



GREEN CONNECTIONS: CITYWIDE NETWORK

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 network includes 24 routes that will be improved over time. Every household is within 1/2 mile of a route, and most households are within 1/4 mile. The name for each route includes a geographic start and end point and a target species associated with the route.

The streets identified as part of the network build on ideas generated through the community planning process as well as existing city plans related to street typologies, open space and sustainability.

The following street qualities that were taken into consideration in developing the Green Connections network:

BUILDING ON OPPORTUNITIES

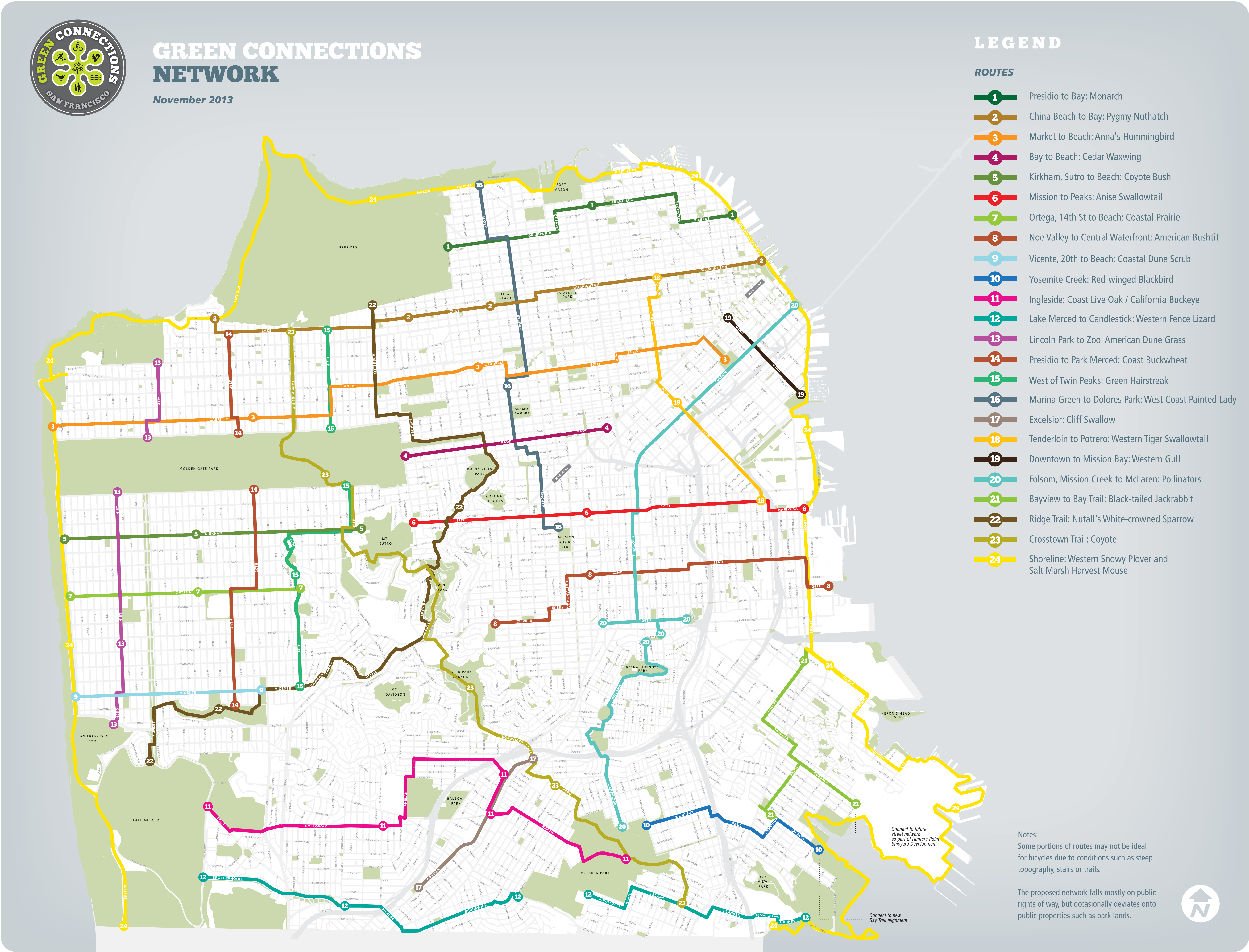
Streets that currently exhibit characteristics of Green Connections require fewer trade-offs and lower investment to realize the project goals.

- Streets with slow moving traffic.
- Streets with low traffic volumes.
- Residential Streets (as defined by the Better Streets Plan).
- Streets near schools.
- Streets with space to gather and play.
- Streets that are part of the existing bike network
- Streets that create an opportunity for stormwater management.
- Streets that overlap with historic creeks

AVOIDING CONFLICTS

Generally, streets that serve heavy volumes of cars, transit vehicles, and trucks provide fewer opportunities for extensive pedestrian and bicycle amenities. In developing the Green Connections network, streets with the following features were typically avoided; however, other city programs will continue to invest important pedestrian and cyclist safety measures on these streets.

- Truck routes
- High volume streets
- Streets with fast moving traffic
- Overlap with the MUNI Rapid Network





GREEN CONNECTIONS: SYNERGIES WITH CITY SYSTEMS

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During the planning process, the Green Connections network was tested against different city systems to ensure that the selected routes also achieved project goals.

The maps to the right illustrate how the Green Connections network fits within larger city systems related to transportation, land use and urban ecology.



NATURAL SYSTEMS: WATERSHEDS AND CREEKS
This map illustrates the boundary of San Francisco's eight watersheds, its historic and existing creeks. Public education and stewardship is a core objective of Green Connections. Because many of the routes follow the alignment of creeks, there is an opportunity to increase public awareness about the City's natural systems.



LAND USES: COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS & SCHOOLS
Neighborhood commercial corridors and schools are important origin and destinations for users of the Green Connections network. Improving access to and from these land uses to parks and open spaces is a key objective of the project.



TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS: BICYCLE AND MUNI ROUTES
This map illustrates how the Green Connections network complements the existing MUNI transportation network, shown in red existing and the existing City bicycle network, shown in blue.

Green Connections routes often overlap with the existing bike network, and often run parallel to the MUNI network, providing accessibility while minimizing impacts on transit.



TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS: TRAIL NETWORK
This map illustrates how the Green Connections network relates to the existing regional trail network. Route #24, the longest route in the network spans the length of the City's shoreline, and includes the Bay Trail, Blue Greenway and the Coastal Trail from the Golden Gate Bridge to Fort Funston. A preliminary alignment for the crosstown trail, Route #23, has been identified through this project. Route #22 follows the alignment of the Ridge Trail.



Green Connections seeks to connect people with nature – not only by making it easier for people to visit parks and open spaces, but also by encouraging street designs that enhance urban ecology with elements such as native landscaping, stormwater plantings, and street trees. In addition to providing ecological benefits, these features can cultivate ecoliteracy by providing visitors an opportunity to interact with local habitat and species, which can be augmented through educational signage, artwork, and programing.

In support of this goal, a key product of the Green Connections project includes Ecology Guides, which provide information on local flora, fauna, and habitat that could be enhanced as part of the network. Each of the 24 routes is named after a Key Species or Key Habitat that serves an important ecological function and is particularly suited to that area. Routes can create a wildlife corridor, and in some cases correspond with flight, mobility, and nesting patterns. The Coastal Prairie Route (#7), for instance, suggests native plants that designers and residents could use to support this endemic habitat type.

The Ecology Guides are a tool for visitors who want to learn about nature along the routes and surrounding neighborhoods, as well as for neighbors, designers and gardeners who want to help support a vibrant urban ecosystem.

Each guide includes the following information:

These species and habitats were selected in consultation with project partners (Nature in the City, San Francisco Parks Alliance, and Walk San Francisco), and with input from community members and experts in local ecology.



WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER & SALT MARSH HARVEST MOUSSE – *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus* & *Reithrodontomys raviventris*

Let's play in the surf!

Western Snowy Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) scuttle along the water's edge and in winter months, fly back and forth between Crissy Field and Ocean Beach. Snowy Plovers are here only during the winter to rest and increase their fat reserves, feeding on sandhills and other marine invertebrates, before moving on to safer nesting locations. They don't nest here in San Francisco, as they prefer to nest on quiet Pacific Coast beaches and mudflats, where the ocean meets fresh water. Their nests are built out in the open with 3 to 5 Camouflaged eggs. Their nests are often lined with what they find on the beach. They have been nesting on Pacific Coast beaches for thousands of years and were listed with the federal government as a threatened species in 1993.