



DESIGN TOOLKIT: DEMONSTRATION LEVEL GREEN CONNECTION

What could a green connection look like? This “Before” and “After” photo of Quesada Street near Jennings, in the Bayview, highlights a variety of street enhancements that could transform a typical neighborhood street into a Green Connection.

This mockup of a Green Connection illustrates that various features of a Green Connection can achieve multiple project objectives. For example distinct plantings can calm traffic and enhance the pedestrian realm, provide habitat for specific wildlife, facilitate stormwater management, and create a distinct community identity.

THE DRAFT DESIGN TOOLKIT

The draft toolkit is intended as a resource for community based planning efforts to develop a Green Connection. The toolkit provides a range of potential intersection and block treatments. The following information is included for each treatment:

Types of streets appropriate for the treatment

- Potential to calm traffic, support pedestrians and bicyclists
- Potential to enhance stormwater management and habitat
- Potential to create public space
- Ability to implement
- Trade-offs

Design of a specific streetscape will be based on community goals, street characteristics, and potential funding. Most sections of the network may not receive ‘demonstration level treatments’, such as this green median or others included in the toolkit. The block and intersection treatments are generally organized by level of intervention – the first few treatments generally propose minor changes to the streetscape to meet project goals, following treatments propose greater interventions, and the last treatments offer ‘demonstration level treatments’.



WHAT MAKES GREEN CONNECTIONS SPECIAL?

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

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.

Community designed and maintained public spaces offer educational opportunities for urban ecology and stormwater management.

AT A MINIMUM A GREEN CONNECTION SHOULD:

Encourage and support Active Transportation including running, walking, skateboarding, bicycling, and roller-blading, especially for children and seniors. Traffic calming, pedestrian amenities and bicycle facilities can encourage and support an individual’s choice to walk, jog, or bicycle.

Enhance Urban Ecology, through tree planting, greening, and innovative on-site stormwater management. Sustainable corridors can support habitat and enhance the City’s ecosystem.

Promote 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

DISCUSSION

What would best help you identify a Green Connection?

In your mind, what is the minimum threshold for a street to be called a green connection (traffic calming, greening, separated bike lane, bee hotel, signage)?



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

