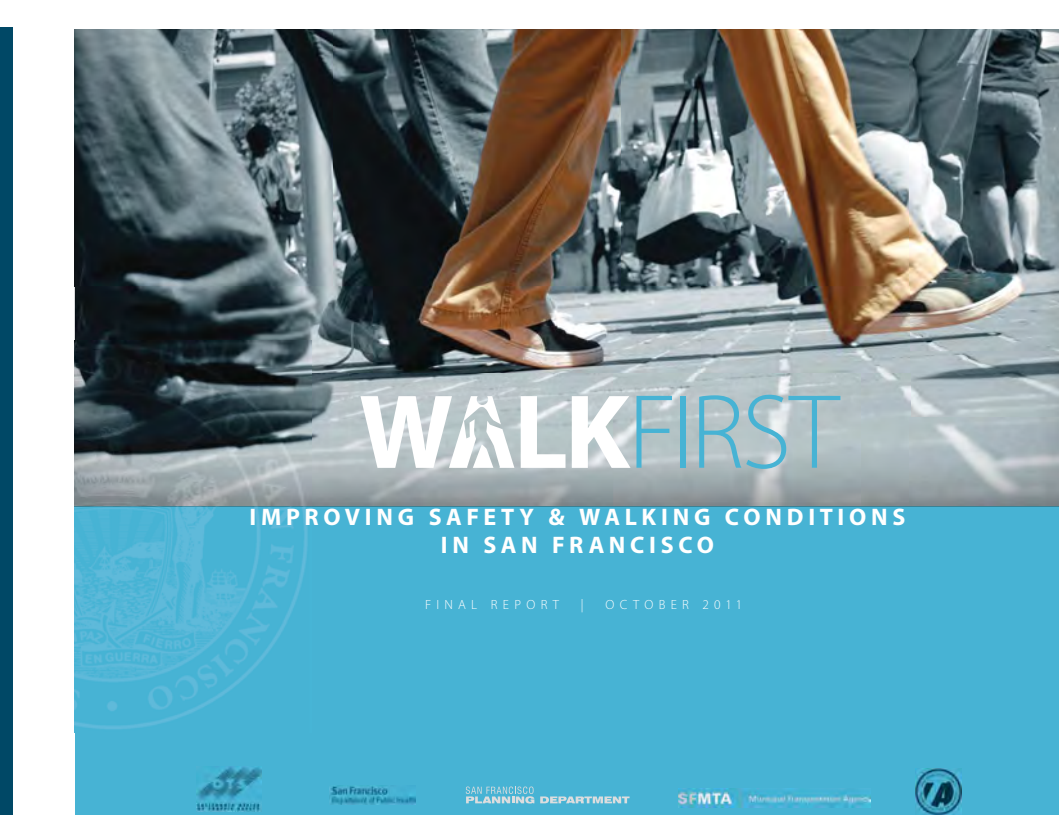
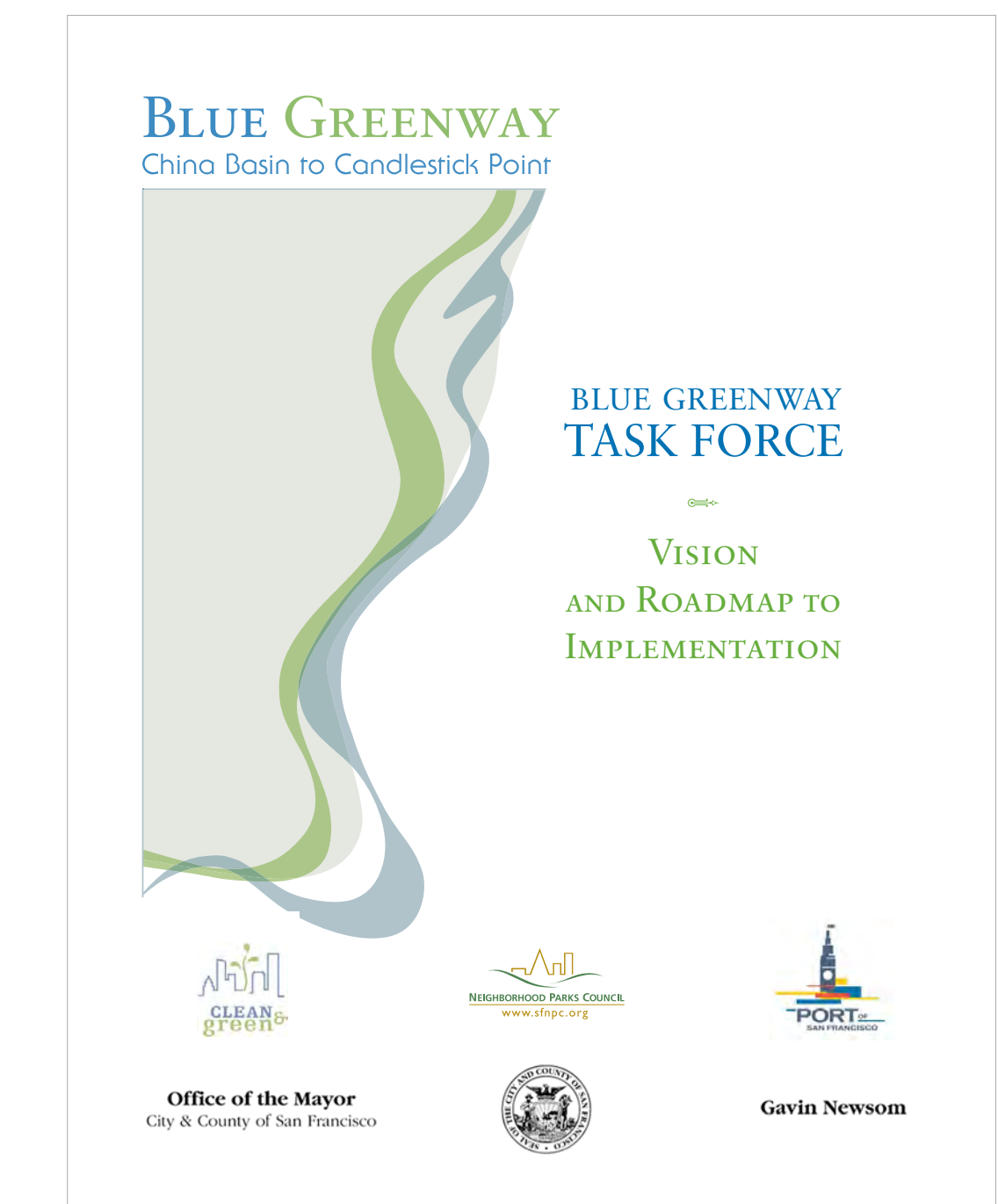
Stormwater Design Guidelines

San Francisco's stormwater ordinance requires new development disturbing 5,000 square feet or more of the ground surface to manage stormwater on-site. The Stormwater Design Guidelines outline ways to incorporate on-site stormwater management using low impact design (LID) strategies, also known as green infrastructure. Adopted 2010.



Better Streets Plan

A set of standards, guidelines, and implementation strategies to govern how the City designs, builds, and maintains its pedestrian environment. The plan outlines specific design guidelines for a variety of streets types. Adopted 2010.



WalkFirst

Streetscape Streets are characterized as having high pedestrian activity factors, and illustrate where people are walking or would likely walk if the conditions were better. These streets are in close proximity to pedestrian generators (schools, parks, tourist activities and shopping districts), and are also located in areas where there might be more dependence on walking as a means of transportation, due to demographics, street slope, and/or limited access to transit or private automobiles.

Recreation and Open Space Element

An Element of the City's General Plan that provides a 20 year vision and plan for open space in San Francisco. Draft released in November 2013.

San Francisco Bicycle Plan

A plan establishing the Citywide Bicycle network. The plan also includes a number of near-term improvements to specific bicycle routes. Adopted 2009.

Blue Greenway Vision and Roadmap to Implementation

A Plan to create a 13-mile greenway network along the City's Southeastern Waterfront.



Urban Forest Master Plan

The Urban Forest Plan identifies strategies to proactively manage and grow the City's urban tree population with a primary focus on street trees. The ultimate goal is to create an expanded, healthy and thriving urban forest now and for the future. Draft released in 2013.



GREEN CONNECTIONS: COMMUNITY PLANNING IN ACTION

The Green Connections planning process included a number of opportunities for community input, including more than twenty outreach events across the city. This effort helped the team understand stakeholders' vision for Green Connections and solicited feedback on the draft network, needs and opportunities in different neighborhoods, and potential design options for the routes.

The project launched with a kick-off event on February 15, 2012. Participants were asked to identify their favorite parks to visit, what streets they use to get to parks, existing barriers to walking and biking, and what other destinations they would like to reach using the routes. Following the kick-off, the team participated in a number of events including walks, talks, and Sunday Streets to publicize the project and solicit additional feedback. In addition to events, the project team developed two online surveys. A second open house was held on October 3, 2012 to present the draft citywide network and design toolkit. The second year of the project focused on the six neighborhoods. Events were held from November 2012 - June 2013 to develop a conceptual design in each neighborhood.

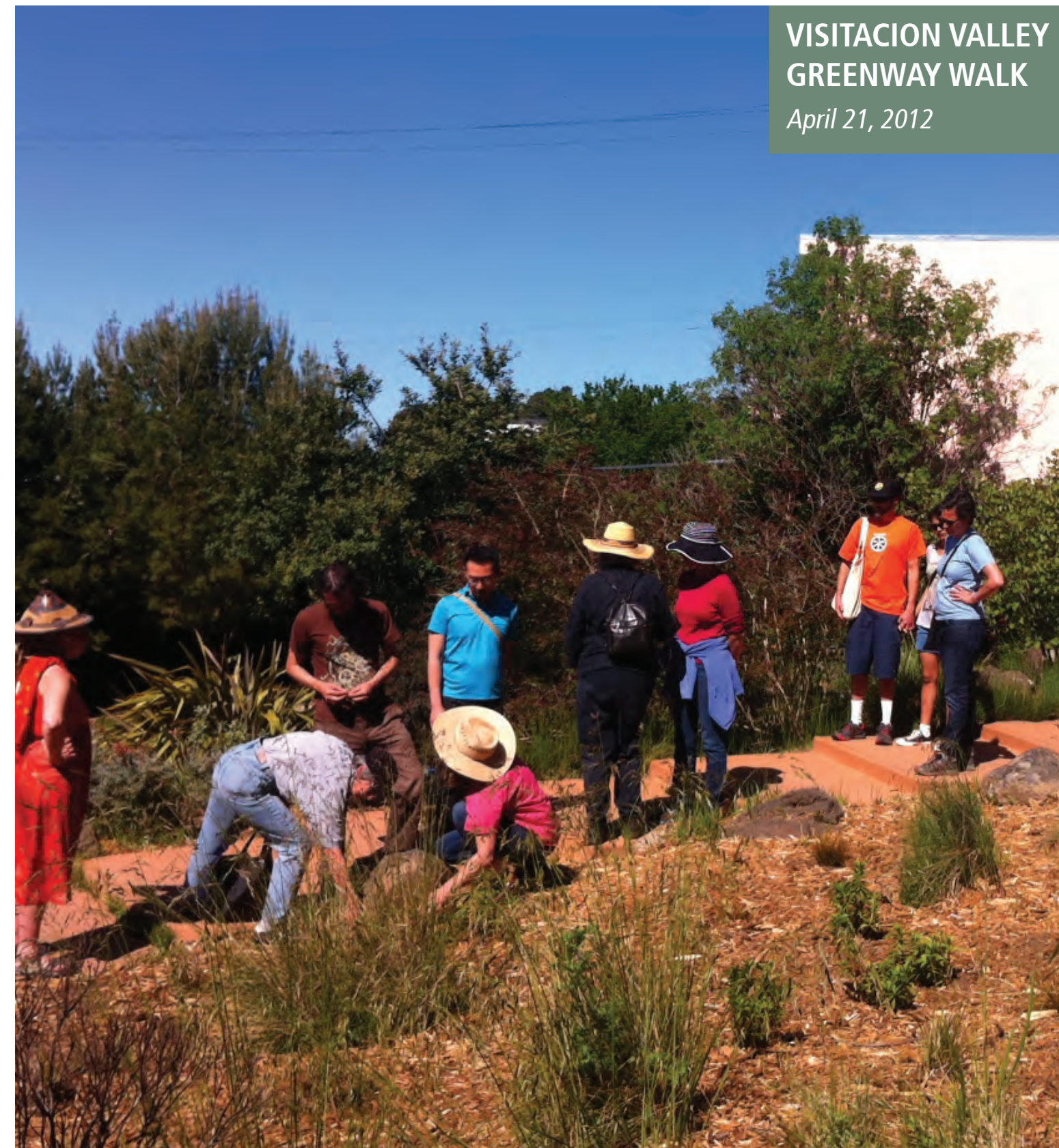
YEAR 1: OUTREACH EVENTS



OPEN HOUSES

Open House 1: February 15, 2012
Kick-off event for the Green Connections project held at the LGBT Center. Members of the public were invited to provide feedback on their route to the park and their vision for a Green Connection.

Open House 2: October 3, 2012
The second open house for the Green Connections project held at the LGBT Center. The public was invited to stop by and provide feedback on a draft network map and design toolkit.



WALKS

A series of seven walks exploring what a Green Connection could look like in San Francisco, hosted by Nature and the City, San Francisco Parks Alliance, and Walk San Francisco. The walks highlighted projects initiated by both community members and the City, that are successful examples of greening and landscaping, traffic calming, wildlife, and/or community stewardship.

BIRDING AT HERON'S HEAD PARK (WITH JOSIAH CLARK)	APR 10, 2012
VISITACION VALLEY GREENWAY WALK	APR 21, 2012
GREEN HAIRSTREAK BUTTERFLY: A WALK THROUGH AN ECOSYSTEM CORRIDOR	MAY 20, 2012
HOLLY PARK TO ALEMANY FARM BUTTERFLY WALK	MAY 26, 2012
GREEN STREETS, MEAN STREETS: SOMA ALLEYS AND GARDENS	JUN 16, 2012
UNLIKELY HABITAT: A TENDERLOIN SWALLOWTAIL TRAIL	JUL 1, 2012
POTRERO HILL TO THE BLUE GREENWAY, GREY TO GREEN TO BLUE	AUG 19, 2012



SUNDAY STREETS

We asked visitors to draw their route to the park and about how to improve neighborhood routes to parks.

EMBARCADERO	MAR 11, 2012
GREAT HIGHWAY	APR 15, 2012
MISSION	JUN 03, 2012
BAYVIEW / DOGPATCH	JUL 22, 2012
CHINATOWN	AUG 26, 2012
WESTERN ADDITION	SEP 09, 2012



Green Connections is a new project about improving the City's streets and routes that lead to our parks, waterfront and open spaces. This project builds on current efforts to create sustainable corridors that enhance mobility, green neighborhood streets, and improve pedestrian and bicycle access to community amenities and recreational opportunities.

The second year will build on this framework to design green connections in the following six neighborhoods: Bayview-Hunters Point, Chinatown, Potrero Hill, Tenderloin, Visitation Valley and Western Addition.

Get involved! Join us for office hours! Visit the project web site for project information and upcoming events. Follow Green Connections on Facebook and take our survey!!!

MARCH 14, 2012
WEDNESDAY 3:00-6:00 PM

WESTERN ADDITION PUBLIC LIBRARY
Community Room
1550 Scott Street (between Geary Blvd. and Post St.)
This is not a Library Sponsored Program

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:
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Para más información en Español llamar al: 415.558.6284

NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN HOUSE

We held meetings in the focus neighborhoods (see below) to share ideas and hear community input.

WESTERN ADDITION	MAR 14, 2012
TENDERLOIN	MAR 21, 2012
POTRERO HILL	MAR 28, 2012
VISITACION VALLEY	APR 04, 2012
CHINATOWN	APR 11, 2012
BAYVIEW	APR 25, 2012

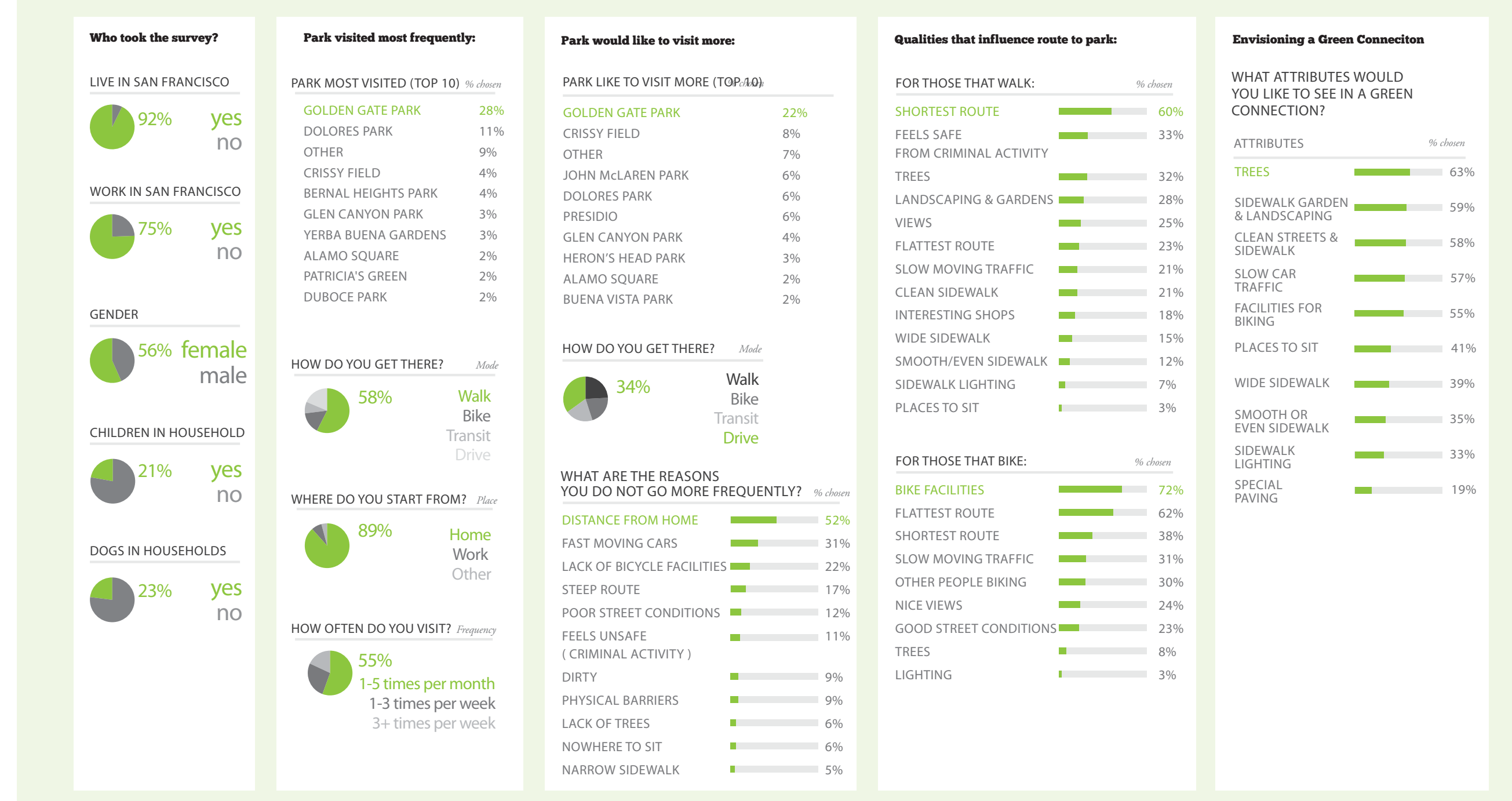


BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

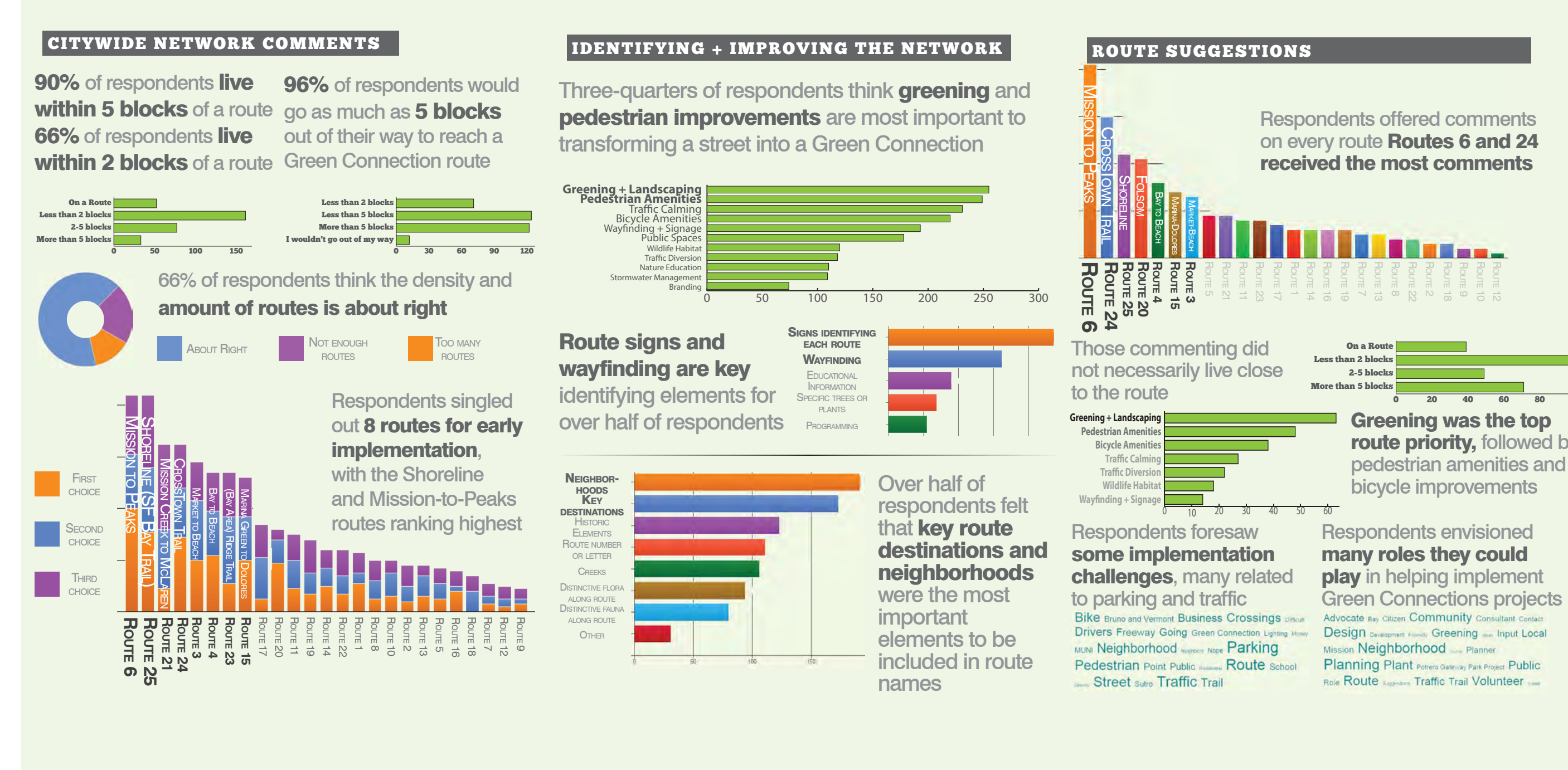
Bike to School Day took place on April 12, 2012. Postcards were distributed to over 3,000 public school students with information about the project and ways to participate in outreach events.

YEAR 1: ONLINE SURVEYS

SURVEY 1: DEFINING THE NETWORK. 450 PARTICIPANTS. Feb 2012 to June 2012



SURVEY 2: DRAFT NETWORK. 400 PARTICIPANTS. Oct 2012 to March 2013



YEAR 2: NEIGHBORHOOD CONCEPT DESIGNS

The second year of the project focused on developing a concept design for a Green Connection in six neighborhoods: Bayview-Hunters Point, Chinatown, Potrero Hill, Tenderloin, Visitation Valley, and the Western Addition. Events in the focus neighborhoods included workshops and meetings to define project goals and develop initial design concepts.

These neighborhoods have high population densities, large populations of children and/or seniors, limited open spaces within their bounds and little access to parks elsewhere in the city. They also have large proportions of low-income households, and in some cases residents are less likely to own cars and are more likely to walk, bike, and ride transit.

