

# Green Connections: PROJECT OVERVIEW & CONTEXT

**G**reen 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 will result in a Citywide network of green streets that can be built over time, improving pedestrian and bicycle access to parks, open space and the waterfront; reducing stormwater runoff; and enhancing wildlife habitat on city streets. At the end of the project, three products will be developed. These products will provide the framework to secure funding and implement Green Connections.

- A Citywide map of Green Connections – (see draft today!)
- A design toolkit of intersection and block treatments that – (see draft today!)
- Concept designs in six neighborhoods.

## Who is involved?

Green Connections is a public collaboration led by 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. The project is being funded by a grant from the California Sustainable Growth Council.

A Green Connection is a special street type that people will go out of their way to enjoy because at a minimum it will:

**Encourage and support Active Transportation**

**Enhance Urban Ecology**

**Promote Stewardship and Placemaking**

## What is the time frame?

The project is funded by a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant from the State of California Strategic Growth Council. The project will run for two years.

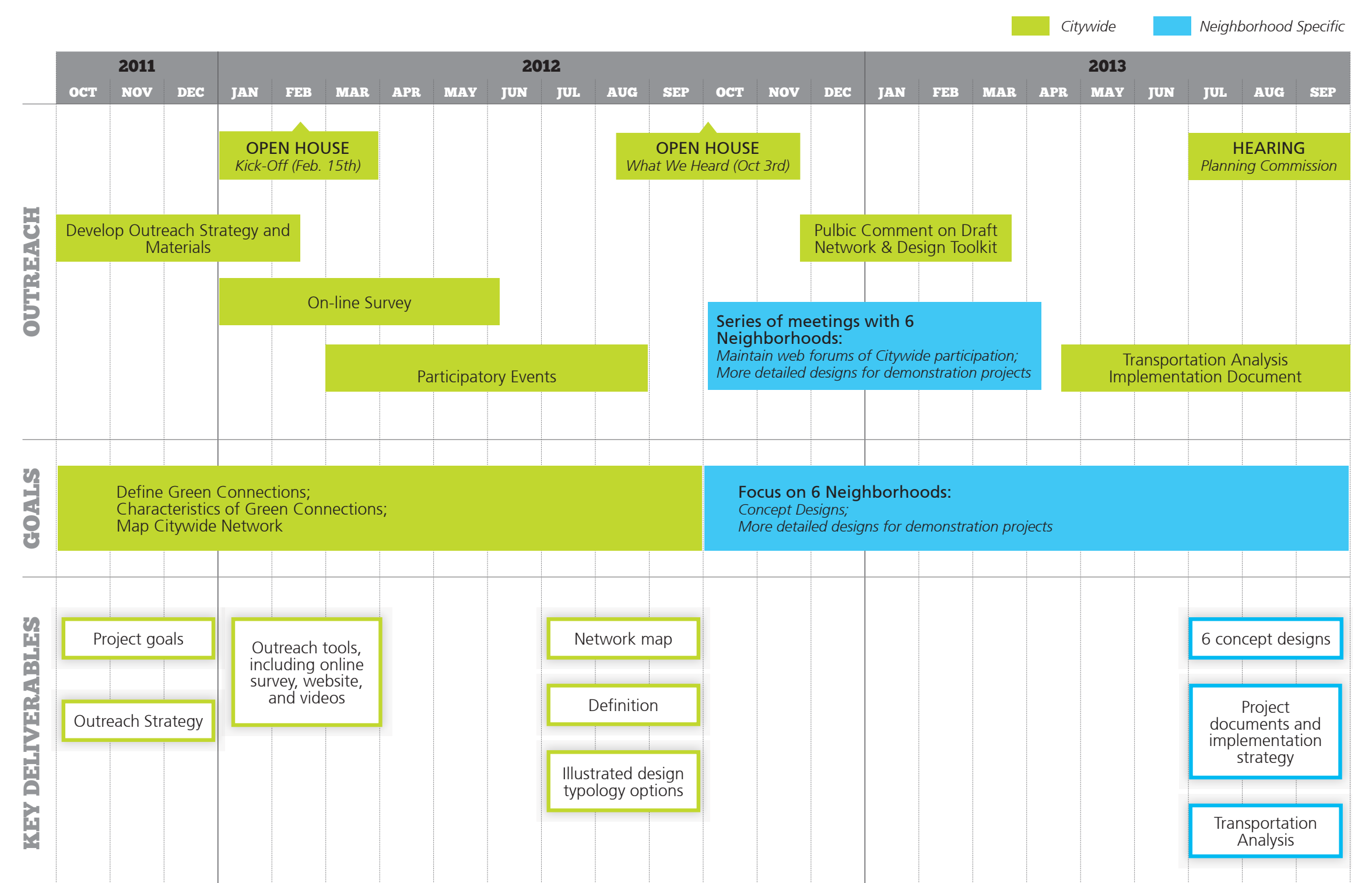
- **Year 1 (Winter 2011 - Fall 2012)** Define and develop a citywide Network of Green Connections.
- **Year 1 (Winter 2011 - Fall 2012)** Develop a design toolkit of intersection and block treatments that can be applied to future Green Connections
- **Year 2 (Winter 2012 - Fall 2013)** Design a Green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

## How can I get involved?

The project team is hosting many public events to engage communities in developing Green Connections.

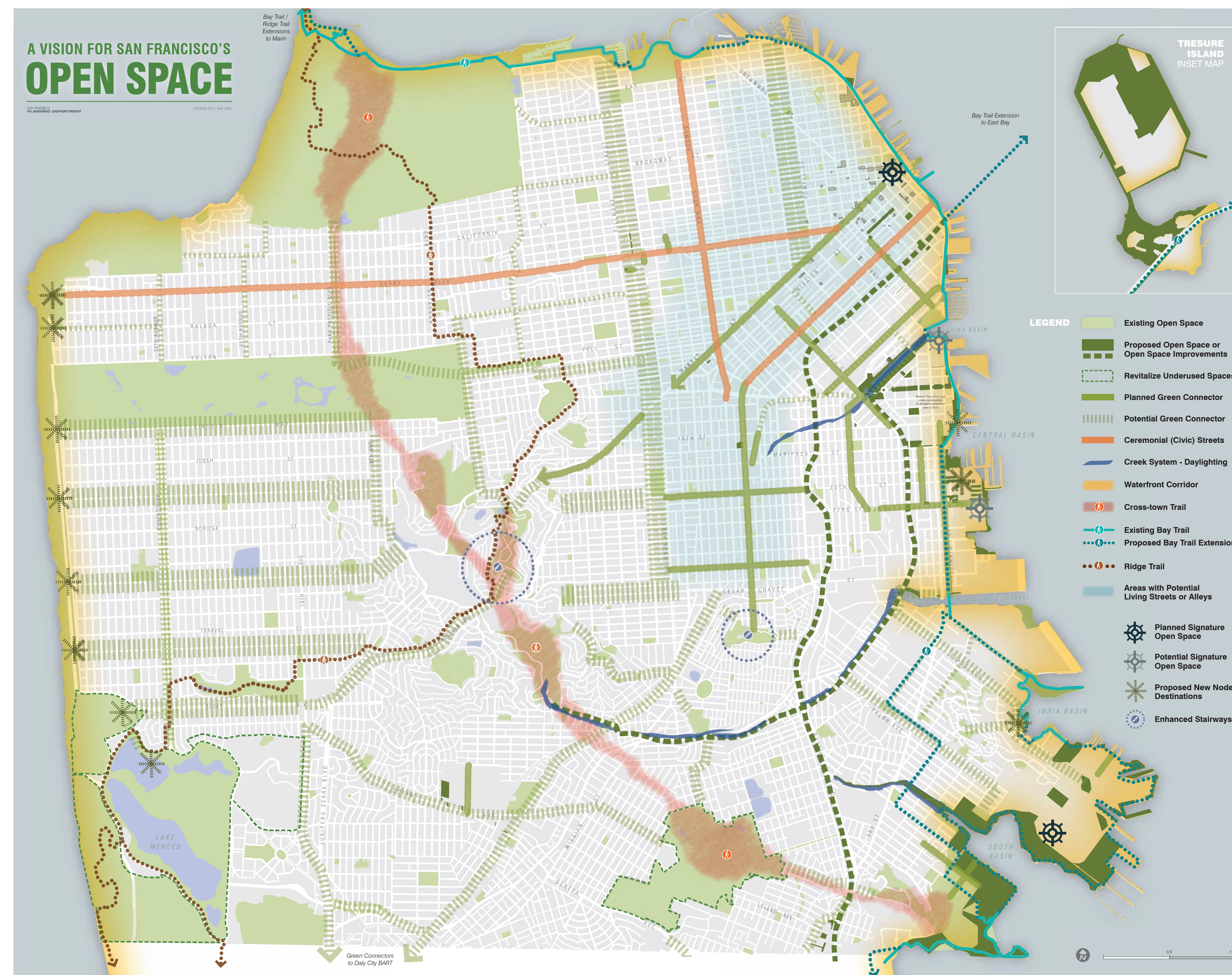
- Visit the project website: <http://greenconnections.sfplanning.org>
- Join the project mailing list
- Participate in upcoming events
- Like us on Facebook

## Green Connections PROJECT TIMELINE

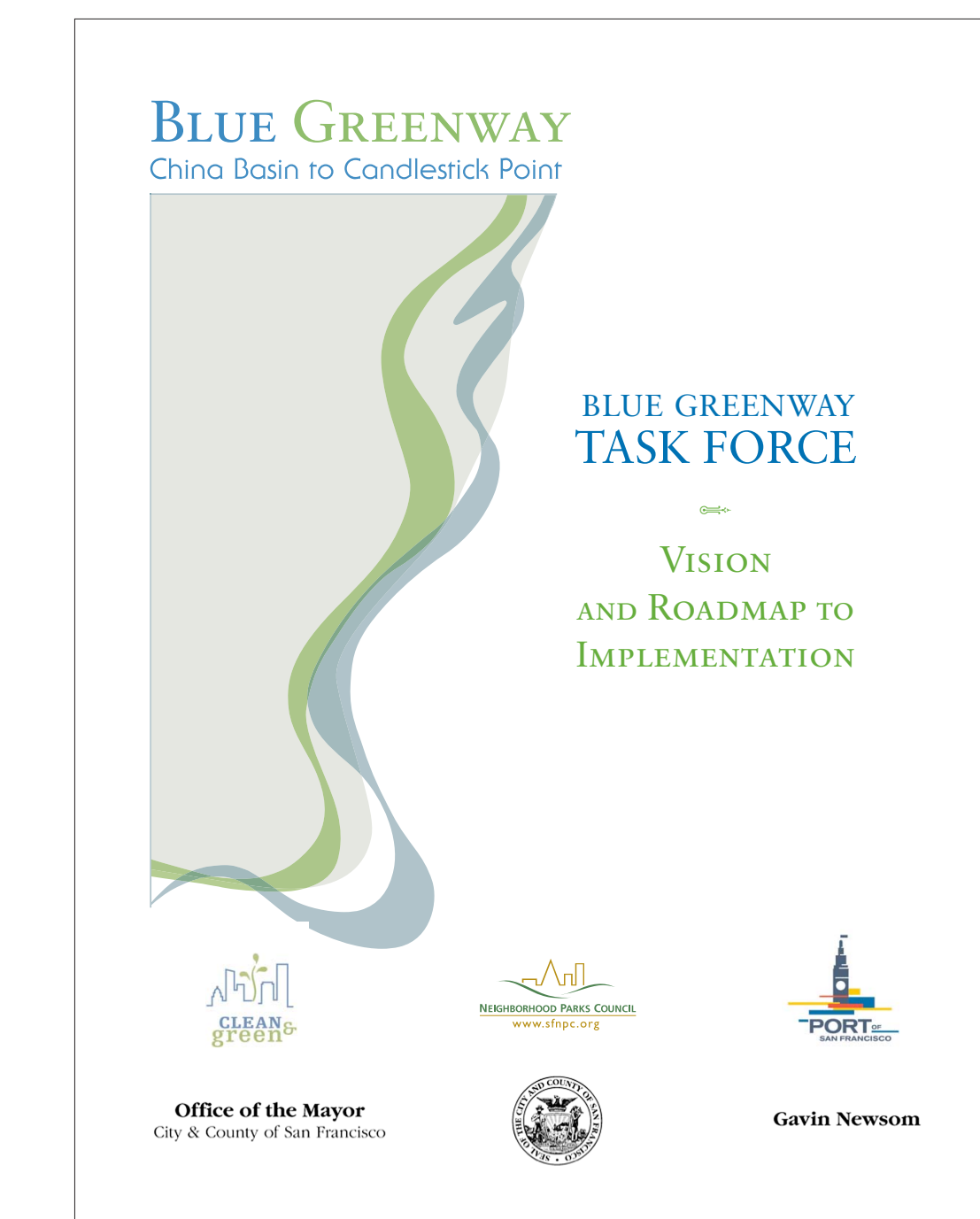
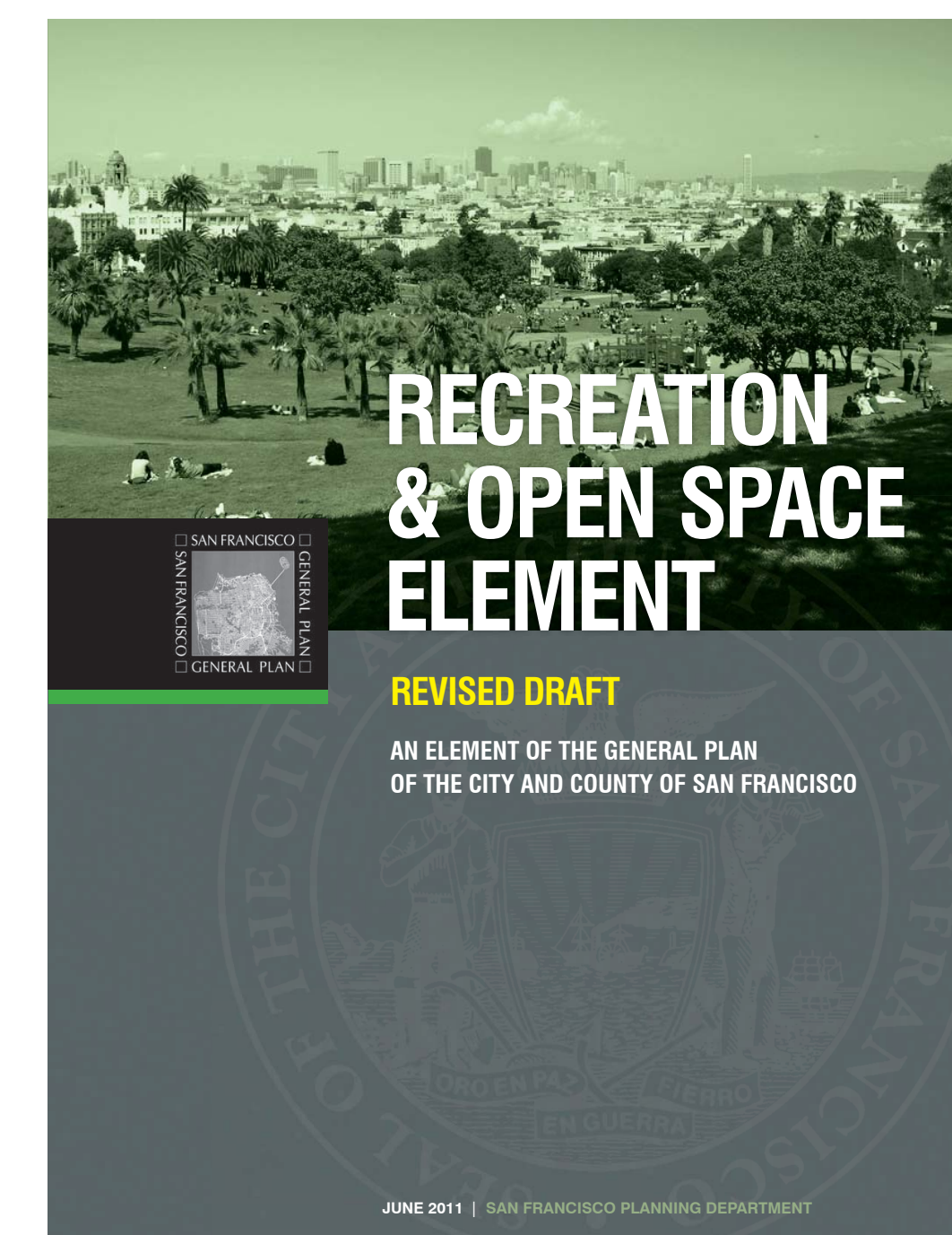


## Related City Documents and Policies

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 provide 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. This vision includes preliminary concepts for a network of 'green connectors'. This project is intended to build on this concept. Map Source: Draft Recreation and Open Space Element.



**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. Update currently in draft form.

**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.



**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. Map of Key Walking Streets**  
Key Walking 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. Currently in draft form.

